

A Message from the Rev Allison Twigg:

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits despite the Lockdown affecting us all, some more than others. We can pray that this dreadful virus is eventually beaten and that we can return to our more normal and sociable lives.

In the meantime, the church continues to serve our community in many ways. Although we have had to temporarily shut our buildings due to this dreadful pandemic, the church is not closed, nor has the worship ceased. We are the Church, the living body of Christ, and as such we will continue in offering to God our private prayer and worship and where it is safe we offer practical help to one another and our neighborhoods.

The ministry of the church continues, albeit in a different way. Church services have moved online with a group service at 9.30 each Sunday broadcast through Facebook Live on our Facebook Page 'Uplands Group Churches' and with video links sent by email after each service to all who wish to receive it. A service for those who do not have the Internet commences in early May, where dialing in from a land line will provide the facility to listen to a service on Tuesday mornings at 9.30. Both of these services can be accessed through our YouTube channel 'Uplands Group Churches'. A full week of services was broadcast in this way for Holy Week. There have even been online opportunities for after service coffee and fellowship!

Pastoral care carries on as we make regular calls especially to those who we know to be frail or vulnerable and those that live alone from our congregations. Pastoral care to the bereaved along with funeral ministry continues and has become more pertinent in recent weeks. The Church is still providing funeral services at the Graveside or in a Crematorium which are arranged sympathetically in liaison with the bereaved families.

Resources for Worship at Home have been distributed and regularly updated and regular prayer groups have also moved online. Learning and fellowship has continued firstly through our Lent Course which has continued as we explore together Art and The Bible Story on Wednesday evenings at 7.30, again through our Facebook page. The Church of England nationally has started a free-phone line called Daily Hope that can be called for to listen to prayers, a reflection and a selection of lively hymns each day. The number for this is 0800 804 8044.

Many of our Summer Weddings have been postponed – which means that we have a bumper wedding season booked already for 2021. So if you are thinking about a church wedding – please be in touch as soon as you can.

We have been obliged to postpone most of our Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) and Annual Meeting of Parishioners (APM)] which were due earlier in the Spring to a date yet to be arranged, probably in the autumn.

Our regular Friday Uplands Group Email provides regular contact, along with details of the week's events in the Uplands Group and in the wider church.

Should you wish to receive our email please contact uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com
Reverend Allison can be contacted on 01604 846099 or revallisontwigg@gmail.com

We look forward to the day when we can be physically together in our beautiful buildings but until then the church will carry on.

Parish Council Notice

During the lockdown period, there seems to have been an increase in dogs being exercised off leads and dogs on long leads that are causing problems with the required social distancing measures. The Parish Council would kindly ask dog owners to keep their dogs on leads whilst in the village, and if using an extendable lead keep it at a sensible length. Please ensure that dogs are under control at all times, both within and outside the village. .

Reports have also been received that some dog owners are leaving their dog poo bags hung on trees/bushes rather than taking them home to dispose of or putting them in the dog poo bins that have been provided by the Council on the Coton Road and in the Playing Field . Alternatively, you can put these in any of the other waste bins in the village, but PLEASE not the green bins in the Playing Field.

Residents are also reminded that the Pocket Park is a dog free zone. Thank you.

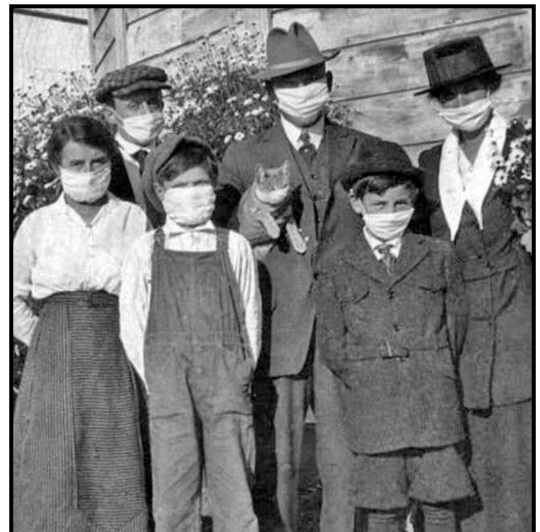
FOOD BANK: PLEASE HELP

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

RAVENSTHORPE2020:

Support for residents in Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton

If you are self-isolating and require assistance of some kind during the current lockdown, please Email ravensthorpe2020@gmail.com or call Bob Pike (771277) who is co-ordinating a group of villagers who have made themselves available for community support where help is needed. 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>.



RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Due to the Government announcements in March and the most recent updates, the closure of the Village Hall will continue for the time being.

We must comply with the directives from those leading the campaign to keep us all safe. The matter will be reviewed again by June 12th. We apologise to all for the inconvenience. If you would like to add your name to the Village Hall mailing list please email your details to contact@rvhall.online

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 284621 or 07389 731173 between 8am & 5pm.

THE CHEQUERS SHOP: 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. There is a completely contactless collection available. Lots of basic home supplies are held in stock.

Ravensthorpe Nursery & Garden

The Nursery and Garden are closed to visitors, but you are welcome to order, pay and book & collect:

Shrubs, climbers, fruit, some ornamental trees, roses, a huge range of herbaceous perennials and compost.

Email ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com or telephone 770548 if you need advice first.

Jean and Richard Wiseman

The 34th Macmillan Coffee Morning.

We hope to hold this in Ravensthorpe Village Hall on 19 September, 10 until noon. Provisional arrangements have been made for our annual event but as we are all aware regulations may interfere with our plans. After 33 years we can't let them down so we may have to resort to tins. WATCH THIS SPACE. JJP.

COTON MANOR GARDEN

Coton Manor has now opened the nursery but NOT the garden and the Tea Room is available for take-away teas, coffees and cakes along with cold savoury snacks. Plant deliveries are still available to the most vulnerable and those shielded, and a 'click and collect' service for those not wishing to socialise yet. Contact nursery@cotonmanor.co.uk for a comprehensive plant list.



Crabtree Pit Pocket Park: May 2020

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the July Newsletter is 23 June. Our aim is to support the community, including 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.

RAVENSTHORPE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

The pavilion and the children's play area remain shut for the moment, but we shall review in line with government guideline updates. The field remains open for exercise, leisure time and dog walking, but patrons are asked to respect all requirements regarding picking up & disposing of dog poo, and social distancing.

ODDS200 LOTTERY

The first draw is Thursday, 4 June.

Do you have your ticket?

Email: odds200rav@gmail.com

We would like to thank the villagers for the fantastic & generous response to our plea to support the upkeep of the Playing Field by buying an annual lottery ticket. Lots of people have bought tickets. But with the first draw for the new year upon us, we still have tickets to sell.

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. You can still reserve a ticket by emailing odds200rav@gmail.com. A £12 ticket gives 12 monthly draws (prizes £50 & £20) plus the Xmas draw (£100). When the draw resumes in the Chequers on the first Thursday of each month, there is also a "Chequers voucher draw" of £20, open to customers present. Lottery winners for May: Maureen Harper (£50) & Sarah Given (£20).



RAVENSTHORPE

VILLAGE CINEMA

For the duration of the lockdown, DVDs of films shown at the Village Cinema from the 2017-2018 season onwards are available on free loan. For a list of titles contact Mo & Mike Cobbe mike@mikecobbe.com or Tel (01604) 328822

CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK

The Logpile House

Summer is here and the focus at the pocket park for visitors will naturally be a blooming meadow creating a buzz of bees and other insects alike. However, new additions to the park's habitat include log-piles and windrows (dead hedges) created from previous conservation work.

Deadwood, and for that matter decaying trees, actually provide a rich habitat of immense value for wildlife, such as 2,000 invertebrates in the UK, like moths, beetles, fungi etc. Deadwood also slowly releases nutrients as it decays, stores carbon and stabilises the soil.

Log-piles provide consistent conditions for sheltering amphibians like toads, frogs and newts, as well as homes and food for overwintering hedgehogs. We ask visitors to respect our nature conservation efforts and leave all the deadwood and log-pile homes alone.

Ruth Rolls, Pocket Park Volunteer Coordinator

ST DENYS CHURCH: CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION: Assoc. Priest: Revd. Allison Twigg 01604 846099 revallisontwigg@gmail.com
The Uplands Group Office: uplandsgroupoffice@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: uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com