

NEWSLETTER

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

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARK BATTISON, Interim Minister for the Uplands Group of Parishes

Our Churches have, for many years and centuries, held a special place in our communities, but for a whole variety of reasons are currently only used by a small number in each village.

We are trying over the next few months to review and introduce a new pattern of worship, which may include new service times and even new liturgy (the words we use and the music we sing). Please do not be afraid that we will, in some way, throw “the baby out with the bath water”, as we are sensitive to all our parishioners needs and will ensure our traditions are maintained – but we are looking to bring new ideas into our Church to encourage more people from our wonderful communities to come and share the great joy of worship – this is the great joy of having God in our lives and the fantastic feeling of Hope you get when coming together to sing and share stories.

With this in mind we would like to invite any member of our 8 communities to come to an Open Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th December at Guilsborough Parish Church to discuss the outline of what is being considered. All are welcome and the meeting will finish with Mince Pies and Festive Drinks.

Have a wonderful, peaceful and joyful Christmas time and a New Year full of hope for the year ahead.

HICKORY, DICKORY, DOCK; MY DAD RAN UP THE CLOCK! By Ruth Rolls.

St Denys Church clock has become automated, calling a stop to over 30 years where our dad, Bill Douglas, has climbed the 24 vertical steps in the church tower each week to wind up the heavy counterweights and keep time for Ravensthorpe – not for the fainthearted! Time moves on for a voluntary role with a long historical tradition. The baton has been passed from man to machine, like lighthouses on the coast and the plough in the fields. No longer on a Sunday afternoon will we joke with our dad about “winding” up the clock. We would like to thank him for the long service he has given to the village and the church which has seen both my sister and me christened and married.

The automated winding of the clock is thanks to a generous gift from John Patrick given in memory of his wife Pat. We are very grateful. (Bill, and Michael Reader who has recently assisted him, will adjust the clock as necessary)

RAVENSTHORPE UNITED CHARITIES – CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

Applications for the above are now due and should be made in writing to either Mr D, Patrick at 1 Wigley Cottages or to Mrs S. Blakelock at 12 Bettycroft Close. All senior citizens living here are eligible and also any students who have just begun their first year at college or university.

REMINDER – CHRISTMAS QUIZ – Friday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Tickets available from the Post Office and cost just £5 which includes a hot supper and licensed bar. All in aid of the Memorial Playing Field.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday 11th December in the Village Hall

Once again the VH Committee is giving a free party for all village children aged 3 to 11. Please make sure that names are on the list in the Post Office. There will be a small charge of £2 for non-village grandchildren.

Entertainment, Teas and a visit from Father Christmas.

WINTER OLYMPICS – CHEQUERS' CHALLENGE – Wednesday 29th December at 7pm in The Chequers.

A Fund Raising event on behalf of The Memorial Playing Field hosted by Gordon and Gill Walker

Free entry for teams of four athletes but a donation of £25 per team is expected with £20 to the cause and £5 for food and prizes.

The Challenge:- WII 100pin Bowling – Darts – Skittles – Pool.

The Prizes: Winners, Trophy and a case of wine – Runners Up, half case of wine – Last Place, chocolates

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – The collection for the Royal British Legion raised £94.

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE – We are extremely grateful to the following organisations for their donations. Hollowell Steam, £5000. Garfield Western, £5000. Catherine Boardman from her CC empowering councillors' fund, £2500. DDH Community Development Fund, £2000. We are hopeful of starting the refurbishment early in May 2011 provided we are not held up with BIFFA or the Lottery funding.

HOLLOWELL STEAM also generously donated £500 each to St Denys Church and the Playing Field's Funds.

DOREEN BUCK'S COFFEE MORNING in aid of THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE raised a magnificent £900. Huge thanks to Ann Fowler, her helpers, those who gave raffle prizes, things to sell and generous donations and, of course, all those who came.

CARE AND REPAIR TEAM – This is a service that provides practical advice and guidance to elderly and disabled homeowners living across our district. The service was set up 12 years ago but many people are still not aware of all the help which is on offer. For example there is a "Handy Person Service" which can carry out small scale maintenance work, improve security and reduce the risk of personal injury. The advice is free but if private building work is needed, a small fee will be charged. However, the service will advise on any benefits or grants that are available and, if necessary, the best way to pay. In many cases much of the improvement work is free.

*For more information contact the Care and Repair service at Daventry District Council on 01327 871100
Or email careandrepair@daventrydc.gov.uk.*

FASTER BROADBAND?? We are all aware just how slow our broadband connections are at present, maximum speed is 512mb (if you are lucky!) and the restriction is the feed through the East Haddon exchange. BT are installing fibre optic cables in some parts of the country – the information superhighway we heard so much about 15 years or so ago – but it's on a priority basis and East Haddon is low on the list owing to only 852 households in its catchment area. **BT needs positive interest from 75% of these to consider extending the optic fibre cabling to our area. You can register your vote for this by following the link and on-screen instructions [http:// www.racetoinfinity.bt.com](http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com)**
Thanks to Roger Spring for this message – please pass it on.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – An excellent year. 57 boxes have been taken to the collection point; another has since arrived with one more in preparation. That's almost 60 children who have never received a present before who will receive gifts and the powerful message that someone very far away has sent these things for them.
On their behalf, thank you x 60!

HEATHER DAVISON is looking for help. Her father, Dennis Joseph Davison grew up in Ravensthorpe and will be 88 years old in January. His father Joseph Davison worked at the Water Treatment Plant and was very involved in village life and later went on to be president of the Board of Trade in Northampton. Heather will be grateful for any information or contacts. Her email is HDavison@rsph.org.uk or contact the editor.

LESLIE FOX was buried at St Denys on 23rd November. We hope to publish an obituary in the next Newsletter.

NORWAY SPRUCE & NORMAN CHRISTMAS TREES – Door Wreaths, Table decorations and tree stands
OVEN READY TURKEYS & COCKERELS – Orders now being taken – Free delivery in village
Trevor and Pat Foss, Hawtoft Farm, 34 Guilsborough Rd. Tel: 01604 770466

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th December
Sunday 12th December
Sunday 19th December
Friday 24th December
Saturday 25th December
Sunday 2nd January
Sunday 9th January
Sunday 16th January
Sunday 23rd January
Sunday 30th January

8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Service
5.00 pm **Carol Service**
10.30am **Christmas Communion**
8.30am Holy Communion **at Guilsborough**
11.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Service
11.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Group Service **at Hollowell**

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

No Flowers
for Advent
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Yvonne Reeve
Yvonne Reeve
Yvonne Childs
Yvonne Childs
Ann Smith
Ann Smith
Beryl Mott

*Contributions for the February Newsletter should be sent by 23rd January to the editor, John Mott
At 16 Church Gardens or telephone 770618 – email jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk*