

BRAUNSTON PARISH CHURCH

The Revd. Michael Tompkins,  
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CHURCH SERVICES

Each Sunday, 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Eucharist, except 10th December which will  
be Morning Prayer with Baptism.  
THERE WILL BE NO EVENSONG THIS MONTH, instead,  
3rd Dec. 6.00pm Deanery ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at Holy Cross, Daventry  
10th Dec. 6.30pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
17th Dec. 6.30pm CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

24th Dec. Normal Sunday morning services  
11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and First Celebration of Christmas  
25th Dec. 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Festal Eucharist with Carols.

The Holy Day services between Christmas and New Year are to be shared between Holy Cross and All Saints' and times will be published in the weekly bulletin.

FUNERALS: Edward Frederick Marshall aged 73

Norman Robert Spires aged 63  
Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.

December here again, already! and probably catching many of us not ready. I hope the Christmas puddings have all been made, the last Sunday in November was 'Stir up Sunday', any puddings made later will not have time to mature. 'Stir up Sunday' is another example of the regular pattern of life taking its marker from the Church calendar - 'Stir up' are the opening words of the Collect (the special prayer of the day) for the last Sunday before Advent, and a timely reminder that Christmas is but four or five weeks away. Most of December is in the Advent season (which finishes on the 24th December) and is the time of preparation for Christmas, the time of waiting for the Coming of Jesus. I think we lose something of the Joy and Festivity of Christmas by having Christmas lights and Muzak carols from the end of October onwards. But the joy of the Festival itself is not lost on the young, especially if the sense of anticipation is maintained. In the Church we celebrate the fact that God became Man, starting his earthly life as any other man - as a baby. It is this solidarity between God and Man which gives us Hope for the future and strength in time of need, because God is with us. In the Church and the world we celebrate the Family at Christmastime, enjoying the relationships we have with each other.

I hope you get all your preparations done in time, both in puddings and in prayers, and that you have a very happy Christmas. I hope, too, you will remember those for whom Christmas is not always a happy occasion, the homeless, the poor, the lonely, the friendless - Jesus shared all our human conditions.

May the infant Jesus bring you the blessings of Joy and Peace.

Michael Tompkins.

SIDESMENS ROTA

Dec. 3rd	L. Thompson	8.00am	F. Cox & B. Dawson	10.30am
10th	M. Chamberlain		K. Minett & D. Turner	
17th	F. Spencer Lee		G. Powell & C. Dunn	
24th	D. Hamer		B. Wasser & C. Wasser	
25th	D. Foulkes		E. Thorp & M. Chamberlain	
31st	B. Dawson		D. Hamer & D. Foulkes	

ALTAR FLOWERS

High Altar St. Giles

Dec. 3rd & 10th Mrs. C. Curtis

Miss M. Havard

Saturday Dec. 16th - Church decoration 10.0am.

BRAUNSTON FRIENDLY CLUB The Coffee Morning last month was well attended. The amount realized from the raffle and bring & buy stall was £49.37 for Club Funds.

At the last meeting Mrs. C. Hyde, Senior Nurse Manager of Danetre Hospital told of the great improvements at the Hospital, and invited any who would care to go and look round. Mrs. Wendy Tompkins gave the vote of thanks. The Draw prizes were kindly given by Mrs. W. Kendall. An extra prize, a knitted 'Sammy Scarecrow' was made and given by Mrs. Jean Bartells and won by Mr. R. Hollis. The Bring & Buy Stall and draws made a grand total of £77.26, which was given as a donation to the Hospital. During the afternoon Mrs. Pat Justice & Mrs. Ann Smith from Age Concern, called in to present framed certificates to Mrs. M. Turner, Mrs. H. Bradshaw and Mrs. A. Beckett in recognition of their 25 years service with the Club.

Tuesday 12th Dec. The Christmas Dinner will take place in the Village Centre. 12.30pm for 12.45pm.  
Monday 18th Dec. A Mince Pie Tea will be held in the Village Centre, with a Bring & Buy Stall. 2.00 - 4.00pm.

A lovely doll, given and dressed by Mrs. E. Merchant is on show in the Post Office, where draw tickets are being sold for Friendly Club Funds. BRAUNSTON WOMENS' INSTITUTE The November talk on 'The art of making

Christmas Crackers' was well received and many members will be experimenting as a result of Mrs. Richardson's excellent demonstration. Don't forget the Christmas Party on Dec. 5th. We hope "F.C." will be there to distribute the presents. (Each person to bring a wrapped gift - value 75p for his sack) Refreshments will be provided by the Committee, so join the W.I. on this festive occasion and participate in all the events scheduled for 1990.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Wish to thank all Poppy sellers and everyone who helped to make this a record collection from Braunston of £484.

Thank you once again and a Happy Christmas to all of you.  
BRAUNSTON PLAYGROUP The Christmas Coffee Morning is being held in the Village Centre on Friday 15th December at 10.00am. There will be various stalls - cakes, Christmas decorations, second hand toys books and a tombola. Come along for a cup of coffee and a mince pie and hear the children singing carols.

FRIENDS OF BRAUNSTON SCHOOL are holding a Christmas Quiz on Saturday 9th December at 7.00pm in the School Hall. All are welcome.  
Entry is £3 per team (A team consists of 2 adults and a minimum of 1 child)  
Entry forms are available from:- Mr. A. Roberts 14 North Close,  
Mrs. J. Douglas 4 Hazel Croft, & Mrs. L. Evans 42 Church Road.

#### VILLAGE NOTES

Some time ago if anyone examined the acorns growing on the oak tree at the junction of Church Road and Greenway, they would be able to see the distortion of practically all the acorns on that tree. From the end of each acorn grew black spikes, and inside the shell lay a grub. It seemed that this had grown from an egg laid by some insect and in this process had distorted the acorn.

Numerous and varied insects lay eggs inside the tissues of certain plants and possibly due to some reaction of the plant a gall develops. Although the oak is our strongest plant more insects attack it than any other. There is the oak apple gall, the marble gall. The spangle gall on the leaf and another gall on its root.

Nor are the galls attached to the oak, the only galls the wild rose is attached by a gall wisp which causes the rose branch to bear the gall known as a pincushion and the willow bears its own variety of gall.

Why the insect should cause the gall to take such a shape seems to be a mystery.

The English oak seems to have been the foundation of the British Navy as the ships which gave Britain its maritime supremacy were built of its sturdy timbers. One retired Admiral worried lest there should be a dearth of this timber in the future used to walk round with a pocket full of acorns and it was said that many of the oak trees planted around Morpeth had grown from acorns planted in this way by Admiral Collingwood.

MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR, BY 21ST DECEMBER.