

*St. Peter's,
Ugborough*

*St. Peter's & St Paul's,
Ermington*

THE THREE RIVERS MISSION COMMUNITY

St. Mary's , Diptford

St. Peter's, Harbertonford

St. Andrew's, Harberton

SOUTH HAMS, DEVON THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

*St. Leonard's,
Halwell*

*All Saints,
Moreleigh*

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THREE RIVERS MISSION COMMUNITY

DIPTFORD WITH NORTH HUISH, ERMINGTON,
HALWELL, HARBERTON HARBERTONFORD
MORELEIGH, UGBOROUGH.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MISSION COMMUNITY

The Three Rivers Mission Community ('TRMC') is situated in the South Hams of Devon, much of it in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with several miles of coastline nearby and close to the Dartmoor National Park. Its name reflects the fact that the Rivers Avon, Erme and Harbourne flow through the parishes of the TRMC before reaching their estuary mouths at Bigbury Bay, Mothecome and Dartmouth, respectively.

We are looking for a creative and energetic priest to challenge and nurture us and develop mission and ministry in this part of Devon.

Vision

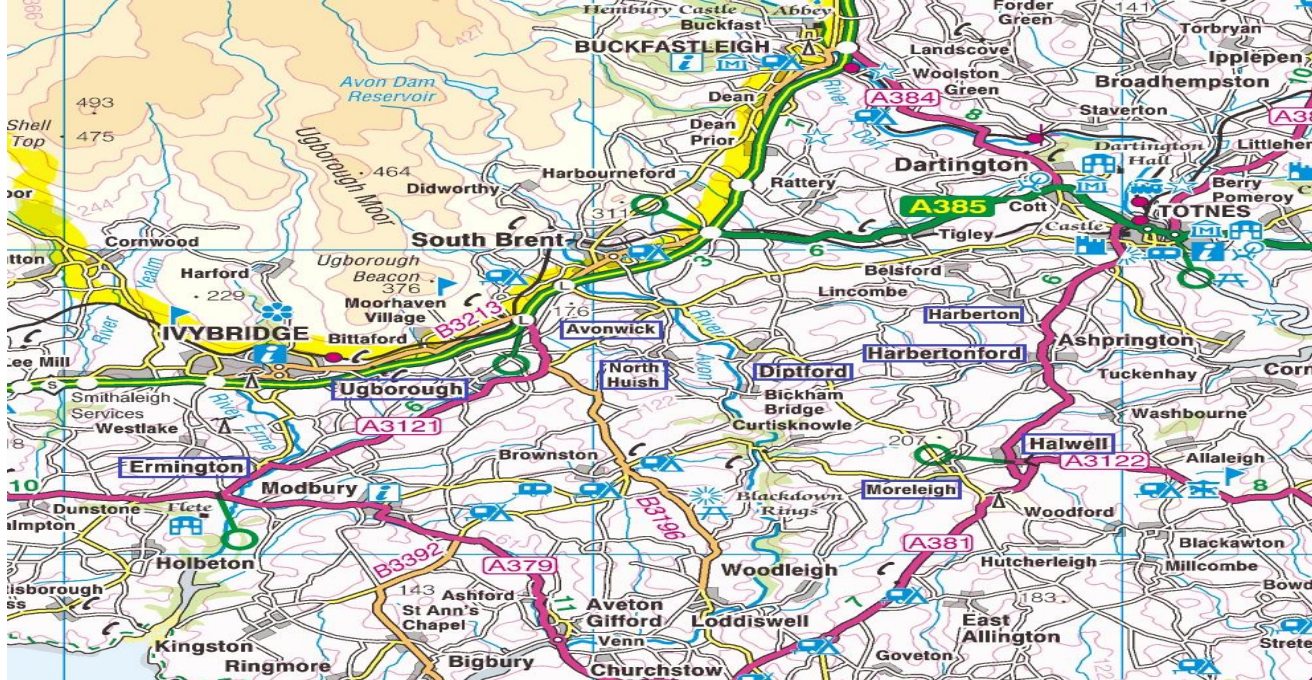
Our vision is to demonstrate, proclaim and share God's love in our welcome, our worship and our pastoral care. We recognize the need to grow if we are to flourish and to be the hub of our communities. We see a particular need to encourage children, young people and young adults: we wish they were our present and hope that they will be our future.

TRMC comprises two benefices; the United Benefice of Diptford etc and the United Benefice of Ermington and Ugborough. TRMC had a Rector who served the wider area of the Diptford benefice for 12 years which was then extended five years ago to include the United Benefice of Ermington and Ugborough. The latter benefice has quite recently been made part of the Totnes Deanery.



The mouth of the River Avon at Bantham

The pastoral staff of TRMC comprise a House for Duty priest (Rev. Caroline Luff), two retired priests (Rev. Philip Luff and Rev. Dr. Peter Povey) one Reader (Dr. David Stafford) and also one Ordinand, (Mrs. Ruth Frampton).



Map showing the respective locations and outlines of the TRMC Parishes.

All of the church buildings in each of the parishes are open every day for visits and prayer.

Access and Communications

There are good communications and motorway links with the rest of the country – Exeter and Plymouth each being a little over 40 minutes away. The A38 is close by with a link to the M5 as are the train stations of Ivybridge and Totnes with links to London, the Midlands and the North of England. Exeter Airport is less than an hour away with direct links to cities in the UK and Europe.

TRMC Community Activities

- ◆ The clergy, reader and church wardens meet quarterly, principally to report on activities both past and future.;
- ◆ Lent Courses across the Community;
- ◆ Advent Courses
- ◆ Regular joint worship

Joint-benefice Eucharists take place on each fifth Sunday of the year and a full TRMC Eucharist is held twice a year. The church choirs combine on a regular basis for these and other joint services and they attend RSCM events.

Study groups function especially during Lent with about 50 people meeting in several centres in the parishes. Some of our congregations belong to groups across the wider locality.

There is a small group of Mothers' Union members who play a full part in diocesan initiatives and raise funds for the world-wide work of the MU. It is largely responsible for organising an annual Women's World Day of Prayer service,

The sacrament is reserved in Harberton, Ermington and Diptford churches.

We publish individual monthly parish magazines to inform people about our village and church activities. We have websites in most villages, including some with dedicated church websites, a key platform for communicating to those within the churches and beyond. All of the church buildings are open daily for private prayer and for visitors to enjoy the historic artifacts.

As at 31 December 2014 the Diocesan Common Fund and clergy expenses have been paid in full by all the parishes.

Rectory

The Rectory was built in 1970 close to the centre of Diptford just off the main road into the village. It has wonderful views of Dartmoor, and is about a 2minute walk from the church and primary school. The centrally heated house offers excellent family accommodation with four bedrooms, and two reception rooms of good proportions together with a downstairs office. The gardens are private and manageable and there is parking space and a garage.



View from the Rectory towards Dartmoor.

Rectory and Garden.

LOCALITY

The parishes are within reach of the A38 and Dartmoor and the coast, located between Ivybridge to the west, Totnes to the east and Kingsbridge to the south. The market town of Totnes with its Norman Castle, and Dartington Hall Estate with its arts programmes (including the literary festival Way with Words in July and the international music festival in August each year), live events and courses, is only 6 miles away from the Rectory. There is also an active arts and music scene to suit all tastes in Plymouth, with the Theatre Royal, Barbican Centre, Multiplex Vue cinema and Plymouth University's Peninsula Arts Centre, as well as excellent sports centres in the three market towns and Plymouth.

Ivybridge has two medical GP centres and two Dentists, (nearby South Brent has one of each). Totnes has extensive similar facilities as well as a cottage hospital. Totnes boasts an excellent Secondary School; Ivybridge has the Community College, one of the largest in the UK. Members of the Mission Community have links with both. There are primary schools in several of the TRMC villages, as will be detailed below.

Beaches: Within an 11 mile radius of the Community there are 22 beaches of which Mothercombe and Bigbury are probably two of the most popular.

The nearest large hospitals are in **Plymouth** and **Torbay**, which are also the main shopping areas. There are railway stations at **Totnes, Newton Abbot, Plymouth** and **Ivybridge**.

Occupations

- ◆ Small percentage are farmers, farmworkers, gardeners or involved in the construction industry- mainly local people;
- ◆ Majority in offices, shops, education, health service providers, the Navy, (Devonport Naval Dockyard is in Plymouth) and tourism with other various professions;
- ◆ Retired population are mostly relative newcomers.

There is a residential home, ('Kingsacre') at Ermington where we regularly visit and take Holy Communion to some of the residents.

QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE NEW RECTOR

We are looking for a priest who is able to discern lay talents and to develop lay ministry. TRMC is geographically large and, while we are fortunate in being able to draw upon the services of a Lay Reader and retired priests, lay participation must inevitably increase if we are to flourish and grow.

The churches have a range of different churchmanship and worshipping styles within the TRMC. We are keen to develop our ministry to children and young people whilst being sensitive to the needs of our existing congregations. While we would not necessarily expect the candidate to specialize in this field we would hope that he or she would have the aptitude to facilitate such development

STMARY, DIPTFORD WITH NORTH HUISH

Diptford and North Huish are situated in The Avon Valley, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Diptford and North Huish contain around 800 residents in a mixture of older houses, cottages and farmhouses and a number of modern bungalows spread within their Parishes. Planning permission has been granted for a development of sixteen houses on the fringe of Diptford with six to eight being affordable housing for local people.

St. Mary's Church was built in 1226; is well maintained and has always been a focal point of the village. Many changes and alterations have taken place over the years the last being the repair of the fourteenth century broach spire. The whole community came together to support the project.

See www.diptford.org.uk



St. Mary's is involved in a wide variety of activities which take place in the Church, Diptford Parochial Primary School, Parish Hall, homes and gardens within the village area. These include Hand bell Ringers, Holiday Club, Horticultural Show, PIPS, Short Mat Bowls, SMASH, the W.I. and many more.



With regard to worship the services are varied and include Holy Communion, Family Service, Matins and Choral Communion, each having a similar attendance of 25 to 35. We welcome villagers, the wider community and visitors to the area to join in our services which are all followed by coffee and biscuits. The special services are particularly popular and well attended such as: Mothering Sunday where children hand out flowers, joyous Easter Sunday Service, the 'Big Promise' Service in National Marriage week, the fun Blessing of Animals Service, Harvest Festival followed by supper for around 100 people, the moving Remembrance Service, Christingle and the Crib Service for the little ones and their families, Christmas Eve Carols and Prayers around the village Christmas Tree, the candlelit midnight Christmas Communion and the happy Christmas Morning Service.

We have strong links with Diptford's Parochial Church of England Primary School. Our Priests take weekly assemblies in church and support the school's Christian Ethos. See www.diptford.devon.sch.uk

for details. The reception class joins with PIPS children in church for Bible stories and songs. Every week around eight children come into church for SMASH - the after school club. Both PIPS and SMASH are led by church members. The choir has 15 committed members who meet regularly with the new organist to practice the hymns, psalms and anthems. Most of the choir members are experienced and some are active in choirs in the wider area. The church bell ringers also practice regularly and make Sunday mornings very special.

St. Mary's Church, North Huish, which was closed in 1993, is managed by Churches Conservation Trust which maintains the building. An active local group cleans and decorates the church for the three services a year which are held there: the beautiful country location is a perfect setting for the Rogation Service, a large congregation attend the Remembrance on 11th November at 11.00 o'clock and the candlelit Carol Service with about 150 attending (many staying afterwards to enjoy a homemade supper).



Internal view of Diptford Church.

As for finance, we have three major fund raising events. The busy spring Plant Sale is held in a different person's garden each year. The stalls sell plants from experienced gardeners as well as 'home grown' seedlings and cuttings. Gift Day, which encourages people to drop by with a gift and stay for a chat works smoothly; helpers feel it is good that 'the church' is seen in the heart of the village. The Village Fete, held at Diptford Court, has children's races, dog races and all the usual stalls as well as cream teas and a BBQ. Everyone always seems to have a great afternoon particularly when the sun shines!



Diptford Church events.

St. Peter and St. Paul, ERMINGTON.

Ermington is a village and civil parish located approximately 2 miles (3.2 km) south of the town of Ivybridge . It is served by the United Benefice of Ermington and Ugborough which in turn is part of the TRMC. The village itself is relatively small and compact, with a population of about 850, but the parish also includes several small hamlets and is quite large.

Housing includes everything from large manor house to small village cottages, large and small, modern and traditional, privately and housing association owned! A new housing estate is currently being built, with both 'executive' and 'affordable' housing stock. The first tranche of residents consists mainly of young families.

The area is predominantly agricultural but there are small industrial units within the village itself and a large industrial estate, which includes a large store for a major supermarket, in part of Lee Mill at its north-west boundary. There is limited public transport. The village boasts an excellent Primary School, with about 150 children on roll, and a modern and similarly superb independently-run Pre-School catering for a further 40. It is significant that both these units attract families from well outside their local catchment. Other amenities within the village include a pub, appropriately named 'The Crooked Spire', 'Plantation House' hotel and restaurant and the 'First and Last Bistro' and the Reading Room, for which plans for its extension and improvement are well under way.

Ermington parish church, which dates from the 12th century, is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul. It is known well known both for its crooked spire, and its extensive and outstanding examples of woodcarvings by the daughters of a former vicar, the Rev'd Edmund Pinwill. The building is in a good condition. The churchyard is run by a churchyard committee made up of members of the PCC and Parish councils although ultimate authority remains with the incumbent.

In recent years, the church has seen a steady increase in the number of regular worshippers. Weekly congregations on a 'normal' Sunday averaged 32 in 2013, with many more attending for major festivals (87 at Easter and 68 at Christmas in 2013), and there is a happy co-existence between congregants whose personal views vary between 'high', 'low' and non-conformist.

Worship is predominantly a weekly Common Worship Order One Eucharist. Services are at 9.30am or 11am. On one Sunday per month this service is geared more towards the needs of young people. It is followed by a lay-led service of Book of Common Prayer Matins for those who prefer something more formal and traditional. There is also morning and evening prayer on Wednesdays.

The church has a choir, regular organist and a team of bell-ringers. Members of the congregation take a full part in lesson reading, intercession leading, offertory processions, flower and sides person duties. In short, the church is well and lovingly cared-for by all who use it.

In addition to worship, the building is already used for practice by a Samba Band and other instrumentalists, an autumn or Christmas fair run by the Village Fund and occasional concerts. In order to make it more suitable both for the 'social' side of church and also for wider community use, work is about to begin on providing a small kitchen area in the north-west corner of the building.

There is a strong outreach, formally through a church-based monthly Lunch Club, but also through numerous other ways in which church members work in the voluntary sector. They're obeying Our Lord's commandments, but it's fair to say that they're not normally recognised as so doing!

We are fortunate in having volunteers experienced in youth work but are concerned by the relatively small numbers of young people in



church. We also see a need to tackle the issue of providing adequate pastoral care to the parish given the extent of the demands on the clergy allocated to the Mission Community in the future.

The church web site is at www.ermingtonchurch.org.uk.



St Andrew's, HARBERTON

Harberton village is approximately 3 miles from Totnes . The civil parish includes Harbertonford (details of which are below) and together they have a population of around 1300 people. The village has good community spirit; we have quite a number of young families and people love living here. We have the Church House Inn pub, a cricket club and a playing field association. Harberton's claim to fame is that a former inhabitant, Mary Ann Varder, migrated to Tierra del Fuego and founded an estancia there also called Harberton! Details of the community can be seen at:

<http://www.harbertondevon.co.uk/>

There has been a Christian witness in the village since 1100 and **St Andrew's church** provide some of the few meeting places in the village. The church is a beautiful fifteenth-century church with a magnificent tower, lovely stained glass windows and a late 15th century rood screen (the original panels are displayed at the back of the church) and a spectacular pulpit of octagonal structure with rich foliate carvings, one of the finest in Devon. The Norman font is a 'girdle font',

one of 12 in Devon. We have just had the porch restored costing £15,000 and hopefully with the Friends Scheme now in place, we will be able to put other work in hand. The Archdeacon has signed a letter of support for the roof repairs, which are set at about £100,000. The church seats 200. We are mentioned in Simon Jenkin's Book England's Thousand Best Churches. The churchyard is well maintained with local volunteers and we receive a grant from the Parish Council. We also employ professionals three times a year to strim the vast area around the grave stones. We can always call on Ringers from the Deanery.

Average church attendance is 14-18 people; mid-week 6-10; Easter & Christmas up to 60. (At Christmas we alternate with Harbertonford; one year we have 10.30 am Christmas Day and the next year Mid-night Mass. Electoral Roll – 28.
Baptisms - 2 ; Weddings 4 ; Confirmation - ; Funerals & Burial of Ashes - 2. (2013-14)

At present we have 8 members on the PCC – 2 Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 members. We have a monthly Parish Magazine from Harberton & Harbertonford as a joint project and the centre page has all the services for the Mission Community and the Priest's letter plus activities and village content. Fortunately we have regular advertisers to cover the cost of printing.

In terms of **worship**. Harberton celebrates Holy Communion most weeks. Every fortnight we have mid-week Holy Communion at 9.30 am alternating with Diptford. We have an organist playing each week. We also have a Village Choir which sings at various events especially Harvest, Christmas and weddings on request.

With regard to finances, we have a committed giving plan that has been operating for many years. We have recently set up a 'Friends of St Andrew's' scheme and is doing well. Harberton's main yearly fund-raisers are the Strawberry Fair (in its 26th year) held in the Square which involves all the village and the Christmas Bazaar held in the Village Hall. We have monthly Coffee mornings held in various people's homes and we have a lovely Harvest Festival & Praise followed by lunch at the back of the church. We can seat 50 people.



St. Peter's, HARBERTONFORD

Harbertonford is a main-road village on the A381, between Totnes and Kingsbridge and is a community of around 300 houses with a mixture of privately owned & social housing including some warden controlled bungalows. There is a good P O / shop, an excellent garage with a shop, a pub & small industrial unit. The village hall is well used by clubs, there is also a football pitch by the hall. There are many young families in the village, most of the children attend our excellent primary school, with whom we have a very good relationship. The clergy regularly go into school & we are delighted that our school recently received an outstanding SIAMS report. Also a PCC member helps in school & sits on the school committee. A number of artists live in the community and they open their studios every year in the annual South Hams Open Studios week.

The local doctor has been holding a surgery in the church for the past 20 years.

Details of the village can be seen at <http://www.harbertonford.org/>

The **Church of St Peter** is a Victorian church dedicated in 1859 and is a lovely example of nineteenth-century gothic design. The church lies in the centre of Harbertonford. Our church is kept in good order, inside is especially spic & span thanks to one member of PCC. We also have a good team of flower arrangers who pull out all the stops at special festivals.

For worship, each month we have three communion services and a family service. We are open to differing styles of worship, while we appreciate dignity in worship we also enjoy modern styles and are in no way a staid group. All our services are ably accompanied by our resident organist, we



have a member of the benefice choir who is also sacristan at St Peters.

With regard to **finances**, to date we have always paid our common share in full. Our main fund raising events are regular monthly coffee mornings, held for the last 22 years in the village hall; St Peters fair at the end of June; Harvest Service and Supper are held each year and there are occasional special events as well. There is a PCC lottery held monthly for a contribution of £1.

All Saints' Church, MORLEIGH

Moreleigh is situated between Halwell and Diptford parishes and is the smallest within the Three Rivers Missions Community. It is a very close knit community and is particularly supportive of the church. The joint parishes of Halwell & Moreleigh are amongst the most vibrant in the South Hams. We have a wonderful village hall in which we hold parties, bingos and a village fete sports day. There are many village outings during the year. The New Inn situated in Moreleigh has the reputation for the best steaks in the South Hams.

The **church of All Saints** is a simple one dating from the 13th century but is still a grade 1 listed building. It is said to have been built by Sir Peter de Fitzacre in penance for killing the parson of Woodleigh, to which parish Moreleigh then belonged. The church is located a small distance from the village. The church remains open at all times during the day and is in reasonable repair.

With regard to **worship**, we share services with Halwell and also with Harbertonford. Within a typical month we have one Holy Communion and one Family Service, a Matins and Evening Prayer.

We join with other parishes for Bible Study using an Emmaus course. For over ten years we have invited those who have been bereaved in the Mission Community to an All Saints/All Souls Service at the beginning of November, where candles are lit for those who are remembered. Some 15% of the population of the parish attends Sunday services.

St. Leonard's Church, HALWELL.

Halwell has an ancient history. The village lies close to two Iron-Age hillforts, Stanborough and Halwell Camps, and it was one of the four burghs in Devon (the others being Exeter, Barnstaple and Lydford) created by King Alfred in the 9th century to defend the south-west from Viking attack, but its functions were transferred to Totnes in c. 950AD. There are the remains of two Iron Age camps above the village. Our parish population is currently about 390 and used to be almost entirely farming. Now we have one modern estate and extra house in-fills. There is a pub, The Old Inn, and a service station which provides a good Spar shop.

With a very fine west tower, the **church** dates from the late fifteenth century, with an important Victorian restoration.

We are a small congregation but the major festivals are very well attended, especially Easter, Harvest, (when we have a large dinner at the back of the church), and Christmas. We have an active and able P.C.C. and over the last 5 years have run a 2 day craft course for children in August, a children's Christmas party in the church and lunches once a month in the church in the winter. Bell ringing has started again. Jonathan Watts is restoring the organ and has given us wonderful organ recitals; with other parishes there are Lent groups, an Emmaus and bible group and a choir. We have held flower festivals, the Plant Sale and in a local home thought-provoking presentations of music, pictures and poetry. Our worship is shared with Moreleigh and every month we celebrate Holy Communion, have a BCP Matins/ Family Service and Evensong.

We are there

We are there as a landmark for all those passing by

We are there for friendship in the community

We are there for weddings, christenings, and funerals,

We are there open all day for those seeking peace

We may not be busy, busy, busy, but we are there.

St Peter's, UGBOROUGH.

Ugborough is a large parish, stretching from Redlake on Dartmoor down to the farmland of the South Hams. There are around 1750 people living in the parish: around half in the main village and the other half in the three large hamlets of Bittaford, Moorhaven and Wrangaton, and numerous outlying farms and small settlements. The parish is largely agricultural but the community is mixed, with farmers, craftspeople, labourers, professionals, self-employed and retired people. There are a considerable number of families with children.

There are many institutions and societies in which everyone is welcome to participate. A major annual community event is Ugborough Fair, held in July each year. There are village halls at Ugborough and Bittaford. Ugborough village hall organises a fortnightly produce market called Sustainable Saturdays and both halls host numerous community events.

There are many active groups in the parish. The Friends of St Peter's organises fundraising activities for the church; there is an active local history society; a reading group; a monthly walking group; a garden club. At Moorhaven, there is also a co-ordinating Committee for the community, with a message board, which organises events.

Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled Group is one of the biggest Riding for the Disabled Groups in the country and operates in the parish. The group provides rides 160 of differing disabilities, and is manned by an army of 180 volunteers – many from the parish. Now in its 30th year, the group is grateful for the financial support it regularly receives from parishioners and local businesses.

A small, committed team voluntarily produces and distributes an informative parish newsletter each month. This is free and delivered to nearly 700 households. Details of services and events at both Ugborough Parish church and Bittaford Methodist chapel are included and a monthly letter from the clergy. Special Mission Community events are also publicised. We do not accept any commercial advertising and so the newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions.

Ugborough small, thriving primary school which provides for around 90 children aged 4-11. It was judged to be 'good' by Ofsted in 2013 and our children's progress has accelerated over the last year achieving standards of attainment above national average in English and maths. It has very good links with the 'outstanding' Preschool which meets in the village hall next door, joining the school daily for certain activities. There is also an after school club. Together with Ermingtons school, Ugborough school forms the very successful Beacon Federation, enhancing the educational opportunities for all. The joint Governing Body meets monthly and is very active and committed.

For pre-school children, in Ugborough village a Toddler Group meets weekly throughout term time. This is a Group of up to 15 Mums with under 3s who meet in the Village Hall for play and singing for the children – and coffee and time to chat for the Grown Ups. At Moorhaven there is a nursery school, 'The Jays', which provides day care for infants to pre-school children all the year round including a Holiday Club for up to 7 year olds.

Secondary school children attend Ivybridge Community College

Details about the parish can be found at www.ugborough.com

There has been a **church** in Ugborough since at least 1121. St Peter's Church as it now stands is an impressive, grade 1 listed medieval building mostly of the early fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It has an impressive west tower and the remains of a fine rood screen. The church sits at the edge of the village, on a small hill and is an impressive landmark for miles around. The church interior has undergone recent refurbishment (2009) with the fitting of a kitchen and toilet, and removal of pews from the west nave of the church, to create a very nice social space. Currently, there is a restoration project in train, funded by HLF, of the north aisle roof and ceiling, including the conservation of an important series of late medieval wooden roof bosses.

Ugborough parish church is at the centre of village life and as with most rural churches, and has an extended congregation. Average weekly attendance is 25-30. This increases greatly for festivals, at Christmas (when the primary and secondary schools bring their pupils for their own special services) and Easter and Remembrance Sunday. Harvest Festival is an important event for it draws together the farming and village community in a large act of thanksgiving. There is an all-age service on the first Sunday of the month and Matins is held on the fifth Sundays of the month.

The Choir consists of a group of around a dozen, enthusiastic and committed members, who practice weekly and support all the services, weddings and funerals as required. The Choir is accompanied by an organist who has just celebrated his diamond jubilee of organ playing at

Ugborough! Some members attend local Choral Workshops, and they all enjoy the annual challenge of the Ugborough's Got Talent Competition! There is also a bell ringers group, Ladies' Committee and an associated Friends of St Peter's Church. Advent and Lent study courses are held.

The community of Ugborough is very supportive of church events, even those people who do not attend. There are concerts, lectures and other activities held in the church by the Friends and the History society, which always attract good support.

A weekly post office is held in the church (Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings). At the same time, a drop in 'café', where coffee and refreshments are served, welcomes villagers, visitors and people using the post office. Attendance by Clergy and Reader is usual where contacts can be easily made.

In terms of **worship**, St Peter's welcomes people of all denominations to services. A number of summer visitors attend.

Bittaford has a Methodist Church which is part of the Plymouth circuit. St Peter's PCC has recently invited the congregation there to participate in a few annual joint services and we are currently awaiting a reply.

With regard to **finances**, our turnover for 2013 was £32,000, the majority of which was donations. Our expenses are always hampered by the inevitable building costs which are very onerous. Last year our total expenses amounted to £35,000. Despite this we always pay our Common Fund in full – and last year contributed over £1,900 to charities. We currently have approximately £23k in bank accounts.



A fortnightly Emmaus bible study where all parishes get together.

