



UGBOROUGH PARISH NEWSLETTER



December 2015

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy New Year to all!



What's on

Wednesday December	2 nd	Ugborough Parish Council meets at Ugborough Village Hall (upstairs) at 7 p.m. Ugborough Local History Society Christmas party at Ugborough Village Hall at 7.30 for 8 p.m.	Page 13 Page 5
Saturday December	5 th	Victorian Christmas Fair at Hillhead Farm from 12 noon until dark.	Page 8
Saturday December	5 th and 6 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's Church, Ivybridge	Page 8
Saturday December	12 th	Sustainable Saturday at Ugborough Village Hall from 10-noon	Page 9
Wednesday December	16 th	Ugborough Preschool Carol and Christmas song sing-a-long at Ugborough Village Hall at 11.30 a.m. Ivybridge Community College Carol Service at St. Peter's Church at 6 p.m.	Page 3 Page 16
Thursday December	17 th	Ugborough Primary School Carol service at St. Peter's Church at 6.30 p.m.	Page 4
Friday December	18 th	Last day of Autumn Term	Page 4
Sunday December	20 th	Carol Service at St. Peter's Church at 6.30 p.m.	Page 15
Monday December	21 st	Ivybridge U3A Christmas party at The Watermark, Ivybridge at 2 p.m.	Page 2
Thursday December	24 th	Crib and Christingle service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m.	Page 15
Saturday December	26 th	Boxing Day Village Walk- meet in Ugborough Square at 10.45 a.m.	Page 5

Details of services (including Christmas) at Bittaford Methodist Church and St. Peter's Church, Ugborough are on pages 13 and 15.

**Ugborough Dramatic Society presents their first
Dramatic Event.**

CINDERELLA

Thursday 4th, Friday 5th and Saturday 6th February 2016.

7.30 p.m. (doors close at 7.20 p.m.),

in Ugborough Village Hall.

Tickets £7.50 for adults and £5 for children (under 16)

This rags to riches tale follows the fortunes of our hapless prince as he searches for the maiden of his dreams, aided and misled by larger than life characters along the way.

With something for everyone this production is not to be missed.

Tickets available from Sue Johns.

01548 830220 07889737967 s-johns1@sky.com

Hurry, Hurry – first come first served!

Garden Club Anne Holway

There will be no meeting in December.



Coffee Drop-In Centre

10.30am-Noon every Thursday morning in Ugborough Church

Post office available 10 a.m.-12 noon (also Tuesday 1.30-3.30 p.m.)

Why not meet up with friends and neighbours over coffee, tea, cake & biscuits?

Everyone welcome.

Are you able to join the Helpers' rota? We need you!

Ivybridge U3A - Jean Sherrell

The Ivybridge U3A will hold their Christmas Party at the Watermark at 2 p.m. on Monday December 21st.

Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled - Peggy Douglas



(tel. 07882286421, or 01752 894358.)

It is the time of year to thank all our many volunteers and supporters from the Parish and to wish them Compliments of the Season. and if anyone else feels they can help in any way at all please contact me.

We are seriously fed up with the rain! It makes life more difficult in so many ways.

We are running the draw at the forthcoming Crux Fair at Rattery on November 28th and 29th - this gives us the opportunity to set out our stall, meet people and discuss our work. We are still looking for paid Yard Staff - again contact me if you are interested- 07882286421

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

We enjoyed a variety of themed activities in November: preparing our poppy picture for the Ugborough Church Remembrance Service, and recalling the sights and sounds of bonfire night by "popping like a firework" with Mervyn and creating firework pictures. We have been tying our activities in with our curriculum focus of mathematics through counting, problem solving and measuring. And it's all about healthy living and child development at our drop in morning on 25th November, with health professionals and Children's Centre staff on hand for advice and a chat.

We are looking forward to Christmas, kicking off with our Soup Stall at the Victorian Fair (Martha will be 1 year and 12 hours old this year!). We will be treating our children to a magical trip to meet Santa on the South Devon Railway on the last day of term.

The Pre-school children and Ugborough School Foundation Class children would like to invite you to join us for a sing-a-long of carols and Christmas songs on Wednesday 16th December at 11.30 a.m. prompt in the Village Hall. Afterwards, there will be tea, coffee and mince pies. We have decided to have a collection for St Luke's Hospice and encourage the children (and visiting grownups) to dress in a Christmas jumper, the more ridiculous the better!

Annual Poppy Appeal - *Francis Douglas*

This year £467 was raised in the Ugborough Parish for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Individual collecting points have been informed of the totals raised on their premises. In addition to this, the Sunday Remembrance service was well attended and the collection raised further monies for service charities.

The Beacon Federation - *Executive Headteacher - Mrs. Jane Byrne*
Ugborough Primary School.

The very much appreciated Harvest celebration at Hillhead raised £87.80 towards the crisis in Syria appeal. Our Poppy Appeal raised £45.45. We have very recently supported Children in Need with a mufti day which raised £95.77.

The children also supported the Shoebox Appeal. Thank you to children and parents for supporting these events so generously.

The lead up to Christmas has started and children and staff are preparing for the Carol Concert at Church on 17th December starting at 6.30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Take a look at the new website for the Federation which has been completely renovated and will be regularly updated.

The last day of this term is Friday 18th December and Spring Term starts on Wednesday 6th January.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from all at the School

Beacon Federation Governors- Vacancy for a Governor *Sue Roberts, Chair*

We currently have one vacancy. Staff and parents are already well-represented on the Governing Body so in this instance we are seeking to recruit someone from the local or wider community.

If you are keen to share the responsibility for the strategic direction of Ermington and Ugborough Schools and ensure the continuing development of the Federation we would love to hear from you. Experience in Public Relations or Publicity/Marketing would be particularly relevant to this appointment but other skills would also be welcomed. The governors believe passionately that every child deserves the best possible education during their primary schooling.

We meet monthly, serve for a 4-year term and are a mix of parents, members of staff and people from the wider community. You do need to be able to visit the schools during the day from time to time.

If you would like to find out more about being a governor or to discuss this informally with one of us please contact the school office at Ermington (01548 830459) or Ugborough (01752 8924890) or email admin@ermington.devon.sch.uk before Friday 11th December 2015. Thank you

The Forge, Lutterburn Street is available to let from the first week in December.

Fully furnished self-contained studio apartment. Gas central heating. Short or long lets considered.

Contact Nicky or Owen Davies- call 07967180872 or 01752 895565-

Ugborough Parish Walking Group- *Merryl Docker*

Hello. Is there anyone out there? Just lately walking group numbers have dwindled and the past few months no one has turned up for a walk with us on the first Sunday of the month, so we are going to give the first Sunday of December a rest. However, we will be meeting for our traditional BOXING DAY refresher! Please bring your friends and family (furry friends too), wearing your new jumpers, hats, scarves etc to show off to one and all. We will have a much needed leg stretch on Boxing Day, meeting in the square at 10.45 a.m. for a stroll, chat and some fresh air in our lovely Ugborough countryside. No doubt followed by a refreshing toast to Christmas in one of our great pubs. We are looking forward to seeing you. Maybe next year we will just have a few walks to see the primroses, bluebells or just some random walks to suit demands. Please get in touch to let us know what you would like from a local walking group: Tom Holway (01752 941872) or Merry! Docker (01752 893651). Have a great Christmas, see you on Boxing Day!

Ugborough Local History Group - *Merry! Docker*

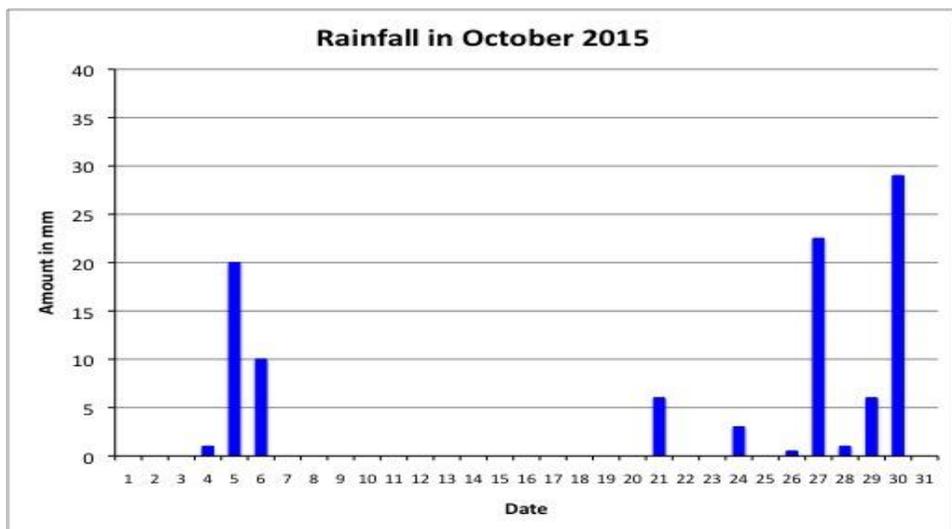
Our members will now be aware that our festive annual party has had to be moved to Wednesday 2nd December, 7.30 for 8 p.m. in Ugborough Village Hall. Local musicians "The Greenwood Consort" will entertain us with traditional seasonal songs and music from the past. Please bring along either a plate of food to share (savoury or sweet, the choice is yours) or a bottle (soft drink or something stronger). Our party night has always been great fun, this year we are really looking forward to such talented local musicians ~ do come and join us. There will be a charge of only £3 on the door to cover expenses. Please let me know if you would like to join us, it is not a ticketed event, but I would like to know numbers: Merry! Docker 01752 893651 or merryldocker@yahoo.co.uk ~ see you soon.

Davenport Lifehouse- *Anita Slade*

Davenport Lifehouse is a charity that supports the homeless in Plymouth, unlike the stereotypes that exists around the homeless, these are ordinary people who because of life events find themselves homeless maybe due to mental health problems, losing their job or relationship breakdown many are ex service personnel. We are collecting toiletries for the hostel the sorts of things needed are unused razors, shampoo, sanitary products, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap etc. So if you are clearing out your bathroom cabinet in preparation for Christmas please can you donate your unwanted products to this good cause I will put a box at USS for any donations. Thank you for your support

Rainfall at Shellwood Hill *George Arnison*

During October I recorded 99mm (just under 4") of rain at Shellwood Hill. Compared with the preceding four years ... 179mm in 2014; 244mm in 2013; 182mm in 2012 and 123mm in 2011....this was a pretty dry month, and drier than both this July and August.



Beryl's Bookworms -Anne Holway

The Taxidermist's Daughter by Kate Mosse.

This is a gothic murder mystery novel set in West Sussex in 1912. The Author's description of the area is well observed as this was her native county.

Connie, the central character has a lot on her plate. Her father became a drunkard due to the loss of his thriving avian museum and ensuing bankruptcy. Connie suffered severe memory loss 10 years previously due to a fall and was constantly trying to piece together fragmented flashbacks. The story begins when a young woman's body is washed up close to the family home with wire around her neck.

Mosse's writing is very atmospheric and the plot a real page turner but many of us felt it didn't reflect the era. Some of us were fascinated by the intricacies of taxidermy while others preferred to skip over the gory details.

Generally we felt that it was a good read with marks ranging from 4.5 to 2.5 out of 5. Our next book will be 'A place called Winter' by Patrick Gale and this will be reviewed at our January meeting.





Your Stars Tonight. I appear to be an innocent bystander in a maelstrom of theatrical activities. The steamed dieter is duetting with a replay loop of "Someday my prince will come" but probably he is still waiting for the Tuesday bus to Ugborough. I open my wardrobe to find a blowsy gown that might befit a Downton ballroom night out along with bejewelled high heel shoes. And then this morning the postman asked me to sign for a parcel containing a tiara. I wonder if the steamed dieter is tiring of the simple life in the country and intends to head off for Kensington or are these portents of the Ugborough pantomime?

I idly consider the theatrical possibilities of a pantomime script based on the life on an aspiring stargazer in Ugborough. Every day he dreams of glittering star clusters, swirling galaxies, ghostly nebula and the ever changing moon and planets but is trapped in a world of never ending rain where all becomes a soggy grey mist.

But then I cheer myself up - if people can play Fantasy Football then why not fantasy star gazing? And so this month I will dream of standing at midnight gazing up at a velvet black sky spangled by a myriad stars.

In the south the belted hunter Orion appears over the horizon and in the next few months he hauls himself upright and by Christmas he will be striding eastward in pursuit of his prey. Just above and slightly to the right is the V of stars that makes up the constellation of Taurus, the Bull, with Aldebaran as its baleful glowering eye. This enormous red giant of a star (its radius is 40 time larger than our sun) glows a distinctly orange in the winter sky. Then there is always the pleasure of spotting the seven sisters - the tiny cluster of stars that makes up the Pleiades - and even low power binoculars reveal scores of brilliant blue white stars that have been freshly minted over the last 20 million years.

For real enthusiasts, just above the lower horn of Taurus is a faint patch of light that is Messier Object M1 - otherwise known as the Crab Nebula. This is the blasted fragments of a supernova that flared for a few months in 1054 as a bright new star before fading into its current hazy obscurity. It was recorded by Chinese and Arabian astronomers but in Britain we were perhaps distracted from our astronomical studies by numerous invasions of Danes and other assorted Vikings. At the centre of the nebula is a weird pulsar star which emits a huge burst of energy every 33 milliseconds - when it was first found in the 1950's it was thought we had tuned into alien messages. Then I hear that song again "Someday my prince will come" and the steamed dieter appears out of the dark bearing a cup of hot chocolate and a shortbread biscuit. Fantasy indeed.

Operation Christmas Child: Shoeboxes to Overseas Children - Jane Hooper

Thank you all for your wonderful shoe box contributions again this year. Joe and I happily collected a total of 21 beautifully and thoughtfully filled shoeboxes from St Peters church and the school, and they are being shipped off to a variety of countries overseas in time for children to receive before Christmas. So thank you so much, for your kindness and generosity.

It seemed to highlight the importance of thinking of others with the horrendous events in Paris happening the same weekend as we packed up the boxes. It really does bring home how lucky we are to live in such a safe and wonderful part of the world that we do.

Looking ahead to next year, I wondered if there was anyone that lived in the village that would be happy to act as an alternative, but only occasional, drop-off point to the church? Now that we live out of Ugborough it posed a couple of problems to some (totally understandably) when it came to dropping off filled shoeboxes somewhere other than the church this year. It would be great if there was someone's door that could be knocked on - and from which I could then collect the next day. Please drop me an email if you are able to help.

Many thanks again and have a wonderful Christmas.

(christinajanehooper@yahoo.co.uk)

Victorian Christmas Fair

on Saturday 5th December at Hillhead Farm, Ugborough

From 12 noon until dark

Roast chestnuts and marshmallows on the open fire

Farm animals

Christmas trees

Mulled wine and cider

Trade stands

Free entry- just bring Christmas spirit

Christmas Tree Festival - Vicki Chalmers

St John's Church in Ivybridge is holding a Christmas Tree Festival 5th and 6th December. We are raising funds for the upkeep of our church and hope that the Christmas Tree Festival will be a popular venue for the start to December and Christmas. The festival will be on all day both days, with soup and bread lunches and teas coffee and mince pies. Also a seasonal bake sale, raffle, craft activities for the children. Entrance will be £1 by a lucky number programme.

On Sunday at 7 p.m. we are having the GNO ladies choir singing ... Tickets £5 to include cheese and wine.

Buckfastleigh Pantomime Group presents -'Freezing'

After a short enforced absence, the Buckfastleigh Pantomime Group is back and is proud to present their latest sparkling production to kick off the festive season!

The show kicks off at 7 p.m. on Thursday 10th December (Doors open at 6.30 p.m.) at Buckfastleigh Town Hall (Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 ODD) and continues until Saturday 12th December. There are also planned matinee shows from 2 p.m. on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December.

Tickets- £7.50 for adults, £4.00 for concessions, family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) for £19.00 from Cocoon in Fore street, Buckfastleigh (07912 887474). For further information, see the Buckfastleigh Panto Pages on Facebook.

Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays Sarah Scanlon

Next Sustainable Saturday- December 12th

It has been a very busy time at USS lately and now is a perfect time to come and get some yummy food and start buying those individual gifts that cannot be found in the shops. Please join us in the run up to Christmas. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Coming up in the future we will be looking for you to showcase your artistic talents, as we would like to produce a reusable calico shopping bag that sums up the ideas behind a local sustainable market. Anyone can enter so please come and pick up more information and entry forms at the next couple of markets.

The latest USS AGM minutes can be found on the village website under the USS section. Happy Christmas shopping!

Chenobyl Children's Lifeline- Host Families Required - Ian McClure

Would you like to host two lively ten-year-olds from Belarus in the summer? The Totnes and South Hams Link of national charity Chernobyl Children's Lifeline is once again inviting a group of youngsters from the area most affected by the explosion at the nuclear power plant 30 years ago to spend a month in the Devon countryside in a healthy and loving environment.

Hosts have the children for two weeks, after which they spend a further two weeks with another family. Two or three activities a week are arranged for the group (e.g. visits to Woodlands) so they are not with their host families the whole time.

If you are interested in hosting or would like to help in any other way please contact Link chairman Sue Wyeth on 01548-821201. We are always looking for relief drivers, donations of clothes and offers of gardens for picnics and parties!

More information about the work of Chernobyl Children's Lifeline can be found on our website ccll.org.uk/totnes

SPORTS REPORT - *Janner Motson*

THE STARS COME OUT

No, not an attempt to usurp Ugborough's Patrick Moore, but the introduction to the star-studded Ugborough Sports Review of the Year, held this year in the hospitality suite of the Dave Privett Etihad Grandstand at Uggie Park. The glitterati of local sport and celebrity filled the banqueting facility for the annual awards.

Reviewing the great moments Sue Barker-Johns highlighted the bare-Body Surfing team at the Polzeath Challenge; the round of 69 from John Parham in the Wrangaton Open (he also did well on the last 9 holes); the un-conquering cricket team and the Badminton Club, now in their 64th season with only one racket.

However, it was the Uggies that won Team of the Year following the near-Cup Run that ended in the 27th minute of stoppage time against Melchester Rovers when Roy Race bagged a hat-trick in the dying seconds. There was a surprise for all when Tom Holway was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for trying to get a football pitch at Moorhaven.

In the individual competition, commendation went to Sarah Scandalous for coming 4th out of 3 in the Big Ugborough Bake-Off; but the main award went to Steve Hughes for the 19th straight year for his football and beach volleyball prowess....strangely this coincides with his 20th anniversary as the Chair of the Selection Committee so double the party all round.

ARTS ADVERT

Watch out for these stories coming up in the new Arts Supplement to the Newsletter:

In December Janner Street-Porter exposes corruption in the bidding competition to hold the 2015 Christingle. In January, she takes an in-depth look at the latest in cutting edge art at the Ugborough Primary School Anamorphic Illusions exhibition. February sees a review of the latest Lutterburn Shakespeare Company's 'Cinderella' at the Village Hall, where rumours of prima donna leads and parties behind the scenes threaten to cancel the performance after only 3 nights. You can get these and more for free in the new, exciting, tear-away and probably non-existent Arts Supplement.

Ugborough Village Hall - *Stafford Williams*

Lots to report this month:

SHDC has initiated a consultation on future alcohol licensing policy and the key changes are: an increase to 15 Temporary Events Notices (TEN) per year, with the maximum duration of 1 being no longer than 168 hours and TENs to cover no more than 21 days of the year. The maximum number of people at a TEN event to be 500

persons and a minimum time between TENs shall be 24 hours. This information is important if you intend to run a bar at an event in or from the Hall.

Preparation for the Panto will involve potential disruption from Christmas onwards and if you wish to hold an event in January and February please check the information from the booking secretary Philomena Jones.

A reminder is required for groups to clean up after themselves each day and that the freezer is not intended for long-term storage, which may preclude others using it. Please consider others who come after you when using the Hall.

The broken lock on the toilet door is a priority fix, but at time of writing the committee is waiting on the chap to come with a new lock. The light is now fixed after a bulb had broken in the socket.

SeaMoor Children's Centre - *Vicky Rawlings* Call 01752 896356 to book a place
Every Tuesday- Messy Play at The Den, South Brent Primary School (9.45 - 11.15 a.m.). Suitable for under 5's and their families. .

Every Wednesday-0-18 months group at the Children's Centre (1 - 2.30 p.m.)

Tuesday 8th December - Christmas Party with Elfic the Jester 10.15 a.m. at The Watermark. Join the Children's Centre staff at The Watermark for a Christmas Party with Elfic the Jester. Open to all families with children age up to 5 years old. It's FREE but donations would be welcomed. **(This is open to pre-schools also)**

Monday 14th December-Soft play session at Endsleigh Garden centre -1 - 2 p.m.
Open to all families with children aged up to 5 years old
£2 per child. Under 1's FREE

Ugborough Parish Council Clerk: Sarah Woodman 01364 661127
email: ugboroughpc@yahoo.co.uk Website: ugboroughparishcouncil.org

The November Parish Council Meeting started on a sad note, as Councillors stood for a minute's silence to remember John Fox, who was a Parish Councillor for many years and will be sadly missed.

Highway matters dominated much of the meeting, including:

- Speeding cars along Wrangaton Road causing a hazard to other road users, including horse riders
- Overgrown vegetation below Beacon View, which DCC Highways have been asked to clear
- A TAP grant application for an interactive speed sign, which may be shared with neighbouring Parish Councils. (A TAP application is also being submitted for a defibrillator for Bittaford)
- New signage to slow vehicles speeding along the A3121 at Ludbrook and, hopefully, a queue warning sign at the entrance to Ugborough from Ware

- Contact details to report highway faults. General information on roads and transport is available at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/>. To report a problem, use <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> or call 0345 1551004
- Support for the proposed extinguishment of part of Footpath 29, which ends on the A38 slipway
- The Community Lengthsman scheme. Highway works have been identified and Councillors will be meeting with DCC Highways to decide which works our Lengthsman will undertake.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been developing its theme-based approach, concentrating on its housing policies. Have a look at the website, www.ugboroughplan.org to track its progress.

Ivybridge is consulting on its Neighbourhood Plan and some of its proposals may affect Ugborough residents - go to <http://www.ivybridge.gov.uk/local-information/neighbourhood-plan> for more details.

Planning applications poured in over the last month. Parish Councillors supported the: Widened vehicular access at Binwell Cottage, Filham; Change of business use at Unit 1 Wrangaton Business Park; Osteopathic practice at Key Cottage, The Square, Ugborough; Pitched roof to garage at 2 Lanteglos Close, Bittaford; and the two agricultural buildings at Cutwellcombe Farm, subject to a condition restricting usage to agriculture, and not residential or industrial. A neutral response was given to the proposed extension at Palk Cottage, Ware Hill, Ugborough. Finally, objections were raised to the: Proposed refreshment hut at Station Cross, Wrangaton as it was an inappropriate location and traffic hazard; and the mobile home at Cheston Cottage, Wrangaton, which was too far from the main house and should not be used as a separate dwelling.

Information & Advice Surgeries are being held by Devon Communities Together, and they can provide advice and information 'On what matters to our communities' - drop in to the Ashburton session from 2-8pm on Monday 8 February. SHDC Locality Officer Tim Pollard is also regularly visiting the area to 'help & give advice on a range of Council services' - look out for posters advertising his next visits.

The Ugborough Parish Emergency Plan is being prepared for events, such as: 'Flooding, Severe storms, Snow, large scale evacuation due to a major event, e.g. major fire, pollution incident, a pandemic health threat and loss of communications'. The purpose of the plan is to provide a self-help response, particularly shelter, during any emergency affecting the community, when the normal emergency response provided by the Emergency Services and the Local Authorities is delayed, because of the scope and nature of the emergency. If you can offer any help, please contact the Clerk.

Christmas is just round the corner, and the Parish Council has contributed to the festivities by funding Christmas lights at Ugborough Church, Bittaford Methodist Church and Bittaford Community Hall. Thank you, Cllr Johns, for arranging Christmas trees for Bittaford and Ugborough. Merry Christmas!

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December, starting at the earlier time of 7 p.m. Agenda and minutes are displayed on the noticeboards and website.

Bittaford Methodist Chapel Jutta Berger 01752 698381

Please come and join us - we look forward to welcoming you.

Sunday 6th December 10 a.m. Revd. David Youngs Worship and Holy Sacrament of Communion 2.Advent

Sunday 13th December 10 a.m. Mrs. Gillian Higgins Worship 3.Advent

Sunday 20th December 2.30 p.m. Revd. Ralph Ward Worship and Holy Sacrament of Communion 3.Advent

24th December 6.30 p.m. Revd. Ralph Ward Candlelight Service

27th December 10 a.m. Mr. Mike Cade Worship

Our Hall is available for hire. We have a small Tea Kitchen. All enquiries contact: Jutta Berger as above or e-Mail to: juttaberger@tiscali.co.uk

Green Pastures Coffee Bar for families with small children.

Open every Friday from 10 a.m. 'til 12 noon including School Holidays!

St.Peter's Church, Ugborough- Fundraising

We are very grateful for these events which helped to raise much needed funds for the Church-

The Whist drive on 11th November raised £242. Thanks to all who helped at this event.

The Dunwell Farm lunch hosted by Sue and Clifford Johns. The incredible work by Sue, Clifford and all their family, (with the support of Ladies Committee of St.Peters), raised an amazing £722. Thank you so much!

To everyone in our Mission Community,
Heather and I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.
David (Priest-in-Charge)

St. Peter's Church, Ugborough

Advent is a time of expectation and preparation, as we prepare to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of the infant Christ at Christmas, and also look ahead to his final coming at the end of time. We believe that this coming into the world changed the world and He has called us as people renewed by His Spirit, to open ourselves willingly and readily to meet Him in every moment of the day and in every person we meet, allowing ourselves and God's world to be transformed. Advent is often seen as a time of waiting, but I have to admit, it is not an easy process. I need to deliberately set time aside and when I do, I often discover that I am nurturing a very productive habit which allows me time to rest and regroup, for some of my priorities to become clearer, to develop perseverance and to nurture a grateful heart.

As I write just after the attacks in Paris and Beirut, we are reminded that we live in a world where 'wars, conflicts and persecutions have forced more people than at any other time since records began to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere' (*UN Report*). Yet to compare our own situations with those we see hour by hour in our media around the world seems strange and maybe even futile. However most of us have experienced circumstances beyond our control that have changed our lives and caused us from time to time to feel uncertain, unsettled or insecure. The Christmas story is an unsettling story, Mary and Joseph, were made to travel to Bethlehem, and struggled to find a place to stay, then within a short period of time were forced to flee for their lives to a foreign country. So I wonder do we sometimes discount our own circumstances as being insignificant to God when faced with such extremes elsewhere? Why can we not always see that God is there in all things both the big things and the seemingly small ones too?

There are no easy answers to these questions but as we travel through Advent, towards the celebration of Christmas please take time to reflect on these thoughts. I have recently been reminded that our former Archbishop Rowan Williams once asked the church; are we a place where the world may see God's promise coming to life? Are we (*as the people of God*) signs of the future that the world would be delighted with? So this Advent take time and allow the promise of God, his Holy Spirit, to be active in your thoughts and lives, trusting that He is at work within us and as our Advent Sunday Gospel reading reminds us, "summer is coming" (*Luke 21:30*).

May God's peace and blessing be with you

David

And from Caroline- **Holy Innocents' Day Vigil - Monday Dec 28th 11.00 a.m. - 12 noon St. Mary's, Diptford** A custom has been gathering support over the last few years of taking some time on the feast of the Holy Innocents - those Bethlehem babies & toddlers killed by Herod in his alarm at the prospect of a rival monarch - to hold prayer vigils for all children who are abused, exploited, harmed and killed in all sorts of different circumstances - in families, schools, churches, localities, clubs, hospitals, homes and war zones.

This year we are observing one for just an hour and will be very happy for people to drop in and out or stay for the whole hour. The time will be spent mainly in silence, but there will also be some readings, prayers and music.

Cathedral Christmas Cards Exeter Cathedral and the Mathew Locke Society (which supports the Cathedral choristers) have joined forces with local artists to produce some beautiful Christmas cards this year.

There are 4 different designs available priced either £4 or £5 for 10 cards.

If you are interested please contact Emma Kennerley in Star House, Diptford.

Tel: 01548 821835.

St Peter's Church Services in December

Date and time	Service
Sunday 6 th December 9.30 a.m.	All Age Worship An informal service suitable for all the family.
Sunday 13 th December 11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist A traditional Service of Holy Communion.
Sunday 20 th December 9.30 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Family Communion (said) A slightly less formal service Carol Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
Thursday 24 th December (Christmas Eve) 4 p.m. 11.30 p.m.	Crib and Christingle service Midnight Christmas Communion
Friday 25 th December 11 a.m.	Christmas Day Communion
Sunday 27 th December 11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Tuesdays (except school holidays) 9 a.m.	Celtic Prayer

Ivybridge Community College have their Carol Concert at St. Peter's on Wednesday 16th December at 6 p.m.

Ugborough Primary School have their Carol Concert at St. Peter's on Thursday 17th December at 6.30 p.m.

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

Priest in charge-

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

Assistant Priest

Rev'd Caroline Luff, Harberton Vicarage, Totnes TQ9 7SA
01803 868445 : pgandcmsl@btinternet.com

Business matters should be referred to the church wardens-

Mrs Helen Hart-hmhart@sky.com

Jeremy Wells- 01364 72180

Parish matters may also be referred to our Reader

Dr. David Stafford- 01752 691525

Contributions

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter.

Contributions should be sent to - Mrs. Norma Roe, The Editor, Ugborough Parish Newsletter, 20 Lutterburn St, Ugborough, Ivybridge, PL21 ONG.

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

E mail is welcome to norma-davidroe@tiscali.co.uk (I use Microsoft word, font Comic Sans. Any articles as attachments in this format would be particularly welcome.)

Your Newsletter is available online at the Parish Council website ugboroughparishcouncil.org. and at 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.

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 15th.