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THE LOCAL RAG
ALVERDISCOTT AND HUNTSRAW



Welcome to the
December Edition
Volume 20 Issue 11
2023



*A Very Merry
Christmas to all
our Readers.*

Publication and Distribution

The **Alverdiscott and Huntsraw 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 -

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.

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 Local Rag
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EX39 4PU

Phone 01271 858534

e-mail thelocal.rag@btinternet.com

From The Assistant Editor

We didn't get any articles about "Good News". So maybe there really isn't any...

efforts in getting this on paper each month. And, if there's anyone I've omitted to mention, well thank you as well!

And talking of **bad** news, there are now only **35** sleeps to Christmas! It's getting closer by the minute...

So have a great time all of you but stay safe, that way we'll see you all in the New Year.
Elsie and David.

Anyway the editorial team wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a happier new year. The next Rag is the February issue, deadline 20 January.

Thanks go to all our distributors for their dedication and also to all our contributors who keep on sending in their articles. Not forgetting Tony the PC website wizard for uploading the Rag each month. I also want to say thank you to the print room at North Devon Council for all their



The Thanksgiving Service for the return of the Huntsraw Bells took place on Sunday November 19th 2023.

Those present included:
The Bishop of Crediton
Jackie Searle
Lord Clinton and
Rector Gary Owen



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Water	0344 346 2020
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Calor Gas	0345 744 4999

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Torrington Hospital	01805 622208

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Local Hall Bookings & Enquiries

Alverdiscott Hall David Potter
01271 858534

Huntsraw Parish Hall Jenny Staines
01805 624490

huntsrawparishhall@outlook.com

Community Contacts

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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.

Huntshaw's Thanksgiving Service for the Bells

October saw the return of the Bells, and November 19th saw a well-attended service with the Bishop of Crediton officiating with Lord and Lady Clinton in the congregation, together with their son Charles and his wife.

It was truly a joyous occasion with in amongst the hymns, prayers and poems a pause being made for Bishop Jackie to go to the back with the Rector to first bless and then sound the bells. With this, once more for the first time in 60 years the ringing of three bells was sent out across Huntshaw's Woods and fields. Richard Sears demonstrated the different chimes on the controller but best of all was 'Plain Hunt on Three!'

Bishop Jackie in her sermon also referred to the very close Clinton connection that exists with Huntshaw; in that her predecessor, Robert Trefusis, was brought up at Huntshaw in the Rectory and became the first Bishop of Crediton in 1897 until his death in 1930. This was because the then Rector, Charles Digby Mackworth Drake, a descendant of Sir Francis Drake from Plymouth, was a very close friend of the Clinton Family and Baron Clinton. Robert at an early age with his sister were orphaned and so they became wards of Rev Drake at Huntshaw Rectory where they were brought up. On becoming Bishop, Robert often returned and stayed at Huntshaw, opening Fetes etc. on the Rectory Lawn and attending and participating with Sunday School. His dad, who was grandson to the 17th Baron Clinton, and Mother, who both died in their twenties are buried in the churchyard.

Towards the end of the service Richard gave a vote of thanks to all those who'd helped both financially and in practical terms, plus also explained that the church authorities have inspected the bell frame and have agreed that we should rope up and put clappers in the two remaining bells as the frame has now been sufficiently strengthened.

With the healthy collection taken and more donations received on the day, we already have £1100 out of the £2550 needed to add the 'manual' element to the other two bells. For the remainder we intend to approach some of the bell trusts and local charities for a few hundred each, and in the spring we'll organise an event to make up the difference. (Of course any and all other donations will be gratefully received!)

After the service we all adjourned to the Parish hall for teas and cake. But it has to be said a great deal of interest has been generated in ringing, with many attending having a pull on the treble's bell rope to make it chime, before coming over to the hall for refreshments.

Richard Sears - November 2023.

A Christmas greeting from the Rector

Once again the Church of England is using a 'tag line' to encourage people to make a visit to church part of their Christmas celebrations. This year it's:

"Follow the star: Join the song".

"Follow the star" reminds us of the star followed by the wise men who, Matthew tells us, came from the east to see baby Jesus. The wise men found their journey far from easy, but they persevered and were rewarded with a glimpse of God made flesh... and the chance to worship at his feet.

"Join the song" reminds us of the angels who sang at the birth of Jesus, and perhaps too the shepherds, who having seen Jesus, "returned glorifying and praising God".

During some of our Christmas celebrations last year, we experienced icy roads. My journey to the carol service in Tawstock was not easy but I made it. During the service the road out from church froze and I had to be towed out by a churchwarden with much better traction on his car than mine! Friends are a wonderful thing! I'm trusting that the weather will be kinder this year.

So, I would like to add my voice of invitation to that of the Church of England, to join us in church this Christmas. In each service there will be an opportunity to join in singing carols as we tell the wonderful story of Christmas and respond in prayer. At many services there will also be chance to catch up with others over festive refreshments.

A full list of our Christmas services can be found on our website:

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

A joyful and peace-filled Christmas to you all...

Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792 07947 358050

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org



Events at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel



Coffee Morning

Sadly on Thursday 2 November the weather was so bad that we had to cancel the meeting for the Devon Air Ambulance. We will try again in the new year.

The final coffee morning for this year will be on Thursday 7 December and will be for the Harbour Community Bideford.

Please do come along - between 10am and noon - to support this local cause.

Garden Club

Garden Club meetings for this year are now over. Thank you to all who have been with us in 2023. We hope you have a good Christmas and best wishes for the new year. Meetings are normally on the last Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays when it will usually be the Monday before) at 2.30pm in the Chapel schoolroom. Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00. Hope to see you next year.

All Saints - Alverdiscott

We warmly invite you all to our Carol Service at Church on Wednesday December 20th at 7.00pm. This service is organised by *The Friends Group*.

The church will be decorated for Christmas and Mulled wine and Mince Pies will be served after the service. So please come and join us and get into the spirit of Christmas.

On Sunday December 31st there will be a group service at 11.00am followed by teas and biscuits.

We invite everyone to come and give thanks for the old year and welcome the new.

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Barbara Ford.

Leisure

Time...

Our days are identical suitcases all the same size - but some people can pack more into them than others.

"Time is the wisest of all counsellors" Plutarch.

If you think time heals everything, try waiting in a doctor's surgery.

Sign on a school clock: "Time will pass. Will you?"

Counting time is not as important as making time count.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

And finally a few more medical anomalies...

She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

The patient expired on the floor unevenly.

Large brown stool ambulating in the hall. *Make what you will of that...*



Last time the word was: FIREPLACE

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 - 'Tis the season to be jolly...

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

S	R	C
M	A	T
H	I	S

Leisure

Su Doku Puzzle No. 203

Good Luck...



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

Solution to Su Doku No. 202

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



Anglican Community - Team Rector Rev Gary Owen

01769 560792

07947 358050



Services at St Mary Magdalene Church Huntsraw

Sunday 10th December: 11.00am Christmas service

followed by mince pies and sherry.

Sunday 14th January, 11.00am: "New year, New plans"

You can find out more at -

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

Minister Rev Rob Blackhall 01805 628041



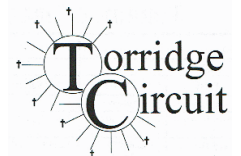
Services planned for Alverdiscott Chapel
in December, January and February

17 December	6.00pm	Carol Service led by Elsie Potter
31 December	11.00am	Joint Service at All Saints Alverdiscott
07 January	11.00am	Margaret Price
21 January	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall - HC
04 February	11.00am	Frank Watson
18 February	11.00am	Rev Rob Blackhall - HC

In the event of extreme weather conditions
services may have to be cancelled.

Information about the Methodist Church
can be found here:

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



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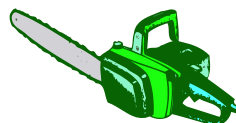


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NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

After four months of hard work by the stonemasons, the church tower is looking fabulous. We hope it will stay that way for many years.



On Friday 27th October, Friends gathered in the church for a short service of thanksgiving and a soup and sandwich lunch.

With any old building there are always going to be repair works required. It was discovered back in the summer that the floor in one section of the church was very damp. Removal of the floorboards revealed joists that were completely rotten. The floor is now being replaced thanks to the hard work of a few Friends. It should be complete in time for our Carol Service.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this year. Without your support we would struggle to fund the repairs. A big thank you also to the team of workers who have cut the grass for us this year. This has meant a significant financial saving for us.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20th December – 7pm Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies.

Friday 9th February - **Anchors Aweigh** will be entertaining us. Many of you will remember their previous visits to Alverdiscott, they provide a really entertaining evening of sea shanties. The Friends' Committee wish everyone a very **Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024.**

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 18th January 2024 in Alverdiscott Community hall at 7.30pm.

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 - Chair.

Parish Councillor Names and Contact Numbers

Graham White - Chair	01271 858441
Liz Meaney - Vice Chair	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

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

Christmas Party Huntshaw Parish Hall



Come and join the

Christmas fun with games, quizzes, music

A glass of mulled wine on arrival

Festive finger fare

Mince pies

Bring your own drinks

!!Christmas jumpers essential!!

Doors open at 12.30 pm. £8 per adult, £3 per child.

To reserve your tickets: Email huntshawparishhall@outlook.com

or call Audrey on 0795202 8013

Carol Service at Alverdiscott Methodist Chapel

On Sunday 17 December at 6pm.

The service will be led by Elsie Potter



Festive Refreshments after the Service

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**Friends of All Saints Church Supporters Club – November Draw
Prize Winners**

1st	Paul Bullock	£25
2nd	Michael Lee	£15
3rd	Graham White	£10

Thanks go to Michael and Graham who have donated their winnings back to the Friends' funds

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.



**FESTIVE QUIZ
FRIDAY 8TH
DECEMBER**

Alverdiscott Community Hall

7pm for 7.30pm

**Teams of up to 6 people - £5 per head
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01271 858441 or bulworthy@aol.com

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Church & Alverdiscott
Community Hall**

