

NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys Church, Ravensthorpe

A message from St Denys PCC

Following Rev Mark Battison's departure last year, we are really pleased to be welcoming the Rev Chris Peck (and his wife Rev Dr Judy Craig Peck) to lead us as our new priest in charge early in 2015.

Chris and Judy will be moving into the Guilsborough vicarage in late February, and will be officially licensed at a special service on March 24th (all will be welcome, but more details to follow next month). We hope you will join us in making Chris and Judy welcome in our community.

Sadly we have just found out we are also soon going to be saying goodbye to the Rev Andrew Taylor-Cook, our associate priest, who has just been appointed to a new role closer to his family in Derbyshire.

We wish Andrew and Margaret well, and would want to especially thank Andrew for helping us get through the period of interregnum over the last year or so with so little (if any!) disruption to our normal services and work.

In all the changing around, Valerie at the church office will continue to keep all the plates spinning, and can be contacted on 01604 743 444.

It looks like 2015 will be an exciting year for the Uplands Group and St Denys, we hope to see you at Church or one of our events in 2015.

St Denys Churchwardens & PCC (Meg Benn, Alice Cooper, John Mott, Steve King & David Johnstone)

Thinking of giving up chocolate for Lent?

The Uplands Group of Churches is holding a series of meetings during Lent to give people a chance to get together, think about Lent, and talk about issues of faith.

The theme for the evenings is the film **Chocolat**, and we are starting on:

**Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day
Tuesday 17th February at 7pm
Ravensthorpe Village Hall**

Enjoy a free showing of the film, lots of chocolate and of course pancakes!

Why not come along, bring your family or friends? Details on the other events to follow next month.

Obituary for Horace Batten



Horace Batten, chairman of the firm of artisan bootmakers based here in Ravensthorpe, sadly died in December 2014.

Horace Batten supplied all the big names in show jumping, including Harvey Smith, Nick Skelton and Ted Edgar, but he had no difficulty in supplying the needs of less conventional customers. In 1980 he made a pair of heavy wax calf jackboots for the actor Dave Prowse in his role as Darth Vader in the original Star Wars trilogy. Other commissions ranged from a tiny pair of size one boots in elephant skin for an Indian princess, to a pair of 6ft-high leather riding boots in size 72 for a giant puppet Lady Godiva, one of the major public arts commissions to celebrate the 2012 Olympics.

As he approached his century, Batten decided to moderate his involvement in the family business somewhat, passing its day-to-day running to his son Timothy and granddaughter Emma (6th & 7th generation long-bootmakers). He made his last pair of boots at the age of 99.

Horace Batten put his longevity down to not smoking, not retiring, and to a healthy disregard for doctors.

His outside interests centred around the village of Ravensthorpe and its cricket team. In 1939 Horace Batten married Barbara Harris, who was well-known as a flower arranger.

**Horace Batten,
17th Jun 1912 – 7th Dec 2014**

Christmas Coffee Morning at Ann's

Many thanks to the support of the village and all the helpers at the coffee morning in November. A special thanks to Beryl Mott who sold raffle tickets, with her help we raised nearly £1000. Thank you!

What's On?

Village Hall Lunch Club

All welcome to come along:

Weds 11th Feb 12:15 for 12.45

*No lunch in March due to Lent

Weds 15th April 12.15 for 12.45

The cost of £6 includes a welcome drink, a 2-course meal, coffee and mints.

All proceeds are for RVH & NGH haematology unit & Ravensthorpe Village Hall

Please call Pat Foss 770 466 or Lin Hudson 770 562 to book.

Lent Lunches

Everyone is welcome to join us for one or all of our lunches this Lent. The minimum donation is £5. Funds raised go to the church and hosts charity of choice.

Tues 24th Feb	Thalia Pike
Tues 3rd Mar	Lorna Jones
Thur 12th Mar	Maggie Lewis
Tues 17th Mar	Anne Fowler
Tues 24th Mar	Charlotte Matts

All lunches start at 12pm.

Pocket Park Tidy Up

9.30 am Saturday 14th Feb

Getting Old Gracefully

A conventional and complimentary approach!

Dr Julia Boon and Judith Crook will give 2 similar joint talks:

**7 – 8 pm Tues 17th March
Guilsborough Surgery**

**7 - 8pm Tues 24th March
Brixworth Surgery**

All patients of the practice are welcome. Come and learn how we can help ourselves.

Inconsiderate Parking

A number of village residents wrote to the Parish Council before Christmas to express their concerns about traffic, and the issue of inconsiderate parking was raised several times.

Everyone who walks around the village will have noticed pavements partly or fully blocked by cars, often obliging pedestrians, some of whom will be pushing buggies or riding mobility scooters, to venture into the road.

Concerns were also raised in respect of vehicles being parked across driveways hindering access to properties and of vehicles being parked too close to road junctions obscuring vision for both pedestrians attempting to cross roads and other road users.

Whilst your Parish Council has no influence or authority over traffic matters, which are the remit of the County Council's Highways staff, or the Police, we would ask all drivers in the village to park their vehicles considerately, allowing pedestrians plenty of room and residents access to their properties – and to please ask your visitors to do the same.

Thank you.

Stephen Holt

Chairman
Ravensthorpe/Coton Parish Council

Crabtree Pit Pocket Park

February is the start of the season in the Pocket Park. Soon the pathway to the park will be highlighted by snowdrops and aconites. If you fancy a short stroll, it is well worth a visit.

It is now 15 years since the trees were planted in the pocket park and in recent years we have been coppicing them as they have grown very well and without thinning they block out light. Coppicing gives the opportunity for a greater diversity of wildlife.

This year, we shall be gathering and sorting the branches from

9.30 am Saturday 14th February

All help would be appreciated!

You will need gloves and if you have loppers, please bring them. The actual chain-sawing will already have been done, so it is just a question of dragging branches out from the wood.

If bad weather prevents the cutting taking place, a note will be placed on the noticeboard by the shop and also on the park gate. However we aim to proceed with the cutting and collecting if at all possible and will proceed even if the weather is not very good.

If you require any information please contact Cliff Giles on 770451.

Cliff Giles, Pocket Park Co-ordinator



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**Do you love to sing?**

*Sing!*  
*It's good for you*

Ravensthorpe church choir is always looking for new singers, of any voice, ability or age, to help us lead worship, both traditional and contemporary, and hopefully have some fun along the way!

We would love to hear from you if you would like to come along and give it a try – contact Alice Cooper or Meg Benn for more info.

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**Messy Church**

Uplands Group Messy Church continues to meet every 3rd Saturday of the month, at Spratton Primary School - 3.30–5.30pm.

21st February – Temptation!  
21st March – Healing  
18th April – Loving Easter

Contact Valerie 01604 743444 or Lesley 01604 505966 for more information.

| Date                               | Time    | Service Type                | Led by   | Location         | Flowers/Brass |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February    | 8.30am  | Traditional Communion       | Clergy   | Ravensthorpe     | Anne Smith    |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February    | 10.00am | Group Communion             | Clergy   | Cottesbrooke     | -             |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February   | 9.45am  | Modern Communion            | Clergy   | Ravensthorpe     | Anne Smith    |
| Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> February     | 10.00am | Ash Wednesday Group Service | Clergy   | Creaton          | -             |
|                                    | 7.00pm  | Ash Wednesday Group Service | Clergy   | Spratton         | -             |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February | 3.30pm  | Messy Church                | Lay team | Spratton Primary | -             |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February   | 11.00am | All-age with refreshments   | Lay team | Ravensthorpe     | Lent          |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March       | 8.30am  | Traditional Communion       | Clergy   | Ravensthorpe     | Lent          |

Email newsletter contributions to [ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com) for the attention of the editor, Viv Rees by 5pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Note: articles will be included on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis.

Visit the village website: [www.ravensthorpe.me.uk](http://www.ravensthorpe.me.uk) or find us on Facebook 'Ravensthorpe Northampton'