

OUR VICAR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

ONE of the first things I was told about Ravensthorpe was that the Christmas Carol Service is a great occasion. So, Madeleine and I are looking forward to our first Christmas with you.

A lot of the trimmings of Christmas have little or nothing to do with its true meaning. But you can't get much closer to the heart of it than by listening to the readings and singing the carols we all love. Every time there is something fresh for you to find, something different and deeper.

During Advent there is a series of discussion / study evenings held at the Vicarage on Thursdays starting at 7.30pm. You are most welcome to join us. Because of the calendar, there are only three this year, starting on 4TH December.

A Happy Christmas to you all!

John Tarrant

The Reverend John Tarrant will be celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of his Ordination at Guilsborough Church at 10.00am on Sunday 21ST December. Please do come and join in the celebration

PRESENTS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

AGAIN this year you are invited to bring presents for disadvantaged children, to place under the tree at the **Carol Service at St Denys on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm**. Please mark presents for a boy or girl with approximate suitable age.

They will be sent to an appropriate Charity -thank you.

TALBOT BUTLER WARD OVER £900 RAISED

DOREEN BUCK wishes to thank all those who supported the Coffee Morning in any way on Saturday 22ND November - despite the conflict with the Rugby World Cup Final and our great England win!

Over £900 was raised for the Ward. A great effort from all those who contributed - many thanks.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATE

THE REVEREND KAREN JONGMAN was licenced by the Bishop of Brixworth on 10TH September to serve with our Vicar as his Curate.

Prior to her ordination in July 2001, Karen was Churchwarden and then Reader at St Mary's in East Haddon, having moved to East Haddon from Spratton with her family in 1981. She lives in **Brookhill Cottage on the Ravensthorpe Road - telephone: 770617**. Karen is no stranger to Ravensthorpe having helped to produce the village Newsletter, when Ravensthorpe was in the Benefice with East Haddon, under the Reverend Peter Rowe.

Karen hopes to meet as many of you as possible in the coming weeks and months and asks that if you see her you will say "hello" and introduce yourselves. As well as her duties as Curate, Karen has been appointed Chaplain to the Fire and Rescue Services in South Northants, comprising some 10 Fire Stations



note: In our next edition of the "Newsletter" (February 2004) We shall publish Curate Karen's "Travelogue" of her visit in October 2003 to Bungoma, Western Kenya.

Male Voices

MEG BENN is seeking "Male Voices" for our church choir.

Come and add your support to Bob Pike, currently the lone male voice.

The ability to read music as well as sing will be helpful.

Contact Meg, telephone: 770466

THE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB LUNCH

Will be held at Lin Hudson's House, Hunters Gap, on Sunday 14th December at 12.30 for 1.00pm.

If you wish to attend or become a new member please 'phone Lin Hudson - 770562.

THANK YOU PAT & TREVOR!

PAT AND TREVOR FOSS are once again donating the Christmas Tree for the Church. Their kind gesture is deeply appreciated by us all.

ELDERLEY LADY in the Village requires one hour's help from 9am-10am on Saturdays & Sundays. Phone: 770653

FREE DELIVERY AROUND THE VILLAGE - HURRY!

**CHRISTMAS TREES
HOLLY WREATHS**

and MISTLETOE

also locally farm-reared Turkeys and Cockerels

(can be supplied boned)



ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

ring: 01604 770466

or call at:

Hawtoft Farm on Guilsborough Rd

A REMARKABLE CHARITY

EVERY YEAR at Christmas time, the **Ravensthorpe United Charity** distributes money to those Senior Citizens in Coton, Teeton and Ravensthorpe who ask for help. The Charity also gives a modest sum to students in their first year at University towards the purchase of books. Applications for 2003 close on 2ND of December.

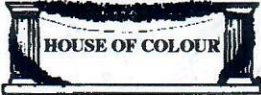
The Charity was founded in 1731 when Mary Palmer of Ravensthorpe left in her will a 14.5 acre plot of land to the poor of the village. Two other plots totalling 17.5 acres were added in the 19TH century through an award somehow connected to an Enclosure Act passed in 1795, the Commons Act of 1899 and the Charitable Trust Act 1853 to 1894. The Charity appears to have been re-constructed in 1911.

The land, all along the Teeton Road, is rented to local farmers and, after any costs of repairs to fences, hedges and gates, the total rent for the year is distributed without deduction for administration, nor for reserves or savings.

Originally the rents were designated for the "general benefit of the poor" and, prior to the National Health Service in particular, the Charity contributed to such items as medical bills, nursing, midwives, clothing, food and fuel. Over the years the distribution has changed with the needs of the times. Currently about £1,500 is distributed. Only Trustees of the Charity cannot apply.

The Trustees are: Dennis Patrick (Chairman), The Vicar, Shirley Blakelock (Treasurer, Secretary and Administrator), Mary Hancox, with Susie Pasley-Tyler for Coton and Steven Holt for Teeton.

This is surely one of the oldest and finest Charities of its kind anywhere.




HOUSE OF COLOUR

Viv Jozsa invites you to an introduction to

Personal Colour, Image & Style

Monday 8th December 2003
7 - 8pm
Ravensthorpe Village Hall
Refreshments Available

DONATIONS TO:


For more information tel Viv: 771076

PLAYING FIELD - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IT WAS ENCOURAGING to have 16 people attend the AGM of the Playing Field Committee on the evening of 18TH November. The young of the village were represented by 11 years old Alex Nottingham.

Chairman Alan Worthington expressed his gratitude for this demonstration of interest and especially thanked Chris Freeman and Brendan Heenan, who are retiring from the Committee, for all their years of service and solid support. Barry Langsford will be the new Treasurer. John Gibson, Ken Hickman and Tim Hogben continue on the Committee and are joined by Eddie Cole, Wendy Boland, Sally Edwards, Martin Wilkes and Viv Jozsa.

The Chairman stated that the Playing Fields could not afford another poor financial year. Fund raising efforts and donations have fallen short of the amount required. The Parish Council decided not to contribute funds through additional rates but have given £500 to help the situation. The matter remains under review. The Chairman hopes that there

will be a new input of ideas to stimulate fund raising while co-ordinating events and activities.

The previous committee felt somewhat isolated, being largely comprised of six men, heavily occupied elsewhere - earning a living. It is hoped that the new enlarged committee will rejuvenate the situation and that our village as a whole will take a more active role in supporting the Playing Field.

Special thanks were expressed to Nigel Fox who has volunteered for many years to mow the field - a three hour job virtually every week during the growing season.

The committee is also looking for cleaners to improve the cleanliness of the Pavilion. It would be good if two or so youngsters would devote a couple of hours a month to this task, perhaps to earn some pocket money.

On an encouraging note, the Bonfire Night was very well supported and more than covered the cost - for a change. Hopefully this represents a renewed statement of support by our Village.

WELCOME MAURA

We cordially welcome Maura Gannon who has recently settled-in to 6 Little Lane. Maura moved from Duston, Northampton where she had lived for the last 20 years. She is dedicated and committed to work and care for young people at Connexions-Northamptonshire

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE IS 22ND JANUARY

Contact Editor John Mott,
16 Church Gardens
Ravensthorpe Tel 770618
or email: clive.jcapr@talk21.com

CHURCH SERVICES

ALTAR FLOWERS
AND BRASS ROTA

Sunday 7 TH December	11.00am	Family Service	Mrs Rosemary Gee
Sunday 14 TH December	11.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Ann Fowler
Sunday 21 ST December	8.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Ann Fowler
Sunday 21 ST December	10.00am	Celebration of Revd John Tarrant's 40 years of Ordination. Guilsborough	
Wednesday 24 TH December	5.00pm	Carol Service Christmas Eve	
Thursday 25 TH December	11.30am	Holy Communion Christmas Day Mrs Yvonne Reeve	
Sunday 28 TH December	10.00am	Benefice Service, Guilsborough	
	11.00am	Benefice Service, Hollowell	
Sunday 4 TH January	11.00am	Family Service	Mrs Yvonne Reeve
Sunday 11 TH January	11.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Yvonne Childs
Sunday 18 TH January	8.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Yvonne Childs
Sunday 25 TH January	11.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Yvonne Childs
Sunday 1 ST February	11.00am	Family Service	Mrs Wendy Bates.