

NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church
Village Website – www.ravensthorpe.me.uk

THE VICAR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas has become a huge and excessive event which promises a great deal but often leaves people feeling let down. So let us, please, just take a moment to remember what it is we are really celebrating: nothing less than the dawn of our Salvation; our way back to God.

A new baby is fragile, helpless and completely dependent on others for its survival. Our way back to God is through this helpless infant. And while our Salvation is a gift of God's Grace freely given we do have to feed and nurture the faith within ourselves just as the infant Jesus needed feeding and nurturing. God embraced our mortal frailty that we might be able to inherit His immortality. That is what we celebrate at Christmas.

A Holy and Blessed Christmas to you and all you hold dear. *Michael Petitt*

DOREEN BUCK'S COFFEE MORNING on 21st November raised a magnificent £900 for The Northants & Warwick Air Ambulance Service. Many thanks to **Ann Fowler** who lent her house for the occasion. Thanks also to all those who helped on the stalls, donated articles and cakes for sale as well as raffle prizes.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a hand decorated plate to **Doreen Buck** by **Meg Benn** on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. This was in recognition of her 60 years service on the P.C.C. as well as for her many other services to the village including her long involvement in raising money for charities. The design and execution of the plate was by local artist, **Carol Kimbell**.



RAVENSTHORPE UNITED CHARITIES – CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

Applications for the above are due by the **6th December** and should be made in writing to **Mr. D. Patrick**, 1 Wigley Cottages, The Hollow or to **Mrs. S. Blakelock**, 12 Bettycroft Close. All senior citizens living here are eligible as well as any village students who have just begun their first year at College or University.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS from Trevor Foss: Refurbishment plans are moving on and we hope to have building quotes in the next week or so. However we do need more support in our fund raising events. We do have fantastic support from many people but it tends to be the same ones who attend. It was the village decision to refurbish the Hall and my committee is working very hard towards that. **So please help – we need a big push in 2010 to make it happen.**

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CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY 29TH December, 2.30 – 5.00pm in the Village Hall
Fun, Food and Entertainment – once again all free for village children aged 3 – 11 yrs old (junior school).

Grandchildren living outside the village may come for £2.

Please ensure you get names and ages down on the list in the village PO by 16th December latest.

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE PARTY –SIXTIES FANCY DRESS - in the Village Hall from 8pm 'till late
INDIGO BLUE ROADSHOW is back one last time.

See the New Year in to the swinging music. – Tickets at £10 are going fast and numbers are limited – pay bar

THE NEXT VILLAGE HALL LUNCH is on 13th January 2010 – 12.30 for 1-00pm

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THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE will again be holding a **Village Gardens & Open Day** in June next summer. They would welcome any ideas and helpful suggestions for fund raising.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: What a wonderful response to this year's appeal. The boxes just kept on coming! Last year we had 30. This year 53 children somewhere in Eastern Europe, Africa or Central Asia are going to be so happy that someone unknown and so far away has sent them a present – perhaps the first they've ever had! Well done and thank you from all those children.

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CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK: Would you like to help maintain and develop the Pocket Park? We would like to make a path through the trees and plant more wildflowers. We also need someone with knowledge of maintaining a pond. If you can give practical help in any way, whether it is on a regular or an occasional basis, **please contact Cliff Giles on 770451 (Pocket Park co-ordinator).**

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: Councillor **Stephen Holt** is the new Chairman of The Parish Council. He has taken over from **Councillor John Matts** who has served the parish in this position for the past 18 years. The village owes John a great debt of gratitude for his leadership and service over such a long time.

We also have a new councillor – **Councillor Jeremy Humphrey** and **Ian Baverstock** has kindly taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

The Parish Council is putting together an “**Emergency Plan**” to cover any major emergency we might have in the village. To this end the clerk is trying to get together a list of skilled people. We appear to be short of electricians and plumbers – so if there are any in the parish who would be willing to be put on the list (for emergencies only) please could they contact the clerk on 770894.

Recycling of Christmas Trees: The District Council is arranging a collection service for the recycling of Christmas trees in January. As soon as the Parish Council have dates and pick-up points a notice will be posted on the notice board and website.

MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD'S NEWS: Whilst the turnout on **Bonfire Night** was much lower than in previous years due to the inclement weather, the event still managed to raise in excess of £300. Those who attended were treated to another fabulous display sustained by mulled wine, homemade soups and chillies.

ODDS200 LOTTERY: October: £50 John Rathbone, £20 John Mott - Chequers' Accumulator now £200.

THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING saw the existing committee re-elected for another year. 2010 will be the 10th anniversary of the opening of the pavilion and the committee hope to celebrate this with a family event at the Playing Field in the summer. The committee will also be launching a “**Sponsored fruit tree**” appeal as they would like to fill some of the gaps along the boundary on the Teeton side of the field. Some maintenance work is required on the children's play area with some equipment needing to be replaced. Planning work for this project will start in January, when estimates for the work will be calculated so that project funding can be sought. **There are still two vacancies on the committee and anyone interested in helping this friendly and sociable committee are asked to call Martin Wilkes on 770975.**

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MRS. HOOD would like to thank all the friends and neighbours for the help given to Mr. Hood (Robin) when he had his accident on November 16th.

CHRISTMAS TREES & DOOR WREATHS – TURKEYS & COCKERELS

Turkeys can be boned or rolled – Free delivery in village

Order in advance from **Trevor & Pat Foss**, Hawtoft Farm, 34 Guilsborough Rd. - Tel: 770466

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th December 8.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th December 11.00am Morning Service

Thursday 24th December **5.00pm Christmas Eve Carol Service**

Thursday 24th December **10.00pm Christmas Mass at Guilsborough**

Friday 25th December **10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion**

Sunday 27th December 10.00am **Group Service at Creaton**

Sunday 3rd January 8.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th January 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th January 11.00am Morning Service

Sunday 24th January 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st January **10.00am Group Service at Ravensthorpe**

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

No Flowers in Advent

Christmas decorations

and

Nativity Crib

Yvonne Childs

Yvonne Childs

Ann Smith

Ann Smith

Beryl Mott

*Contributions for the February Newsletter should be sent by the 23rd January to the editor,
John Mott at 16 Church Gardens. Tel: 770618 e-mail jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk*