

NEWSLETTER

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

Message from Rev Andrew Taylor-Cook

Each one of us I am sure has a favourite Christmas Carol or Hymn that speaks to us deeply and profoundly. Whether it takes you back to your childhood or to a particular year - it's the Carol or Hymn that helps make Christmas for you. My favourite Hymn has always been: O' come, O' come, Emmanuel.....it is the hymn that starts the Christmas journey off for me. I just love to hear the beautiful haunting sound of the Choir as they sing these long awaited words. When I was in Bethlehem visiting the Church of the Nativity in January 2011, I heard those beautiful and haunting words being sung by a group of priests and people inside the Church - a sound that will stay with me for ever.

But Christmas as a whole has a new depth and meaning for me since my trip to the Holy Land, because I've actually stood where Jesus was born. Not only that, I have touched the stone-slab on the stable floor where Jesus was laid in the manger. I was there - in Bethlehem, and as close as one can possibly get to Jesus' place of birth. I can still visualize the day; the people; the building; the music; the smells and so on. I remember standing in the Shepherd's Fields too, *for it is here that the shepherds were told by the Angel of God that on this day, the Messiah, a baby lying in the manger, wrapped in bands of cloth, shall be born.* (Luke 2: 8-14) I have sung 'While Shepherds Watch their flocks by night', whilst standing in the Shepherd's Fields, and have also sung 'Silent Night, Holy Night' in one of the side chapels in the Church of the Nativity. Wonderful memories, that, I shall for ever cherish. Memories that are sparked off by singing: O' come, O' come, Emmanuel'. All of which leads me to ask you: what is your favourite Christmas Carol or Hymn I wonder? What memories does it provoke in you?



Whatever your plans are this Christmas, I hope and pray that you have a wonderful and peaceful time. Please look out for our Christmas Services and events across the Uplands Benefice and pop along if you can - for it would be really good to see you! Who knows, we may even be singing your favourite Carol or Hymn. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a most blessed New Year. **Andrew**

Everyone at St Denys wishes you & your family a very Happy Christmas, and we hope you can join us for some of our special services or events - All are welcome!

**12-4 pm Sunday 15th December – Uplands Group Christmas Event - Ravensthorpe Village Hall
A Bring & Share Lunch with lively music, and a fun telling of the Christmas story, followed by family Christmas activities.**

A really different way to prepare for Christmas and hear the real Christmas story with your family and friends. Please bring something to eat and share if you can, and festive drinks will be provided. All, young or old, are welcome – this is a free event!

Children (or adults too if they want!) are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity to take part in the telling of the story. How about being a sheep, a wise man, or even the star?

5.00 pm Christmas Eve Carol Service

Our always popular Carol Service - for all ages. Rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies together.

10.00am Christmas Day Communion Service

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

Albert Watson 1931 - 2013



Albert Watson and his beloved dog 'Rags' in 2012

Albert will be buried in his father's grave in the Ravensthorpe Churchyard.

Albert Watson died aged 82 on 11 November after a period of prolonged ill health. He was very much a village character having lived in Ravensthorpe all his life, been born in Manor View and then living in Adnitt Row for almost all his life. Having started work aged 14 at Manor Farm he then became a Roadman later Foreman for Brixworth Council and later for the County's Highway Department.

Albert's real interest and life was as an independent Countryman. His life revolved around his ferrets, rabbits, shooting, growing vegetables and flowers and chickens. Albert was always around walking his dog up and down to the "pit" with milk and bread for his ferrets, up and down to the reservoir, around and over the local fields. His eggs were always in high demand at the Post Office as were his capons.

Albert knew everyone connected to the local countryside and could be seen every day having a chat with a passerby or working his allotment where his fresh vegetables and flowers were always in demand. In his younger days he was a keen darts player playing at the Woolpack and Chequers - until it is said he fell out with a Chequers landlord over a chicken! Whereupon his allegiance moved to the Pychley. Albert had a very independent frame of mind!

What's On?

Come & help build the Messy Toddler Nativity

Each week in the run up to Christmas at Toddler Church we'll be getting messy and building the next bit of the nativity scene ready for it to go on display at Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

All welcome to join us on Fridays, 2-3pm at the church, with songs, stories and tea as usual.

Travelling crib & sheep trail

If you want to take part in the travelling crib this December, there are still a few spaces left contact Alice on 01604 771245

Copies of the Uplands Group Sheep Trail leaflets are also available for a small donation to a local homeless charity – please support this worthy cause this Christmas.

November Coffee Morning at Ann Fowlers

A record amount of £960 was raised at the Christmas Coffee morning in November.

Many thanks to all the helpers and loyal support. We are so lucky to have such a friendly and supportive village an envy to many. Ann Fowler

Moldies Oldies Xmas Prize Bingo Night Friday 6th Dec

Join us on Friday 6th December at Ravensthorpe Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm. Eyes down at 7.30pm.



Winter Olympics 27th Dec

The annual Ravensthorpe Winter Olympics is again to be held at the Chequers. Join us for an evening of pub games, food & prizes.

Village Hall Lunch 22nd Jan

The next village hall lunch will be held on Friday 22nd January 12.30 for 1.00.

Contact Lin 770562 or Pat 770466.

Village Hall Promises Evening

The recent Promises Evening in the Village Hall provided a great evening's entertainment for the 60 people who attended. The three course dinner prepared courtesy of the friends of the Playing Field was followed by a highly entertaining auction during which 15 lots were sold to the highest bidders. Music was provided by the "Band with No Name" and dancing continued into the early hours.

Thanks to Charlie, our mystery auctioneer, the auction and other proceeds from the night are expected to raise around £2000 for Playing Field funds, a great result from a hugely enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to all who donated lots for auction and an even bigger thanks to those who gave so generously.

Ravensthorpe United Charity Xmas Distribution

Applications for the above are now due and should be submitted in writing Shirley or Karen by 10th December. All senior citizens living in the village are eligible. Also students who are in their first year of college or university. Mrs S Blakelock 12, Bettycroft Close, / Mrs K Eagles 11, Little Lane, Ravensthorpe

Revd Mark Battison

"The Bishop is very sorry to announce that the Revd Mark Battison has given notice of his intention to resign as Rector of the Uplands Benefice on health grounds. With great regret, the Bishop has accepted this and agreed that Mark will not return to ministry in the benefice."
Bishop John

The Rev'd Andrew Taylor-Cook will be leading the Uplands Benefice until a new Rector can be appointed. For all Benefice enquires please contact Valerie Kerr, (Coordinator/Administrator of the Uplands Group of Parishes). 01604-743444. 07956-961509 uplandsgroup@btinternet.com
The church office is open 9.45am - 12.45pm every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Our Parishes include: Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Ravensthorpe, Spratton & Thornby

"The PCC wish To express their tremendous thank to Mark for all his hard work and inspiration in our parish, we are very sad to see him go but wish him and his family all the very best."

Support local people this Xmas!



Once again Trevor and Pat Foss will be selling **Christmas trees** at Hawtoft Farm.

Did you also know that you can also order a locally reared **Turkey or Cockerel** from them? To find out more please ring 770 466.

Village Hall Christmas Party

Once again we are hosting our Village Christmas party on Dec 14th 2.45pm – 4.45pm

Children aged 3-11yrs (junior school) free; Grandchildren from outside the parish are welcome for only £2.

Please contact Pat Foss 770466 or add the child's name to list in Post Office by mid November.



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NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Say goodbye to stress in 2014.
Enjoy peace of mind, more vitality and increased flexibility

Experienced yoga practitioner and fully insured student teacher offers private and group yoga and wellbeing lessons.

Group YOGA class starting 10 Jan 2014
Fridays, 9.30am – 10.30am
Ravensthorpe Village Hall

Call Caron Lindley to find out more or to book your place

01788 822975 or 07786 911593
or email caron@aptitude.me.uk

red hat yoga & wellbeing

Spanish Lessons in 2014

Lucia will be starting Spanish lessons from January, at Cricket Pavilion, East Haddon. Contact Lucia Salvatierra for more info:
info@talkspanish.org.uk

Day	Time	Ravensthorpe Village Hall	Price	Contact
Monday	09.15- 10.15 10.20 – 11.20 11.25 -12.25	Pilates	£7	Natalie Carter 07967 811945
		Pilates	£7	
		Pilates	£7	
Tuesday	09.45 – 10.45	Triple Workout (aerobics/toning & flexibility)	£5	Vicky Sewell 07970 116576
Thursday	10.20 – 11.20 11.25 -12.25	Pilates	£7	Natalie Carter 07967 811945
		Beginners Pilates	£7	
Saturday	09.00 – 10.00 10.00 – 11.00	Special Back Care Pilates	£7	Tina Sheridan 07810 380636
		Special Back Care Pilates	£7	

Date	Time	Service Type	Service led by	Location	Flowers/Brass
Sunday 1 st December	8.30am	Traditional Communion Service	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
Sunday 8 th December	10.00am	Group Communion Service	Clergy	Cottesbrooke	-
Sunday 15 th December	9.45am	Communion Service with Choir	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	-
	12-4pm	Group Bring & Share Lunch and Family Christmas Activities	Lay team	Village Hall	-
Sunday 22 nd December	11.00am	Group All Age Service	Lay team	Ravensthorpe	-
Tuesday 24 th December	5.00pm	Carol Service	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Yvonne Reeve
Wednesday 25 th December	10.00am	Communion Service with Choir	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Yvonne Reeve
Sunday 29 th December	10.00am	Group Communion Service	Clergy	Cold Ashby	Yvonne Reeve
Sunday 5 th January	8.30am	Traditional Communion Service	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Yvonne Childs
Sunday 12 th January	10.00am	Group Communion Service	Clergy	Guilsborough	Yvonne Childs
Sunday 19 th January	9.45am	Communion Service with Choir	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Thalia Pike
Sunday 26 th January	11.00am	Group All Age Service	Lay team	Ravensthorpe	Thalia Pike
Sunday 2 nd February	8.30am	Traditional Communion Service	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Ann Smith

Please email February contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com for the attention of the editor, Viv Rees (01604 771 076) by: **5pm/Thursday 23rd January 2014**. Note: space will be allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis, waiting until the deadline may result in your article not being included.

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