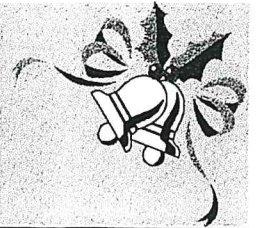


**A MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**



CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Services

Sunday 7th December
6.00 pm Christingle Service

Sunday 21st December
6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve
6.00 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10.30 am Festival Eucharist

Tuesday 6th January The Epiphany
7.30 pm Sung Eucharist

Sunday 11th January
6.30 pm Epiphany Carols at Welton

Regular Services

Sundays
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Sunday School
10.30 am Parish Eucharist (except for Family Service on 14th Dec. & 11th January)

Monday 8th & 22nd Dec and 12th & 26th Jan
2.15 pm The Little Fishers

Wednesdays
10.30 am Holy Communion

Daily
Matins are said at 9 am and Evensong at 6 pm

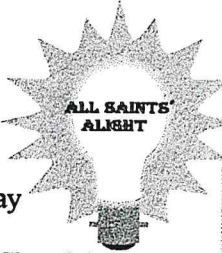
Parish Priest : Revd. James Watson 890235 (Rest Day - Thursdays)
Churchwardens: John Caunt 890776 and Trevor Minett 890908

Holy Baptism 2nd November
Sophie Anne & Katie Mae PENN-SMITH
Joseph Frederick COLEMAN
It is with great pleasure that we welcome them into the Lord's family.

Church Floodlighting

22nd Nov. John Moger's birthday
(requested by Jane Longman)

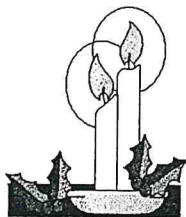
23-29 Nov. Brian Dawson's birthday



(Lighting request forms at back of Church.)

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Little Fishers' Carol Service
Monday 22nd December at 2.15 pm
for pre-school children - older brothers and sisters welcome too!



The Christingle Service
in aid of the Children's Society on
Sunday 7th December at 6.00pm.
This most popular children's service was established 250 years ago by the Moravian Church in Germany. Please come and join us and bring your donation in the envelope delivered with the BVN. Envelopes will not be collected from your home but may be left at the Post Office if you are unable to come to the service.

Vicar's Letter

Dear All,

Can it be that Christmas is with us already! All of us are busy buying presents and getting the food ready for the festive season. With so much to do, it is all too easy to forget the real meaning of Christmas. So here's a tip. As you are decorating your Christmas tree, think about what some of the decorations might mean....

The fairy on the top of the tree. Really it should be an angel. The angel Gabriel brought the news to Mary that she was going to have a baby. The angel sits on top of the tree because he has a message to tell everyone, that God's special king is born.

What about the fairy lights? Really these remind us that Christ is the Light of the World. Jesus brings the light of love into a world dark with sadness and wrong.

Finally, the stars that are hung on the Christmas tree tell us of the star which led the wise men to Bethlehem. There are millions of stars in the sky, but this is a special one and in pictures it is often drawn bigger than the rest.

Why not think about these things as you decorate your Christmas tree this year?

A very joyful Christmas to everyone!

Revd. James Watson

We are having an **AUDIO LOOP** installed in the church. Hopefully it should be ready by Christmas

Printed by Daventry
Tertiary College

Friendly Club

Christmas Lunch at the Wheatsheaf Monday 8th December

If you haven't got your name down for this please phone Gill on 890763 as soon as possible.

*Monday 15th December - Mincepie Tea
in the Village Centre*



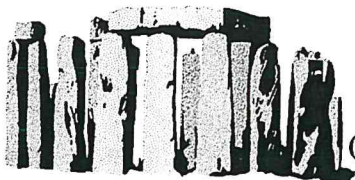
Braunston Womens' Institute.

Braunston W.I. will celebrate Christmas with a party on 2nd December when the Committee will provide food and entertainment for the members. Everyone is reminded to bring a small present for the Bran Tub.

On 13th January we look forward to another Celebration Lunch at the Wheatsheaf in lieu of a formal meeting.

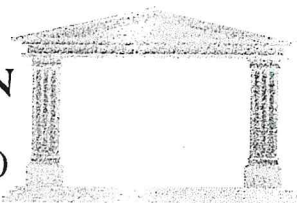
(For further information contact Gill Powell 890763)

WEA BRAUNSTON BRANCH



PREHISTORIC and ROMAN BRITAIN

(with particular reference to Northants and the South Midlands)



The second course to be run by the Braunston Branch of the WEA will start on Thursday 15th January at the School at 8 pm. The course will run for 10 weeks and will probably include at least one field trip.

Further details from Richard Dibben (890515) or Amanda Hatheson (890706)



The Royal British Legion Braunston & District Branch

Our Poppy Day Appeal this year resulted in a 6½ % increase on the amount collected last year. The Branch wishes to thank everyone for their generous contributions given for this worthy cause. We can assure you it is greatly appreciated. The collectors also appreciated the courtesy given to them when making their house and business calls.

**The next meeting will be held at the
Stags Head, Watford on Tuesday
9th December at 20.00 hrs.**

New members are always welcome

Braunston Twinning Association

INVASION !!!

The coach from Quincy-Voisins will arrive on Friday 1st May 1998 and will leave on Sunday 3rd May.

Join in a weekend of 'Entente Cordiale'

Call Beverley Hankinson on 891221 for more details.

BARN DANCE !!

Saturday 7th March 1998 in the School Hall
...put it in your diary now before you forget...

Tickets from Elizabeth Gwynne on 891331

**The first meeting of 1998 will be on Wednesday
7th January at 8 pm in the Wheatsheaf**

The Village Bells by Peter Wenham (Part 1)

Early information about our bells is found in North's "Inscriptions on the Church Bells of Northamptonshire". From this we learn that in 1522 there were four bells in the steeple and a sanctus bell. In 1672 these ancient bells were cast into a ring of six

bells by Richard Keene of Woodstock. From a record of the inscriptions made in 1700 it appears that the third bell was recast again in 1681.

The present bells were cast by John Briant of Hertford in 1811; the weight of the tenor (largest) bell was recorded in our Churchwardens' Book in 1812 as 17 cwt 2 qrs 13 lbs, or 897 kg. The total weight of the six bells is over 3 tons (3150 kg). John Briant's bill was £237-15-6. It is also recorded that a frame of 'good oak' was ordered at a cost of £60 and that John Briant's account was paid in 1813. These bells must have been installed originally in the old church and transferred, presumably complete with the bell frame to the present building.

Cast into the tenor bell is the name J.EVANS VICAR. This was a mistake because the *Rector* of Braunston was John Williams. It has been suggested that the bell was muddled with one for Willoughby whose bells were also recast at that time but it is more likely that J. Evans who was curate here when the bell was recast managed to get his name recorded for posterity!
(To be continued)

Daventry District Community Safety Group Public Meeting

Thursday 4th December at 7 pm

in Committee Rooms at the Council Offices. The Police will report on their work and there will be an opportunity for the public to say what they think should be done to reduce crime and improve public safety