



SUNDAY SERVICES

Although our church is closed for Sunday Worship for the time being, Sunday Services are alive and well and being live streamed on the Uplands Group Churches Facebook page, so please log on and join us at 9.30 every Sunday morning.

INSPIRED TO FOLLOW: ART AND THE BIBLE STORY

Each Week the Study Group gather on Facebook Live on Wednesday Evening at 7.30 and look at a painting from the National Gallery and a Bible Passage to enjoy fellowship and learn together.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

'Christian Aid Week (CAW) is definitely not cancelled but will be a different experience, and "we know supporters like you will do all you can to make it the same life-changing and joyous week we've run since 1957. In fact, now more than ever our gifts, prayers and action are desperately needed. However, in-person events, such as house-to-house collections and Big Brekkies will not go ahead (in May) this year"

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for us in this vital work, and support us where you can by making an online donation. We are praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves."

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CAWeek2020>; Telephone Donations: 08080 006 006.



Spanish Flu 1919: photo courtesy of Gill Douglas

RAVENSTHORPE2020: Support for residents in Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton

Bob Pike is kindly co-ordinating Ravensthorpe2020 community support during the lockdown. Altogether 28 households have signed up to assist neighbours if they are needed. Demand on the group has been quite low, as there is evidently a pretty good support culture in the village already. Email ravensthorpe2020@gmail.com or call Bob Pike 771277 if help is requested.

For the latest local information and help advice, visit the Ravensthorpe website www.ravensthorpe.me.uk . You can also visit the Village Hall Facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com/RVHall/?locale2=enGB>.

A POEM BY JOHN BARNES

"Brexit divided"
 but sought reconciliation.
 That dilemma resolved
 By nature's nastiest of ways.

Those old enough to remember
 The peace before 1939 and the third of September
 All brought together by something small and 'nazi'
 Enhanced by threat to life and world culture.

The basic value of food and nutrition
 brought vision of limitation of supply.
 Anxieties in queues of silent line
 for the unknown duration and criminal exploitation.

As then "remember our values"
 in care for each other
 But struggle with pain
 of loss of life once again.

Avoid the threat and retreat from social activity
 But not anti social and distant
 Make use of modern technology
 to 'relate' and harness biological manipulation.

Recall 'national values'
 To support the poorly endowed
 Hark to the old days of "never had it so good"
 Share with those of age and difference
 sociabilities in this manufactured calm.
 Life will then be without harm.

John Barnes.
John is 90 and has lived in Ravensthorpe for 34 years

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Associate Priest: Rev'd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 revallisontwigg@gmail.com
 The Uplands Group Office: uplandsgrouppoffice@gmail.com Web site:
www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

If you would like to receive the Uplands Group Weekly Mailing, please contact our administrator, Katrina Jones: uplandsgrouppoffice@gmail.com

RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Ravensthorpe Village Hall remains closed. We will be reviewing this as early as possible in the light of other developments.

RAVENSTHORPE GARAGE

Ravensthorpe Garage remains open for business, but is manned only as required. If you have any motoring needs or queries, please phone: 07517 284 621 or 07389 731 173, between 8am & 5pm.

COTON MANOR GARDEN

Deliveries made locally: while the lockdown continues, Cotton is pleased to offer a delivery service within roughly 5 miles on any order over £30.00. We have compiled a list of plants which are now available and looking good in the nursery and if you are interested in making any purchases, please do not call or use the normal email, but contact the nursery direct using the address nursery@cottonmanor.co.uk. Here you can request our plant list or leave a phone number if you require assistance.

THE CHEQUERS: 01604 770379

Shop sales & off-licence sales available: open daily between 11am—2.00pm. Please ring and place an order for shop goods. You can pay over the phone or with cash. A completely contactless collection is available. Lots of basic home supplies plus some new additions—e.g packed ham, corned beef, cheese, bacon, eggs, tins. We're sorry but the take-away service is not available at the moment.

Ravensthorpe Nursery & Garden

The Nursery and Garden are closed to visitors, but you are welcome to order, pay and book to collect your plants, compost and runner bean canes (for as long as stocks of canes last). Email ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com or Telephone 770548 if you need advice first.

For those who have never visited us before, we sell shrubs, climbers, fruit and some ornamental trees, roses and a huge range of herbaceous perennials. We make the compost we sell ourselves and it's exactly the same as we use to grow all our stock. It's freshly made with top quality peat and contains slow release fertiliser and a vine weevil control, so it's not as cheap as some (£7.95 for 40 litres) but many repeat customers vouch for its quality. We would much appreciate your custom.

Jean and Richard Wiseman

News from Buckby Library & Hub

The WEA has been discussing possible sessions and workshops that could be held at Buckby Library & Hub and other libraries in the county when we re-open. However, WEA has now launched an online learning service during the lockdown to give a taste of what you might be able to do in the future. The range of courses will be increased over the coming weeks and will include activities, lectures and short courses. They can be accessed at www.wea.org.uk/liveonlinelearning. Offers accessed through this website are free.

PLAYING FIELD

ODDS200 LOTTERY

The Playing Field relies entirely on fundraising for its maintenance and upkeep, so at this time we are especially reliant on support for our Odds200 lottery. 200 tickets sold annually @ £12/ ticket raises £1,460 towards the grass cutting and general upkeep, and £940 in prize money to lucky ticket holders. Normally, we circulate selling tickets through May for the first draw in June. We will be trying to contact our regular supporters, but you can reserve a ticket by emailing odds200rav@gmail.com. Please support us. Thank you.

Lottery winners for April: Jane Allen £50; Bernie Ferguson £20.

2020 BEER FESTIVAL & FAMILY FUN DAY scheduled for July has been cancelled. If circumstances permit in July, we may do something impromptu. Watch this space.

FOOD BANK: PLEASE HELP

The Foodbank is unable to accept donations of food (or other items) at this present time, due to the Coronavirus. However the need for donations remains great and you can make cash donations via the website <https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk>. Just click on donations and follow the instructions.

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the June Newsletter is 23 May. Our aim is to support the community as well as our local businesses & charities during the current crisis, so if we can help then please contact the Editor, Alan Worthington, 01604 770957 or email ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com.



National Gardens Scheme

The National Gardens Scheme has Virtual Garden Tours available to watch online at ngs.org.uk. As gardens cannot open during the pandemic their income this year is likely to be down by 80% so please enjoy these and make a donation to their Help the Nurses campaign to support vital services.

One of the NGS groups has also devised a gardening quiz, entry fee £2 for the campaign, which is available from Jean Wiseman at ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com. The closing date for entries is 22nd May and the prize is a £50 voucher for plants from Claire Austin and a copy of her latest book on perennials.



Scrubs Up For Northants NHS

Scrubs Up For Northants NHS are looking for experienced machinists, anyone with fabric that can be donated, fabric supplier contacts, and monetary donations to their Just Giving page to help them purchase materials to make scrubs for hospitals, GP surgeries and medical centres across Northamptonshire. They have been featured in the media on Ra-

dio Northampton, Radio 2 and several local newspapers. For further information please view <https://m.facebook.com/scrubsupnorthants>, (@scrubsupnorthants), <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/katie-rashid>