

Issue Number 203 - December 2020-January 2021. With the compliments of the  
Parochial Church Council of St. Denys Church, Ravensthorpe.



# NEWSLETTER

Local News from Ravensthorpe, Cotton & Teaton

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALLISON TWIGG

As I write this letter, it is the weekend that the clocks fall back for the winter and all of a sudden the world seems darker. We're waking up in the dark, we're getting on with daily activities and we're coming home in the dark.

For many of us this is a minor inconvenience but it can bring joy in an excuse for cosy evenings in, with open fires and steaming mugs of hot chocolate. For some, the darkness is a real problem: lack of sunlight can cause low mood and even, for some, serious depression.

Yet we are on our way towards Christmas and that is bright and shiny; and a time of excitement and joy; a time of bright twinkly Christmas lights everywhere you look. For some, however, it doesn't matter how many lights the neighbourhood is decorated with, it still remains a dark time. Perhaps it is for you.

There are many reasons why you may be feeling the darkness of this time of year. Maybe you are facing Christmas without someone you love because they have died or have gone away, or perhaps you or someone you love are facing illness or a personal crisis. Perhaps you are lonely or just worn out with life.

And whether you look forward with excitement to Christmas, or whether you are struggling to see the light in your darkness, the message of Christmas is very much for you this year. I don't mean the sanitised, sentimental or commercial one we see in Christmas adverts, however much fun they may be, but the real message: Jesus being born into a dark world of uncertainty; a world that knew pain and loss; Jesus born as a human being to fully experience everything as we do, so that He can truly walk with us in whatever darkness we face. But most of all, Jesus coming to earth as the light of the world, to win a victory over the things that hold us hostage and to shine His light and dispel the darkness. In that Christmas message, I pray, we find hope and joy.

The light is coming. Come the 21<sup>st</sup> December the days will start getting longer and we will start to see the return of the sun. This Christmas and New Year I pray for the light of God to shine brightly in each of your lives. *Reverend Allison*

## CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2020

At the moment public worship is suspended during the four week lockdown, which is due to end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. If we are permitted to resume worship, there will be Services of Holy Communion in Ravensthorpe on 20<sup>th</sup> December and 17<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am. There will be an additional service of Holy Communion for Christmas on Christmas day, 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 – *This year, so that we can safely socially distance all those who wish to attend it is necessary to book a seat at this service.* Contact Alice: 07803 595106 to do this.

There will be no Carol Service or Crib Service in church this year as we are unable to accommodate the numbers and at present congregational singing is not permitted. The Uplands Group are preparing a number of Online Services for the Christmas period. These will be available from the following times on our FaceBook and YouTube Channels. Please Search for Uplands Group Churches.

### Christmas Online Worship 2020

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm:**

**Carols for All**—a Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 6.30pm:**

**Blue Christmas:** not everyone feels merry and bright at Christmas time in the best of years and some feel that this Christmas may be a more challenging one to celebrate. A quiet and reflective service that we hope can offer comfort, an opportunity to lay down the things that burden you, and a help to find a sense of peace as we journey together towards Christmas. It may help you to have a candle to light and a small stone to hold for this service.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 4.00pm:**

**Crib Service:** the traditional story of Christmas retold with a 2020 twist.

For full Uplands Service schedule, go to back page.

**Christmas Eve Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm:**

**Midnight Communion:** the first Eucharist of Christmas. With joy we meet the New Born King.

**Christmas Day 9.30 am:**

**Holy Communion:** a joy-filled celebration of the good news of Christmas.

**CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Rev'd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 [revallisontwigg@gmail.com](mailto:revallisontwigg@gmail.com)  
The Uplands Group Office: [uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com); Website: [www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk](http://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk)

## COFFEE MORNINGS

### Autumn Coffee Morning at Ann Fowler's

The autumn *virtual* fundraising coffee morning, which would normally take place in December, has so far raised £500. If anyone else would like to make a donation, please leave it at 42 High Street. This year's cause is **Pan-creatic Cancer Research**. Ann is also saying that – for a small fee towards the cause – she “can dog walk, be a driver, make a cake or pudding or meal”. Please contact 01604 770415. Final results in the next Newsletter. Thank you all for your very generous support.

### Macmillan Cancer Support

John has received a letter from Macmillan to say that the final tally for the fundraising “coffee morning” was £900.55. *Magnificent!!*

## CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK



### Hedge Pledge

After pledging to restore part of the hedge line edging the pocket park lane, the new saplings are settling in well. We're prickled pink with completing the task, following being hedged in between the fence and the brambles. Thanks to an amazing team of volunteers and free trees donated by The Woodland Trust.

Look out for the newly installed bird boxes...but not too close. Our next work party session will be in the woodland in Jan/Feb 2021. You're welcome to join our 'outdoor gym' to burn off the winter blues.

Please get in touch if you're interested in helping in any way or receiving pocket park news, [ruh.rolls@gmail.com](mailto:ruh.rolls@gmail.com).

## Ravensthorpe United Charities CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

Applications for the above are now due and should be given to the below as soon as possible.

All Senior Citizens living in the village in receipt of State Pension are eligible, also students who are in their first year at College or University and living away from home during term time.

Mrs Lynn Holt, 10 Little Lane.

Miss Karen Blakelock, Secretary, 5 Dairy Field.

Alternatively, you can email

[RavensthorpeUnitedCharities@outlook.com](mailto:RavensthorpeUnitedCharities@outlook.com).

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE

It would be greatly appreciated if householders who have gardens bordering the village pavements and public footpaths could ensure that any trees/shrubs or other vegetation which may be overhanging or encroaching onto them is cut back as soon as possible so that pedestrians and mobility scooter users are not forced to take avoiding action and, in some cases, resort to using the road. The build-up of wet leaves on the pavements in some parts of the village is also making them very slippery and potentially hazardous. Thank you to all who are clearing them.

**THERE IS NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER:** *As is customary, there will be no January Newsletter. The next one is the February edition. Deadline for contributions: Thursday 23rd January. Please email the editor, [ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com), or if any queries, phone 01604 770957.*

## Uplands Group Of Churches: Village Angels 2020

Find the hidden angels in the villages of **Creton, Guilsborough, Ravensthorpe and Spratton** and feel free to join in and paint your own too!

### How it works...

- Volunteers and children in school have painted angel rocks.
- If you find an angel hidden in the village then return it to the church porch where each week you will find a different part of the Christmas Story.
- The Hunt will begin on Advent Sunday.
- Each week the angels will be rehidden so the fun can continue.

Angels feature in the Christmas Story. They are often heavenly messengers, but also bring protection and blessings. It will be wonderful to have a host of extra angels in our villages this Christmas Season bringing blessings and protection and wholesome fun for the young and young at heart!



## Uplands Group Of Churches: Advent Windows 2020

Sharing a little light and joy and the message of Christmas this December!

You can play your part by taking part in a community wide living Advent Calendar. Advent Window Trails are taking place in **Cold Ashby, Creton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Ravensthorpe, Spratton and Thornby**

### How it works...

- 24 volunteers agree to decorate a street-facing window (an 'advent window') on a nativity theme, each is assigned a date.
- A new window 'opens' (appears and is lit) every day from 1st to 24th December.
- Each window then remains 'open' from its opening day from at least 5pm until 1st January.
- A trail leaflet is created for each village and we have an advent window trail that anyone can walk around and enjoy. Some may choose to do it as December progresses, and others may prefer to wait until they're all open and follow the completed trail all in one go.



Bus Stop Tots sessions are online (for now) from 8.45am every Tuesday. From this week on we'll be hearing the Christmas story. People just need to look at the Bus Stop Tots Facebook page.

## FOOD BANK: PLEASE HELP

As no doubt you are aware, the Foodbank needs your support more than ever. You can make cash donations via the website <https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk>. Just click on donations and follow the instructions.

## Ravensthorpe Village Hall

The RVH continues to ensure that all facilities are "COVID-19" secure and enabled to hold events, in accord with all Government Guidelines.

We have been closed during the month of November, but with the current lockdown ending on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, subject to Government rules, the following will re-start:

**Pilates:** Thursdays at 9.30am on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Sophie will then begin again after Christmas on Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Call her on 07764 586990

**Zumba:** Sundays at 10am on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**Zumba Gold:** Tuesdays at 10.30am December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Lina will begin after Christmas on Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup>. Call her on 07725 984674

We hope to announce some other activities before the end of the year.



The 55 Sq M terrace at the rear of the hall was completed during November and will provide an attractive outdoor social space for the village when the warmer days return.

For further information, [contact@rvhall.online](mailto:contact@rvhall.online) or call 01 604 771277

## PLAYING FIELD

Lottery winners for November: Jackie & Ray Wadlow £50; Marie Mackay £20. Thank you for supporting the Playing Field.

## VILLAGE XMAS LIGHTS

There has been a suggestion that in view of the difficult year it has been, and that there cannot be any communal celebrations (such as the carol singing) this year, people in the village might like to do something to compensate—for example, to put up some extra Xmas lights or outside decorations?

## NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES: A 'THANK YOU'

For those of us who, under normal circumstances, pick up a daily newspaper from the Village Hall, we would like to say a very special 'thank you' to Terry & Pauline Smyth who have very kindly delivered the newspapers around the village, both through the earlier lockdown and this one also. Thank you!!

## Update from Buckby Library & Hub

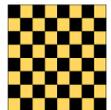
During the lockdown, we have been offering a 'Select and Collect' service, which we hope to continue as needed when we reopen. To find out more and complete a 'select and collect' form online, go to <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/select-and-collect/> on our website. Paper forms are also available from outside the Library. We'll contact you as soon as your books are ready for collection, on a Tuesday afternoon, or a Thursday or a Saturday morning. We will also have some pre-selected book bags, by genre, available to grab and go. Just remember to bring your Library card!

We'd also like to extend a **big** thank you to the Co-op and all the Co-op members who chose us as their cause during the last Local Community Cause funding year. Your support has given us a big boost and is helping with improvements to our building and garden areas and is very much appreciated.

Our Library Trolley is no longer on the High Street in Long Buckby and has returned home to the Library. Books on the Trolley help us raise much needed funds, so please do donate what you can in the collection box if you take books from there. Thanks too to everyone who borrowed books during the summer and kept it going! Remember we are also part of Easyfundraising, **free** to you and great for us when you shop online. All the details are here: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/easyfundraising/>

Updates and further information will always be on our website, Facebook page and noticeboards.

## Chequers open for Take-Aways



The Chequers is now open from 6.30-8.00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays for pre-order takeaways.

To order, please phone 01604 770379. Contactless payment on collection (cash accepted but card preferred).

The menu (subject to availability) includes *Steak, Ale and Mushroom Pie; Steak & Ale Hotpot; Cottage Pie; Beef or Vegetable La sagne; Chicken, Lamb or Vegetable Curry with rice; Beef Chilli with rice; Fish (cod or haddock) and chips and peas; Homemade beefburger; Homemade Lamb Burger. All at £8.50 and served with vegetables or chips as appropriate.*

For full details please see the flyer that has been circulated through the village. Draught beer, lager and cider also available with (but only with) pre-orders.

The shop will also be open 6.30pm to 8.00pm (Wed-Sat), in addition to the usual 11.00am-2.00pm (daily)

## RAVENSTHORPE2020:

**Support for residents in Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton**  
As previously mentioned, if you require assistance of some kind as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, please email [ravenshorpe2020@gmail.com](mailto:ravenshorpe2020@gmail.com) or call Bob Pike (771277).

## JIGSAW PUZZLE ANYONE?

Pauline Smyth has a number of jigsaw puzzles that she would be very happy to loan out. If this is of interest please call Pauline (770637): "we could put them into the crate on our doorstep and people could either just borrow one or maybe swap one".

## Uplands Group of Churches – Service Planner December 2020- January 2021

	6 <sup>th</sup> December	13 <sup>th</sup> December	20 <sup>th</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> December	25 <sup>th</sup> December	27 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10 <sup>th</sup> January	17 <sup>th</sup> January	24 <sup>th</sup> January	31 <sup>st</sup> January	
<b>8.30 a.m.</b>			St Helen's Thornby  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer		<i>This year, so that we can safely socially distance all those who wish to attend it is necessary to book a seat at these services.</i>  St Helen's Thornby 8.30 BCP Communion Contact Paul 743280  St Denys' Cold Ashby 9.30 am BCP Communion Contact Debbie 740773  St Etheldreda Gullesborough 9.30 am BCP Communion Contact Paul 743792  St Denys' Ravensthorpe 9.30 CW Communion Contact Alice 07803 595106  All Saints Cottesbrooke 11.00 BCP Communion Contact Allison 846099				St Helen's Thornby  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer			
<b>9.30 a.m.</b>			FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	<i>This year, so that we can safely socially distance all those who wish to attend it is necessary to book a seat at these services.</i>  St Michael and All Angels 10.00pm CW 'Midnight' Communion Contact Bob 505966  St Andrew's Spratton 11.30pm CW 'Midnight' Communion Contact Bill 847457	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	FaceBook Livestreamed Common Worship Communion	
<b>9.30 a.m.</b>			St Denys' Cold Ashby  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer	St Denys' Ravensthorpe  Holy Communion  Common Worship	St Michael and All Angels Creaton  Holy Communion  Common Worship	St Michael and All Angels Creaton  Holy Communion  Common Worship	St Michael and All Angels Creaton  Holy Communion  Common Worship	St Denys' Cold Ashby  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer	St Denys' Ravensthorpe  Holy Communion  Common Worship	St Etheldreda's Gullesborough  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer	St Andrew's Spratton  Holy Communion  Common Worship	
<b>11.00 a.m.</b>			Outdoors@11 St Etheldreda's Gullesborough	St Andrew's Spratton 11.30pm CW 'Midnight' Communion Contact Bill 847457	Outdoors@11 St Etheldreda's Gullesborough	St Andrew's Spratton  Holy Communion  Common Worship	Outdoors@11 St Etheldreda's Gullesborough	St James' Hollowell  Holy Communion  Common Worship	All Saints Cottesbrooke  Holy Communion  Book of Common Prayer	St Andrew's Spratton  Holy Communion  Common Worship		
<b>5.00 p.m.</b>			St Etheldreda's Gullesborough  Evening Prayer With Music		All Saints Cottesbrooke 11.00 BCP Communion Contact Allison 846099	St Etheldreda's Gullesborough  Evening Prayer With Music			St Etheldreda's Gullesborough  Evening Prayer With Music			