



### THE REREDOS/DOSSAL IN ST DENYS CHURCH

John Mott

The PCC wants to improve the look and functioning of the vestry. This requires deciding on the future of the Reredos (more correctly a *Dossal*\* - see footnote) (pictured left) which hangs behind the choir robes (in St Denys Church).

Efforts to discover its origins began when Gill Douglas spotted a photograph dating around 1925 (below) of it above the altar before the plain east window was replaced with a larger stain glass one in 1938. The dossal was then put in an oak frame, mounted on stilts behind the altar but exposed to daylight. In 1968 it was moved to its present position.

Since the start of the year, the records of the church, the diocese and the county have been searched without success. We have consulted the Royal School of Needlework (RSN), the current curator and former Director of the V&A textile related department and a former director of the Fitzwilliam. Two other experts kindly gave us their views. The consensus of their opinions is that the embroidery is a fine piece of needlework and of high quality, incorporating many areas of gold thread. Its design, quite vigorous, is in the late Victorian Gothic tradition, which tends to meld with "Arts and Crafts". However, owing to the hairstyles of the angels, it might be a late example of this tradition, perhaps 1920s. Some of the motifs are like those of Philip Webb and May Morris, but the angels are quite differently drawn and stitched ... (and) it would have been expensive and required great expertise to produce.



In March, the PCC commissioned Frasershot Studios (East Haddon) to produce a quarter-size replica using the latest digital photographic technology. The photo (left) shows the replica mounted behind the Teeton altar. The result, with its textural effect, is brilliant.

Recently, Gill found a book on "The Life and Work of Catherine C. Channer 1874-1949". Miss Channer (right) was the daughter of the Rev. Edgar Channer (far right), Vicar of Ravensthorpe from 1894-1911. She lived all her life here and championed the cause of the exploited lace makers. (See Newsletter November 2019). She combined her lacemaking skills with that of embroidery and taught both in her school in Spratton and the Bedford School of Technology.



Catherine had a younger sister, Frances Newman Faithfull, born Channer, who was an embroiderer, trained at the RSN and was living in Desborough in 1910. Then there is another contemporary, Louisa Isabella Langton of Teeton Hall, a wealthy and major benefactor of St Denys. This combination of local ladies, all in the same time frame, and with the necessary skills and generosity, convinces the PCC that we have provenance for the dossal.

\*Footnote Reredos or Dossal? John explains that a reredos is an ornamental decoration/ screen behind the altar and normally made of stone or wood, whereas a dossal is normally an ecclesiastical embroidery, made for the same purpose. Ed.

#### CHURCH NOTICES:

**YOUTH CHURCH:** The Uplands Group of Churches are starting a Youth Church. We will meet on Saturday evenings between 5pm and 7pm starting on the 3rd September at Gullsbrough Church. Anyone who is aged between 10 and 15 and interested in finding out more about faith while making friends, eating pizza and having fun is welcome to join. Please contact Rev Clare (07912 188359, [revclare@icloud.com](mailto:revclare@icloud.com)) for more information.

**HARVEST SUPPER:** Although the hall has been booked for September 30th, no-one has come forward to organise this! If anyone would like to do so, please contact a member of the PCC (names and phone numbers on notice board in church porch)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL:** will take place on Sunday September 25th at 11.00 am. Donated produce of fruit and vegetables and cakes etc, will be auctioned after the service for St Denys Church charity in Bangladesh.

**The HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE AND STRIDE** will take place 10th September. Gill Douglas (Hill House) has sponsorship forms and there are some in church. Half the money raised comes back to the home church. There is a list of churches open on this website - [www.nhct.org.uk](http://www.nhct.org.uk)

**CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES:** It's Christmas shoe box time again! Please save your shoe boxes & you can either fill a box or donate items from the list below. It's easy to choose gifts for people who have so little: shampoo, pair of socks, notepad, pens, pencil, small toy, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair brush, soap, flannel, hat, gloves, scarf.

By filling or supplying simple things you can bring joy to people. Boxes will be delivered to, Ukraine, Albania, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia. Collection at the end of October. Please contact: Tricia Freeman, 2 The Orchards.



## Update from Buckby Library & Hub

**Buckby Library & Hub**  
for books & buzz

As well as our normal library services, here are some exciting events and activities coming up in September and looking forward to October.

### Art for everyone

Come and see our new art exhibition in the refreshment area in September with paintings by local artists, Michellé Kilby & Mary Fowler. Also from 1-9 October there will be an exhibition of paintings on *Sailing in the Caribbean* by Bridget Arregger as part of the South Northants Art Trail.

Do you want to do some art of your own? The new **Buckby Hub Art Club** will be holding drop-in sessions for beginners and improvers who would like to learn new styles and techniques: Tuesday afternoons, 2-4pm, during school term times, starting 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Never thought you were good at art? Try **Art for Relaxation**, where you can play with art materials in a relaxed way with guidance. Monthly drop-in sessions during school term times, 2-4pm, starting 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. The above two art sessions are £5 a session. For further information, check our website, or message/call Bridget Arregger on 07512 019521.

### Enjoy music, food and fiction

We are holding a **concert** to help raise money for Buckby Library & Hub on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2-30-4.30 pm in St Lawrence Church. Come and hear the Northampton-based Abington Wind Band and Long Buckby's St Lawrence Singers for an entertaining afternoon. Tickets (£5, including refreshments; under 16s free) from the library, the Peephole on the High Street in Long Buckby, or on the door.

From September 21<sup>st</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup> (except October 5<sup>th</sup>), 7-9pm, we are the venue for an exciting 5 week course from the WEA on **Food and Fiction. Chaucer to Dickens**. To enrol, go to the WEA website ([www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)) and search for course code C2347477, or ring 0300 303 3464.

### Something for pre-school children, parents and carers Stay and Play!

Every Friday of term time 2.15 - 3pm, this is a free drop-in session for parents and carers with children under 5. An opportunity for young children to play with a variety of resources, and for parents and carers to get together with others to share experiences. Tea, coffee, squash and cake available.

### From October, our winter film shows

Our winter film shows are returning to the Library. Please put these Tuesday evenings in your diaries: 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December. Further details are coming soon. Come along, sit back and enjoy a film. Refreshments available. We'd like to host an extra late afternoon or early evening show in December for youngsters or teenagers. Please let us know if this would be of interest.

For further information about all our services and events: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org>, or phone 01327 842591. You don't have to be a library member to do any of the above. But remember it's free to join the library - do support us by doing so!

### 900 Years of British Agriculture

This course takes a chronological approach covering the years 1066-1945. The focus is on the development of agriculture techniques, the effect on people's lives and the way in which the landscape has changed as a result of human activity.

**Tutor: Dr Michael Muncaster**

Dates: Weekly, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
[half term Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October]. Time: 2-00pm to 3-30pm  
Fee for the course: £55.00

**Venue: Ravensthorpe Village Hall**

Book your place: Mo Cobbe at: [mo@mikecobbe.co.uk](mailto:mo@mikecobbe.co.uk)  
Tel: 01604 328822



## RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE CINEMA

Ravensthorpe Village Hall

Doors Open 7.00pm: Tickets £6.

Advanced booking & payments to reserve places is politely requested.

Go to: [rvhall.online/cinema](http://rvhall.online/cinema); email: [cinema@rvhall.online](mailto:cinema@rvhall.online);

telephone Mike & Mo Cobbe 01604 328822

Email: [mike@mikecobbe.com](mailto:mike@mikecobbe.com)

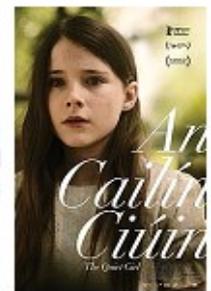
### Tuesday 6 September 7.00 for 7.30 pm: MAINSTREAM FILM—THE DUKE

Our first film of 2022-2023 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September is this well received British comedy which stars two of our most popular actors, Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. The stranger than fiction story of the theft of Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington in 1961 forms the basis of a colourful screenplay and the film was directed by the late Roger Michell, whose previous films included *Notting Hill*, *The Buddha of Suburbia*, *Enduring Love* and *Persuasion*. For details click <https://www.rvhall.online/events-and-activities-calendar/the-duke/>



### TUESDAY 20th September 7.00 for 7.30 pm: CINEPHILE FILM—THE QUIET GIRL

Our next Cinephile Screening on 20<sup>th</sup> September is the beautifully filmed "The Quiet Girl", the story of a lonely Irish girl from a dysfunctional family whose life is changed when fostered with relatives for a summer. The film is based on the acclaimed novella "Foster" by Claire Keegan.



### Macmillan Coffee Morning Saturday 24th September 10am till 12noon Ravensthorpe Village Hall



After sadly losing John Patrick earlier this year we would like to carry on the tradition of holding a coffee morning for this very worthwhile cause.

We will have cakes, jam, produce, book stalls and the raffle. This year we thought a tombola would be fun. NO bric-a-brac. If you would like to help or donate prizes this would be very much appreciated. Let's make it a bumper year in John's memory. Please contact either Pat Foss on 770466 or Lin Hudson on 770562

### Financial winter help for eligible pensioners:

Further financial support through West Northamptonshire Council is to be provided to eligible pensioners as part of the Government's Household Support Fund, set up to help those most in need over the winter period. For further information, search *West Northamptonshire Council / Household Support Fund* or contact *West Northants Council: 0300 126 7000*.

### Food Bank: The Hope Centre: call 01604 214300.

You can make cash donations via the website: <https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk> and follow the instructions, or phone 01604328046 for more information.

## RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL: WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER?

Thursday 1	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate—Juniors	Andy 07891 132675
Saturday 3	9.00am	Ladies Circuit Workout with Tammy	07793 917493
Sunday 4	9.30am	Shotokan Karate—Seniors	Andy 07891132675
Tuesday 6	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	7pm	Village Cinema—The Duke	(see box)
Wed 7	10.30am	MORNING COFFEE	All welcome!
Thursday 8	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate—Juniors	Andy 07891 132675
Friday 9	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
Saturday 10	9.00am	Ladies Circuit Workout with Tammy	07793 917493
Sunday 11	9.30am	Shotokan Karate Seniors	Andy 07891 132675
Monday 12	9.30am	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	078 10 235258
Tuesday 13	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	7.30pm	Speakers Corner	(see box)
Wed 14	2pm	Short Mat Bowling	Lin 07557 396627
Thursday 15	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate Juniors	Andy 07891 132675
	7.45pm	WI—Plant Based Eating	
Friday 16	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
Saturday 17	9.00am	Ladies Circuit Workout with Tammy	07793 917493
Sunday 18	10.45am	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891132675
Monday 19	9.30am	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	078 10 235258
	2pm	900 years of British Farming	(See Box)
Tuesday 20	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	7pm	Village Cinema—The Quiet Girl	(see box)
Wed 21	10.30am	MORNING COFFEE—all welcome	
	2pm	Short Mat Bowling—Lin	07557 396627
	7.30pm	Ravensthorpe Parish Council	
Thursday 22	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate Juniors	Andy 07891 132675
Friday 23	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
Saturday 24	10am	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Call Lin 770562 or Pat 770466
Sunday 25	9.30am	Shotokan Karate Seniors	Andy 07891 132675

Monday 26	9.30am	Elizabeth Reader Pilates—	07810 235258
	2pm	900 years of British Farming (see box)	
Tuesday 27	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
Wed. 28	2pm	Short Mat Bowling	Lin 07557 396627
Thursday 29	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate Juniors	Andy 07891 132675
Friday 30	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio

[www.rvhall.online](http://www.rvhall.online); email: [contact@rvhall.online](mailto:contact@rvhall.online);  
[www.facebook.com/RVHall](https://www.facebook.com/RVHall)



**SPEAKERS' CORNER**

**CARRY ON CRUISING**  
**Tuesday 13th September 7.30pm**  
**The adventures of a cruise lecturer, and the story of life on board the Titanic as she set sail.**  
**Speaker: Dr Paul Brown**  
**Tickets £6 [www.rvhall.online](http://www.rvhall.online) or 01604 770482**  
**Ravensthorpe Village Hall**



**SPEAKERS' CORNER**



### RAVENSTHORPE BEER FESTIVAL & FAMILY DAY



*The Ravensthorpe Beer Festival & Family Day on July 16th was great fun and a great success—enjoyed in wonderful weather. The day raised near-on £5,000 towards the Playing Field upkeep and development. Our thanks to everyone who supported it.*

**PLAYING FIELD LOTTERY WINNERS FOR AUGUST:**  
*Jean & Richard Wiseman (£50); Pauline & Terry Smythe (£20).*

### NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY:

Ravensthorpe had a successful National Garden Scheme annual opening at the beginning of July with six open gardens and raised nearly £1,000 for the Scheme as well as funds for the Village Hall. It was good to have Orchard Cottage as an eleven-hour addition, as well as Tricia and Chris Freeman's garden, in addition to the four original openers. Hannah Bent told us how much she and her parents enjoyed the experience and, after the event, wrote about her experience of doing this (see below).

Numbers of visitors were very slightly reduced, but considering the heat and the tennis final, that was not surprising.

### OPEN GARDENS FOR 2023: can we interest you?

If anyone would like to join in next year, please do get in touch with Jean at the Nursery: ([ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com)).

Next year, we are hoping to move the date to late June to avoid clashing with Little Brington's opening and the Wimbledon final. To be included in the listing in the Yellow Book, I will need to know quite soon. It is helpful also to know asap so that we can set a reasonable price for admission - we could have raised more this year if we had known at the time of making our entry that we would have six openers rather than four. Once the price has been printed in the book, it's too late to change it, so please give this your urgent consideration.

Many thanks to all the garden owners who opened this year and the Village Hall volunteers for supplying teas and also to everyone who has supported any of our openings so far this year.

The Nursery and our Gardens will be open again 2nd-4th



September, and 30th September & 1st-2nd October, and though we admit that the drought and fierce temperatures have not been kind to our garden, we still have lots to see and plants to buy, so if you've suffered losses, we should be able to help.

### HANNAH'S EXPERIENCE:

*"During lockdown I started to gain a strong interest in helping sort out my parents' garden. There were many things to do and, to this day, it is an ongoing project.*

*Some of the many jobs undertaken in our garden included: clearing out the many reeds from the pond, chopping down/ pruning overgrown trees and hedges, lots of grass seeding and creating a new patio and flower bed.*

*Lockdown was a hard time for many, so I made it routine to go out into the garden most days to unwind and de-stress. After everything achieved in the garden, we decided to join the National Gardens Scheme and open our garden to the public to help to raise money for charity.*

*There were 6 gardens open in the village on Sunday 10th July which were supported by many visitors. Each garden was unique offering different interests, ideas and aspects to gardening.*

*My 'take home message' would be to spend as much time outdoors as you can and where possible work on something in your garden however small it may be because it is so good for your physical and mental health.*

*Hannah Bent*

**CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Revd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 [revallisontwigg@gmail.com](mailto:revallisontwigg@gmail.com); Associate Priest: Revd Caroline Burnett 01604 28629 [caroline\\_burnett@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline_burnett@btinternet.com); Assistant Curate: Revd Clare Glover 07912 188359 [revclare@icloud.com](mailto:revclare@icloud.com)  
**The Uplands Group Office:** [uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com); **Website:** [www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk](http://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk)

### CHURCH SERVICES: RAVENSTHORPE & UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES— SEPTEMBER 2022

September	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 4 September	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	8.30am	Sandra Patrick / Lin Hudson
	Other Churches/ Services	Cottesbrooke 11.00 BCP Communion; Creton 9.30 BCP Communion; Guilsborough 11.00 CW Communion; Spratton 11.00 Worship for All; Thornby 9.30 BCP Communion.		
Sunday 11 September	Group Service Spratton: 11.00am AT/CB			
Sunday 18 September	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship Communion	9.30am	Sandra Patrick / Lin Hudson
	Other Churches/ Services	Creton (11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving @ URC Church); Guilsborough (8.30 BCP Communion; Brunch @ 11 Village Hall; 6.00pm BCP Evensong); Hollowell (11.00 Communion with baptism); Spratton (8.30 BCP Communion).		
Sunday 25 September (Harvest)	Ravensthorpe	Harvest Thanksgiving	11.00	Sandra Patrick / Lin Hudson
	Other Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (9.30 BCP Communion); Guilsborough (9.30 CW Communion); Hollowell (11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving, Communion); Spratton (11.00 CW Communion).		
Sunday 2 October	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	8.30am	Sandra Patrick / Lin Hudson
	Other Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (5.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving); Cottesbrooke (5.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving); Creton (9.30 BCP Communion); Guilsborough (11.00 Harvest Thanksgiving); Spratton (11.00 Harvest Worship for All); Thornby (3.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving).		