

NEWSLETTER

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

THE RECTOR'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Well it's that time again when Christmas is but a memory and the New Year has really settled in. One of the wonderful and exciting things about life is that every day is a New Day and therefore part of a New Year and this means that every day we have a chance to do something NEW or see the world through NEW eyes.

I wonder if you are reading this and looking at the world in a NEW way or whether you are so tied up with looking backwards that you fail to see the opportunities offered and the hope that is tied to them. Whether you see Jesus as just an historical figure from two centuries ago, or have come to accept Him as your Lord and as God, you still have a chance to share in the joy and hope that Jesus preached. Jesus teaches us that He is there for everybody.

Therefore I would like to invite you all, believer or non believer, to pause in your busy life and to consider what it might be like to have a New start this very day – what the world may look like when you know you are loved, forgiven and cherished by the God who made you.

If you want to be a part of this wonderful, joyous world then I invite you to say the simple prayer "Maranatha" (Ma-Ra-Na-Tha) which means "Come Lord Jesus". This simple prayer is all you need and guarantees everything that God promised us when He walked amongst us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Maranatha –Come Lord Jesus! With all God's love to you all for 2012, the Reverend Mark

EDITORIAL – by John Mott

I am now in my 12th year as editor and probably my last one. There must be someone out there more literate than I with greater computer skills able to produce a fresh and better Newsletter. I will welcome anyone interested and assist in the changeover. I have enjoyed being editor, especially as the role has brought me in contact with so many people I wouldn't otherwise have known. Whilst much of the Newsletter announces events about to happen and reports on their results, the contribution of articles and village related matters are greatly appreciated.

2012 promises to be an interesting year despite all the economic gloom and threatened austerity.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated by a **Street Party on June 2nd** organised by The Village Hall Committee. **Any offers or help or ideas will be hugely welcome.** See below plans for **The Village Produce Show.**

Then we have the **London Olympics** to look forward to, but how many of you have succeeded in getting a ticket?

Once again I wish to thank **Martin Wilkes** who prints out the 305 copies each month and the faithful distributors :- **Ann Fowler, Mary Worthington, Karen Hastie, Sandra Addleton, Les Bates, Mavis Johnstone, Ruth Giles, Patricia Spring, Lynne Miller and Alison Brandon-Jones.** There would be no Newsletter without you!

VILLAGE JUBILEE PRODUCE SHOW - The first Ravensthorpe and Coton village show was held in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. With the advent of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this year, Ravensthorpe WI is planning to hold the show again on Bank Holiday Monday, August 27th.

The show will include prizes for the best grown vegetables, fruit and flowers as well as a number of craft and cooking challenges. For those budding young gardeners there will be an under 12 year's old section, which will include the growing of the best SUNFLOWER and POTATO IN A POT competitions. If you would like to enter, you can obtain the sunflower seeds and potato by phoning Liz Ellison on 770463. The full schedule will be available in mid Feb, just in time for you to plan this year's planting. Copies will be available in the Village Post Office or by e-mailing Liz Ellison at ellisonthomas10@yahoo.com. To help cover the costs of the show we are looking for support to provide some sponsorship or raffle prizes. If you can help please let a WI member know.

LENT LUNCHESES – There will be a series of five Lent Lunches. Everyone is welcome for a tasty selection of soups, fresh fruit, coffee or tea all for £5. The money collected will go to the charity of the hostess's choice.

The first lunch will be at Ann Fowler's house, Home Farm on **29th February** and the second at Thalia Pike's home Roseland, Guilsborough Road on **7th March**. Then **17th March** at Susie Pasley-Tyler at Coton Manor (lifts available), **21st March**; Gill Douglas, Hill House and finally **28th March**; Tricia Freeman, 2 The Orchards.

LENT COURSE 2012 – SAINT JOHN. Would you like to know more about the Gospel writer who taught us so much about the miracles of Jesus? Would you like to meet up with friends, old and new, and share fellowship in an atmosphere of peace, joy and hope? Would you like to see how the Bible can be fun? **If the answer is yes to these questions then come and join us at Hollowell Village Hall at 7pm on the following Monday evenings:-**

27th February – 5th March – 12th March – 26th March

VILLAGE HALL NEWS – Last month's VH lunch raised just under £300. The **next VH lunch will be on 15th February**, 12.30 for 1pm. £6 per person. These are proving greatly enjoyable social events – bookings with Lin on 770562 or Pat on 770466. All proceeds are now split between VH funds and the Northampton Haematology unit.

The Children's Party on the 10th December was enjoyed by over 30 children. Entertainment was by Bob Hughes of "Show Case Disco" for the second year. Father Christmas came and shared in the cakes and other goodies.

THE COFFEE MORNING in memory of Doreen Buck held at Ann Fowler's house on December 3rd raised £825 for the Age Concern Hardship Fund. Many thanks to all who helped supported and contributed to this cause.

CRABTREE POCKET PARK – Cliff Giles (Park Coordinator) would like to thank the 10 or so volunteers who helped him and Glyn Lewis coppice the park trees and Thalia Pike for the refreshments. **It makes a difference!**

PAVEMENT PARKING PROBLEMS – Having received a number of complaints from residents, the Parish Council has previously raised the problem of pavements in the village being blocked by parking vehicles. The situation has improved but people are still being forced out into the road to pass by. This is, obviously, particularly dangerous for the elderly, parents with buggies and small children and riders of mobility scooters.

The problem seems to rest largely with visiting cars and trades vehicles. We would request that residents ask owners of such vehicles to keep the pavements clear for pedestrians, which is in everyone's interest.

THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE & SHOP was broken into on the night of 21st/22nd January and a considerable amount of money stolen. The thieves had previously tried to break into a van in the High Street. They then went on to rob the village shop in Spratton and a butchers in Braunston - A wicked world!

On a happier note – the Village Post Office can now service customers with accounts with **Nat West Bank**.

POLICE – **There is a new number to contact the police to report a crime or incident that has already happened, to give information to the police about crime, criminals or suspicious activity in your area. THE NUMBER IS 101. This is not an emergency number, which remains 999.**

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING - Thursday 16th February – 8pm in the Village Hall Beetle Drive, Cheese & wine. Hostesses:- S. Blakelock & S. Patrick . New members and visitors welcome.

THE CAROL SERVICE was an enjoyable and special occasion – enhanced by the superb singing of the choir, the readers and especially the contribution of Hannah Reader who read, sang in the choir and accompanied the children singing "Away in a Manger" on her violin. St. Denys was packed and thanks to Kieron and Alice Cooper for organising the mince pies and mulled wine after the service.

SNOWDROPS & HELLEBORES FORTNIGHT at COTON MANOR

Everyday from Saturday 18th February up to and including Sunday 4th March. 11am – 4pm. Entrance £3

Light lunches and teas

CHURCH SERVICES

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

Sunday	5 th February	8.30am Holy Communion	Beryl Mott
Sunday	12 th February	10.00am Group Service Ravensthorpe	Thalia Pike
Sunday	19 th February	9.45am Holy Communion	Thalia Pike
Wednesday	22 nd February	6.00pm Ash Wednesday HC Guilsborough	
Sunday	26 th February	11.00am Family Service	LENT, no flowers
Sunday	4 th March	8.30am Holy Communion	

Rector:- The Revd. Mark Battison – phone 740050

Contributions to the March Newsletter should be sent by February 21st to the editor, John Mott

At 16 Church Gardens or phone 770618 – email jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk