

# NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church  
Village Website – [www.ravensthorpe.me.uk](http://www.ravensthorpe.me.uk)

## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARK BATTISON, Interim Minister for the Uplands Group of Parishes

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all and I hope the festive break was everything that you hoped for and that 2011 brings you new and exciting challenges and that you feel the Holy presence of our Lord in all aspects of your lives.

**In February we start our new rota for Sunday worship with the main change being that each month, on the second Sunday, we will be having a Group Service at one of the eight churches that now form the Uplands Group of Parishes.**

This has also meant some small changes to the worship times and styles on the remaining Sundays so please check the Newsletter and church porch notice board. There will also, inevitably be some variations in the calendar year to cope with, for example Easter Sunday and other special occasions when the normal pattern will have to be varied.

If any member of our communities would like to come to a Group Service, but has problems with transport, then please let your Church Warden or me know and we can arrange lifts, door to door.

We recently had a Group Service with over 70 people in the church and the joy and happiness generated, and peace felt, was fantastic – we all left on a high having spent an hour worshipping God and thanking him for loving us so much and sharing fellowship with friends – old and new!

Do come to the Group Services and share in the wonderful work God is doing in our villages. **The first of the new series of Group Services will be at St Denys Church, Ravensthorpe (with choir) on Sunday, 13th February.**

God Bless, The Revd. Mark

**A QUESTIONNAIRE IS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH.** As part of the new service rota we want to make our churches more responsive and relevant to your needs and welcome more of you to our fellowship. In these times of national indebtedness, with cuts in social services, rising unemployment - particularly amongst the young, personal debt at record levels and the rising cost of living – surely there is a role for the church to help alleviate some of the resulting worry and hardship. Let us know how you think we can help you and others.

**LENT COURSES** – A Series of five short courses entitled **READ, MARK, LEARN** will be held each week from Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March and then on the following Tuesdays – all in the Guilsborough Surgery starting at 7.30pm. More details will be given in next month's Newsletter.

**THE CAROL SERVICE** – Despite it being a bitterly cold Christmas Eve, St Denys was packed for the Carol Service although this year almost everyone had a seat. The choir sang beautifully and special thanks are due to Trevor and Pat Foss for donating AND erecting the fine Christmas Tree. It was, once again, a happy and joyful occasion.

**LENT LUNCHESES** – Trish Freeman is organising five Lent Lunches. The first on 16th March. Details next month.

### EDITORIAL – by John Mott

As you know the Newsletter is funded by St Denys Church and so priority is given to publishing church related matters. However, I endeavour to cover all aspects of village life, the work of our various organisations, fund raising activities, and your concerns, interests and ideas. Therefore your contributions are greatly appreciated. I can think of few occasions when I have failed to publish a contribution within at least two months even though the Newsletter is restricted to two sides of a single A4 page.

I have now been editor for well over ten years and any fresh ideas would be welcome, or maybe someone would like to take over. I am extremely grateful to **Martin Wilkes** who prints out the 305 copies each month and as always to 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.** Thank you all !

**LESLIE MALCOLM FOX** passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Les was born in Ravensthorpe in 1934. He attended the village school and then Guildsbrough school. Les joined the church choir and, in his junior days played football for the village. After leaving school he started painting and decorating working for his Dad and then joined the Northampton Water Authority, mainly repairing vehicles in their garage.

Les met his sweetheart, Doreen from Brixworth and cycled there many times to be with her. Les then spent time in the services, mostly in Korea. By then he was married to Doreen and together they had four boys and then seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Les' social time was spent a lot with his family and visiting The Chequers every Sunday lunch time and occasionally for lunch during the week.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

**ISABEL (ISA) WATSON** died aged 77 on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. She was born in Glasgow where she met her husband, John, brother of Albert Watson. They moved to Ravensthorpe in 1961, before moving on to East Haddon and then Sibbertoft where her husband worked in the poultry business. She moved back to Ravensthorpe before John died in 2000. She is survived by one son and a daughter, Jill. The latter lives in Welford.

**JOAN HIGHTON** died on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 aged 89. She was born in Stoney Stanton, Leicester and came with her husband, Leo to live in Ravensthorpe in 1979. For the past four years she suffered from dementia and was in a nursing home in Market Harborough. She had a son, Terry, two grandsons and two grandchildren. *(There will be more about her life in future Newsletters as we plan a series of articles on the life of her husband, Leo).*

**VILLAGE HALL NOTES by Trevor Foss**– The Children's Christmas Party was a great success once again with food and entertainment provided free of charge by the committee to all village children. The party ended with a visit from Father Christmas. Only problem, we had too many mums who decided to stay as well! My thanks to all who made the afternoon go so well.

My thanks also to Ann Fowler and Marie Wornum for putting on the January Village Hall lunch at Home Farm.

**The next lunch will be in the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February at 12,30 for 1pm. Bookings, Lin Hudson 770562.**

We anticipate work starting on the refurbishments in early May so please remember this if planning an event this summer as the hall will be closed for approximately 16 weeks.

**As a penultimate push to raise funds for the hall refurbishment an event is planned for Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. This is centred around Mandy Barber's exceedingly stylish clothes – Details next month but make a note of the date.**

**MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD NEWS.** - The Quiz night in the village hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December raised £456 for the Playing Field Funds. As in the past this was a well attended and very enjoyable evening.

The Winter Olympics – Chequers Challenge on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> December was a huge success. The Chequers was full and the spirit and hilarity of the games made for a wonderful event. The winning team of four comprised Becky and Howard Wallington with Sally Barringer and Martin Wilkes - a fitting group of committee members! £365 was raised and everyone wants to do it again next year.

**SNOWDROPS & HELLEBORES at COTON MANOR – 12<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 11am – 4pm**

Light lunches and teas served all week – Entry £3 – Further information on 740219

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. 8pm in the Village Hall Beetle Drive, Cheese & Wine - Hostesses; Shirley Blakelock & Sandra Patrick - New members and visitors welcome.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February **10.00am Group Service (with choir) Ravensthorpe**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February **9.45am** Holy Communion

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am Morning Service

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 8.30am Holy Communion

**ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA**

Beryl Mott

Thalia Pike

Thalia Pike

Ann Fowler

Ann Fowler

Interim Minister: The Revd. Mark Battison – phone 846690

*Contributions for the March Newsletter should be sent by 21<sup>st</sup> February to the editor, John Mott  
At 16 Church Gardens or telephone 770618 – email [jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk)*