



NEWSLETTER



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

A message from Revd Andrew

I am sure you'll agree that there is something magical about Christmas when children get excited and dream of Father Christmas delivering the presents they've "always" wanted; of Rudolf and the other reindeers pulling Santa's huge sleigh laden with gifts. Then there are the parties and the dressing up for the Nativity play and singing carols.

Adults on the other hand tend to picture Christmas trees, snowy scenes, lots of food & drink and smiling happy families around an open fire. Sadly and all too often though, Christmas is not as perfect as we would like or imagine it to be. The stress and the tension builds up due to over crowded streets and shops, as people try to get that must have gift for their children or perfect pressie for their partner.

Supermarkets are jam-packed, shopping trolleys are over-flowing with "extra" food and drink, not to mention the checkout queues which seem to be a mile long in every direction. Is this what Christmas is really all about?

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "At Christmas, we remember the central event in the history of the earth. The very thing, the whole story has been about", which is of course, true.

At Christmas, we are to remember that Jesus entered our world in order to restore relationships. Firstly, to help us restore our relationship with God, & secondly, to help us restore our relationship with others. So when you're rushing around or simply joining in with the Christmas festivities and celebrations, spare a thought for the precious gift God gave to us.

I truly hope that you have a Christmas full of joy, peace and happiness. Wishing you all, a very Happy Christmas and a most blessed New Year. We hope you can join one of our special Christmas services.

Andrew and the congregation members of St Denys Church.

Xmas Services

3.00 pm Christmas Eve Crib Service, Spratton

This year we are holding a group crib service aimed specifically at children & families at Spratton Church at 3pm on Christmas Eve – all welcome.

5.00 pm Christmas Eve Carol Service, Ravensthorpe

We look forward to you joining our popular all age Carol Service at St Denys, Ravensthorpe, which will be nicely rounded off with a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine.

Children are welcome to come in 'Nativity' costume and start the service with a rendition of 'Away in a Manger'.

10.00am Christmas Day Communion Service

Take time to celebrate the joy of Christmas Day and be back in time for lunch



Travelling Nativity Crib

If you would like to host the travelling knitted crib this year, please get in touch with Alice on 771 245 ASAP. It's a great way to introduce children to the Christmas message and a great chance to have some fun and reflect about the real meaning of Christmas over this busy time of year.

Christmas in a Box Food Bank Appeal

In addition to our usual request for tinned items, the following items make Christmas food boxes extra special for families in need:

Christmas cake / pud, Yule log, mince pies, tinned meat, potatoes, veg, custard, gravy, stuffing mix, long life milk, fruit juice. The 'icing on the cake' would be crackers, decorations & small unwrapped gifts for adults or children.

Please drop any suitable items in at Ravensthorpe Village Hall between 10am – 12 noon or during the early service at St Denys on Sunday 7th Dec.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Food Bank in 2014. Yvonne Childs 770 988.

What's On?

SSPPG Coffee Morning

10am – 12 noon Weds 3rd Dec
Guilborough Surgery

Ravensthorpe Utd Charity Christmas Distribution

Applications are now due and should be submitted in writing by Friday 5th Dec 2014.

All senior citizens or students in their first year at college or university living in the village are eligible to apply to:

Mrs. Holt Greenings, Little Lane
Mrs. Eagles, 11 Little Lane

Family Sheep Trail

Pick up a leaflet from the Ravensthorpe Post Office shop & spend Advent finding the hidden knitted sheep. There is a prize for the winner.

Festive Fayre in Ravensthorpe

Pat & Trevor Foss are no longer selling Christmas trees but they are taking orders for locally produced turkeys & cockerels.

Your turkey can be boned & rolled. Turkey crowns are also available to order.



Drop in or call your order through on 01604 770466

Orders will be ready for collection from Hawtoft Farm between 8am -10am on 24th December.

Merry Christmas

The first newsletter of 2015 will be delivered at the start of February.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Newsletter Team.

Playing Fields Bonfire Night

A big thank you to everybody who came along to help with and support the bonfire night on November 7th. This annual event is provided by the Playing Field Committee primarily for the enjoyment of the village, but also to raise money towards the upkeep of the Playing Field.

This year, after the costs of putting the event on, we raised £305 towards the upkeep of the Playing Field.

Did you know? that a lot of work and expense goes into making this the event that it is. Two members of the committee give up their own time to attend health and safety training course, not just because it makes it a safe event, but also because it is now a requirement for the insurance.

The average annual cost of keeping the Playing Field running for the village is in the region of £5,000. The fundraising is undertaken by the committee and helpers, so the man or lady with the bucket at the bonfire is an important part of keeping the playing field going!

The committee needs new members, so if you might be interested we would love to hear from you. But there are other ways that you can support us - by offering to give some time to help with an event, or helping with little bits of maintenance etc. If you feel that you could help us in some way, please let us know. Every bit helps!

Alan Worthington, 01604 770957

Crabtree Pit Pocket Park

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped rake the grass off the meadow area in September. The park is now ready for next spring and hopefully another beautiful display of wild flowers.

Regrettably a loose dog has been seen in the park and there has also been dog mess on the paths, causing concern to parents with young children. We would remind everyone that dogs are not allowed in the Pocket Park as it is a wildlife area and also a place of quiet for villagers.

I shall be stepping down as Pocket Park Co-ordinator in April, although will continue to be involved in maintaining the park.

The co-ordinator is mainly responsible for organising events and managing grants, projects, etc.

If you could help by taking on this role, please contact Carol James, PC Clerk ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk

Cliff Giles, Pocket Park Co-ordinator

High Speed Broadband is coming!

Great news! 30% of premises have signed up to Gigaclear! The present estimate is that the optical cables will be laid in Feb/Mar 2015 and we will go-live in Mar/Apr 2015. For updates, visit:

www.ravensthorpe.me.uk/village-news/village-broadband



Citizens Advice Daventry & District offer free, confidential, impartial, independent advice on

DEBT, BENEFITS, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, FAMILY ISSUES, DISABILITY, CONSUMER

10am - 3pm,
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
The Abbey, Market Sq, Daventry, NN11 4XG

Adviceline: 03444 88 9629
Benefits & Disability advice: 01327 701646

www.daventrycab.org.uk
www.adviceguide.org.uk

VDS UPDATE

The **Village Design Statement (VDS) Review Group** is in the process of producing an updated draft text for the new version of the VDS which we hope to present to the village for consultation in the spring.

If you want to be involved or have your say, you're welcome to come to the next meeting at 8.00pm 7th Jan at Manor View or just contact Richard Marsh on 01604 770868.

Keep up to date with our progress via www.ravensthorpe.me.uk

Messy Church
Uplands Group Messy Church continues to meet every 3rd Saturday of the month, at Spratton Primary School - 3.30-5.30pm.
20th Dec Jesus' Birthday Party
We'll continue to meet in the new year (starting on 17th January) but look out for details of themes early in the new year:
Contact Valerie 01604 743444 or Lesley 01604 505966 for more information.

Date	Time	Service Type	Led by	Location	Flowers/Brass
Sunday 7 th Dec	8.30am	Traditional Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Sunday 14 th Dec	10.00am	Group Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Saturday 20 th Dec	3.30pm	Messy Church	Lay team	Spratton Primary	-
Sunday 21 st Dec	9.45am	Modern Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Carol Service	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Sunday 28 th Dec	No service at Ravensthorpe – please join Spratton or Cottesbrooke				
Sunday 4 th Jan	8.30am	Traditional Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Yvonne Childs
Sunday 11 th Jan	10.00am	Group Communion	Clergy	Spratton	Yvonne Childs
Saturday 17 th Jan	3.30pm	Messy Church	Lay team	Spratton Primary	-
Sunday 18 th Jan	9.45am	Modern Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Thalia Pike
Sunday 25 th Jan	11.00am	All-age with refreshments	Lay team	Ravensthorpe	Thalia Pike

Email newsletter contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com for the attention of the editor, Viv Rees by **5pm on the 23rd of the month**. Note: articles will be included on a 1st come 1st served basis.

Visit the village website: www.ravensthorpe.me.uk or find us on Facebook 'Ravensthorpe Northampton'