

## VICAR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends

Christians keep Christmas to celebrate the birth as a human baby of the Son of God. Over the years and indeed over the centuries, our familiar traditions have grown, and we love them. Some of the things we do have more to do with the real Christmas than others, but they all add up. Many of us look each year for something a bit different and a bit better. Next Christmas (2008) will certainly be different for Madeleine and me, as this will be our last Christmas here. We hope it will be a good one for us and for all of you.

During this year we have bought ourselves a house in Salisbury to live in when I retire at the end of February. It will be quite a change living within walking distance of the centre of a city and close to the railway station. The house is a good size for us, and visitors, and well placed for family. We shall enjoy it and are beginning to look forward to being there.

First though we shall have to take leave of you, and that will be hard. The seven and a half years we have been here have passed very quickly, in most part because we have been happy among so many good friends. It is not the done thing for clergy to come back to their old parishes to keep up friendships, so we shall have to rely on you to come and see us - you will be very welcome.

With our love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*John & Madeleine*

## GUILSBOROUGH SCHOOL PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 14th December  
2.45 - 4.30pm  
at the School

All are welcome

Proceeds  
to the Primary School

## GRAVEL

An Open Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 21st November. The Chairman, John Matts advised those present that preventing gravel extraction from the Lodge Farm, West Haddon site would not be easy. The decision of the cabinet of the County Council would this time be final, either for or against, with no future comeback. **The deadline for objections is 13th December.** Technical arguments only will be considered. These include gravel workings on a designated Special Landscape Area, something which has never happened before. Also relevant is the "carbon footprint" produced by the heavy lorry traffic to the processing facility at Sharwell. On-site processing is not supposed to happen, so a higher volume of transportation will be required. Chris Miller of Daventry County Council warned that if the site was approved it could be the "thin edge of the wedge" for expansion in the future and could effect and devastate the area for many years to come.

Ian Pasley Tyler, our District Councillor stated that Daventry District Council was wholly opposed to this site.

This was confirmed when on the following evening the Daventry District Council Strategy Committee vehemently and unanimously opposed the scheme.

However, it is vital that all those opposed to the site write or e-mail the cabinet members of Northamptonshire County Council.

Their website is:

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/  
environment/minerals](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/environment/minerals).

Cabinet members are Ben Smith, Jim Harker, Liz Tavener, Ursula Jones, John Kirkbride, Bill Parker, Bob Seery and Rosemary Bromwich. Their mailing address is **Leadership Support, Northamptonshire County Council, PO Box 136, County Hall, Northampton NN1 1AT.**

A list of Cabinet Members with their personal e-mail addresses is on the village notice board.

Our Parish Council will be objecting on the technical grounds so, in order to avoid too much repetition, use any arguments you wish.

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT THIS  
BEAUTIFUL VALLEY RUINED,  
YOU MUST ACT NOW.**

## RETIREMENT OF THE REVEREND JOHN TARRANT

Since his appointment, first to Guilsborough and associated churches in 2000 and then to Ravensthorpe in 2003, John has become a real friend to all, proving to be a most capable, conscientious, caring and extremely hardworking Vicar to both church going and non-churchgoing persons in our village community. John and Madeleine will be greatly missed. **Their farewell service will be on 10th February 2008 at 11.00am.**

Churchwardens David Johnstone at 1, Coton Road and Meg Benn at 19 Church Gardens are organising a collection for John and Madeleine and they will be pleased to receive donations over the next two months.

## PRESENTS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN CAROL SERVICE

Once again you are invited to bring presents, for disadvantaged children, to place under the tree at **The Carol Service in St Denys on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm.**

Please mark presents for a boy or girl with approximate suitable age.

**The Christmas Tree has again been generously donated by Trevor and Pat Foss.**

## Christmas Trees & Door Wreaths

## TURKEYS & COCKERELS

Can be boned or rolled -plus -  
Range of other meats & stuffings

**FREE DELIVERY IN VILLAGE  
Order in advance, or call in**

**TREVOR & PAT FOSS  
Hawtoft Farm, 34 Guilsborough Rd  
Ravensthorpe ☎ 01604 770466**



**RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER 2pm - 5pm**

All names have been collected and we look forward to having a wonderful afternoon. A list of food still required is in the Post Office. Anyone wishing to give any of these items, please add your name.

**Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals we now have TEN FANTASTIC HAMPERS as Raffle Prizes. Raffle tickets available at the Village Shop. Stubs should be returned by 13th December.**

**VILLAGE HALL News**

The VH VOLUNTEERS meeting held on 6th November was very well attended and it was agreed that we shall now be moving forward with plans to improve the Hall. Consideration was given to how this might be achieved.

The next meeting will be held in the new year after other hall-users have been contacted for their views.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The Special Collection in recognition of the effects of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan at the Remembrance Day Service raised £165 for the Royal British Legion.

**WOMEN'S' INSTITUTE**

Thursday 13th December at 8.00pm

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

in the VILLAGE HALL

-----Monthly Meeting

Thursday 17th January at 8.00pm

**"CIRCLE DANCING"**

by Ruby Bliss

**VILLAGE SHOW**

Ravensthorpe W.I. will be holding another "Village Show" on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008.**

So order your seeds **NOW**

**ST VALENTINE'S DAY  
DANCE**

16<sup>th</sup> February

in the Village Hall

Live music by

**"BACK IN TIME"**

Further details on the Village Hall Notice Board, nearer the time

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE  
DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE  
IS 23rd JANUARY**

Contact Editor John Mott, 16 Church Gdns  
Ravensthorpe Tel 770618  
or email: [clive.jcapr.T21@btinternet.com](mailto:clive.jcapr.T21@btinternet.com)

**AUTUMN LUNCHES**

The last lunch in the series at Ann Fowlers' was a resounding success. £171 was raised including the sale of a few home products. This money was sent to Northampton Deaf and Hard of Hearing to help them buy a minibus and go on outings.

Thanks again to the hostesses and all who supported the lunches.

**PLAYING FIELDS**

Although the attendance was less than last year, The **Bonfire Night** was a success. £300 was raised for Playing Fields' Funds. The Firework Display was brilliantly orchestrated, making for a wonderful spectacle. Many thanks again to our team of expert pyrotechnicians.

The editor greatly enjoyed Wendy Bollard's chilli con carne.

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There remain three vacancies on the Playing Field's Committee. New members will be welcomed. Meetings are more of a social gathering than an arduous duty. **If interested contact Martin Wilkes on 770975.**

**FAIRTRADE/TRADECRAFT**

Thank you to the supporters of my Coffee Morning for Tradecraft and Children in Need.

I was sorry to see such a small number from the village, but linking it to a second "meeting" in the same week it made a healthy income for those desperately in need.

Tradecraft sold £121. Children in Need made donations of £41.

Many thanks  
Jayne Tatham Harris

**SOUND AND HEARING  
LOOP SYSTEM**

From the proceeds of the Church Fete that Colin and Emma Mold so kindly organised, and a donation from Hollowell Steam, an order has been placed for a Sound and Loop System to be installed in St Denys Church, hopefully early in 2008.

The microphones and loudspeakers will make it easier to hear the quieter speakers and the loop will help those with hearing aids. There will also be a plug-in CD facility to provide for individual requests on special occasions.

**Air Ambulance Coffee Morning**

Just over £1,000 was raised at the Coffee Morning on 17th November. This fantastic result is a great credit to **Doreen Buck** who organised the event once again and to all those who helped and contributed in so many ways.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

ALTAR FLOWERS  
AND BRASS ROTA

Sunday	9 <sup>TH</sup> December	11.00am	Family Service	Ann Fowler
Sunday	16 <sup>TH</sup> December	1100am	Holy Communion	Ann Fowler
Sunday	23 <sup>RD</sup> December	8.30am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Reeve
Monday	24 <sup>TH</sup> December	5.00pm	<b>Carol Service Christmas Eve</b>	Yvonne Reeve
Tuesday	25 <sup>TH</sup> December	10.00am	<b>Holy Communion Christmas Day</b>	Yvonne Reeve
Sunday	30 <sup>TH</sup> December	10.00am	<b>Group Service at Spratton</b>	
Sunday	6 <sup>TH</sup> January	11.00am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Childs
Sunday	13 <sup>TH</sup> January	11.00am	Family Service	Yvonne Childs
Sunday	20 <sup>TH</sup> January	11.00am	Holy Communion	Beryl Mott
Sunday	27 <sup>TH</sup> January	8.30am	Holy Communion	Beryl Mott
Sunday	3 <sup>RD</sup> February	11.00am	Holy Communion	

**Vicar: The Reverend John Tarrant: Tel. 743508**