

NEWSLETTER

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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Almost unbelievably we are on the countdown to Christmas. The clocks have changed and the dark nights have crept in and it is easy to see our world as a place full of dark things and dark places.

But wait – there is a light ahead!

I do not just mean the coming of spring and lighter nights and better weather – as welcome as they may be – I mean, of course, the celebration of the birth of the Light of the World – **Jesus Christ!**

The next few weeks are going to be very busy as we all prepare for the festive period – buying and wrapping presents, decorating trees and homes, preparing food and drink and generally running around to ensure we all have a good time.

But there may be times in this period when we feel alone, lonely, or sad, or just generally unsettled and it is in those times when I invite you to allow Jesus to carry you for a short while.

And how do you do it? You just ask him using whatever words you want – either out loud or in your head.

God promises that he loves and cares for every one of us – whether you believe in him or not – and he promises that if you ask him (this is called prayer) then he will give you exactly what he knows is best for you.

So, this Christmas time, don't allow the darkness to grow – allow a little of the light in and say a prayer to Jesus and if you feel able then come to one of our wonderful church celebrations and join in with all of us who will be saying “welcome” to the Light of the World and “thank you” for all the wonderful gifts we share in our delightful part of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all. Rev'd Mark

St. DENYS CHURCH HOPES that you and your family and friends will join us for at least one of our special services over the Christmas season. Why not come along to the traditional family CAROL SERVICE at 5pm on Christmas Eve, which will be followed by a time to chat over mulled wine and mince pies, or be welcomed to our CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION at 10.30am?

REMINDERS:-

Saturday 3rd December - A COFFEE MORNING IN MEMORY OF DOREEN BUCK – 10am to noon at Ann Fowler's, Home Farm. Bring-&-Buy, cakes, and raffle. Any contributions in the way of help, raffle prizes and donations will be greatly appreciated. **All proceeds to AGE CONCERN UK – Hardship Fund.**

Tuesday 6th December – Applications close for a share in the Christmas distribution of THE RAVENSTHORPE UNITED CHARITIES. Apply now in writing to Mrs S. Blakelock, 12 Bettycroft Close, Ravensthorpe NN6 8EL.

Friday 9th December – MOLDIE'S OLDIES CHRISTMAS BINBO NIGHT IS BACK, with a BANG !! in the Village Hall. Ticket sales from 7pm – eyes down at 7.30 prompt. Due to the fantastic attendance last time we advise you to come early. Entrance is only 50p per person. All proceeds go towards our fantastic modernised Village Hall. Refreshments will be served by the WI. Great prizes to be won by all the family plus a **star prize** and the famous stand up bingo cash prize. You can sponsor a game for £10 or the whole evening for £50. Contact Colin on 770667.

Saturday 10th December – CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY with Entertainer, games and tea - 3 to 5pm in the Village Hall free to children aged 3 to 11yrs with a small charge for grandchildren not living in the village. **Names should be on a list in the Village PO by 3rd December.** Parents are asked to collect children at 5pm.

Saturday 31st December – NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH In the Village Hall with the party running from 8pm until late....! Fancy dress or come along as your Pop Idol should you wish. **Dance to the live music of “Anyone Out There”.** Tickets at £15 per person will be on sale at the PO or from Playing Field Committee members. Licensed bar, good company and all within walking distance of home. The Playing Field's committee looks forward to seeing you.

CHURCH NEWS

IMPROVEMENTS TO ST. DENYS – Funds raised at the enjoyable Church Fetes over the last two years have enabled the PCC to undertake essential remedial and replacement electrical work to the switch gear which contains asbestos in the heating system. A new heating system is being installed for the choir stalls - which is long overdue – ask a choir member! The total cost for both items is expected to be £5,547.00.

Following the **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** the collection of **£230** was sent to the **Royal British Legion**.

As a result of the **HARVEST AUCTION** and share of the **LENT LUNCHESES** **£300** was sent to the **Bangladesh Charity, Friends of Khasdobir** which St. Denys supports.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The committee would like to thank those of you who made our last two funding events so successful. The **SAFARI SUPPER** raised a fantastic total of £876 and thanks to John Gill, Barclaycard, who will be match-funding £750, giving us a total of £1626.

THE FASHION SHOW on the 10th November made £370 and again was well supported.

The **VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS LUNCH** on 23rd November saw over 50 happy participants and raised over £300. **THE NEXT VILLAGE HALL LUNCH** will be on the 11th January at 12.30 for 1.00pm.

MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

The **BONFIRE NIGHT** on the 5th November was a splendid evening, blessed with good weather and the fireworks were brilliantly orchestrated by Martin Wilkes. With the enthusiastic support of the village we raised £354.

The Playing Field **AGM** was held on the 16th November. The Treasurer reported a shortfall in income against expenditure for the year of £1,335. This is the first time for a number of years that management costs have not been covered. The shortfall reflects the increasing cost and task of maintaining this hugely important village resource. **We rely on the village to support our fund raising events to preserve this benefit now, and for generations to come!** If this Newsletter arrives on time please remember the **QUIZ NIGHT** at 7.30pm on **Friday 2nd December** in the Village Hall with a seasonal supper and licensed bar - Tickets, £5 from the PO or maybe at the door.

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POCKET PARK COPPICING: - on 7th January trees will be coppiced in the Pocket Park to let more light in and improve the environment for various species. Starting at 10am, volunteers are needed for much appreciated help to move the branches. Gloves are advised and bring branch loppers if you have them. If you would like any wood for bean sticks, burning or any other purpose you can have them. For further Information contact Cliff Giles 770451.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – 58 shoeboxes have been received. A good year but there was hope for better. However, 58 deprived children who have never received a present before will receive these gifts with a powerful message that someone far away cares for them and prays for their future.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday 18th January “Air Ambulance Service”- 8pm in VH

CHURCH SERVICES				ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA
Sunday	4 th December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Advent – no flowers
Sunday	11 th December	10.00am	Group Service – Thornby	Advent – no flowers
Sunday	18 th December	9.45am	Holy Communion	Advent – no flowers
Saturday	24 th December	5.00pm	Carol Service	Yvonne Reeve
Sunday	25 th December	10.30am	Christmas Communion	Yvonne Reeve
Sunday	1 st January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Childs
Sunday	8 th January	10.00am	Group Service – Spratton	Yvonne Childs
Sunday	15 th January	9.45am	Holy Communion	Ann Smith
Sunday	22 nd January	11.00am	All Age Service - refreshments afterwards	Ann Smith
Sunday	29 th January	10.00am	Group Service – Hollowell	Beryl Mott
Sunday	5 th February	8.30am	Holy Communion	Beryl Mott

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

CHRISTMAS TREES – Door wreaths, tree stands and OVEN READY TURKEYS & COCKERELS

Trevor and Pat Foss, Hawtoft Farm, £4 Guilsborough Rd., Ravensthorpe. Tel: 01604 770466
