

BRAUNSTON PARISH CHURCH

The Revd. Michael Tompkins,
The Rectory, Braunston,
Telephone No. Rugby 890235.

CHURCH SERVICES

Each Sunday - 8.00am Holy Communion
Evensong is at 6.30pm on the First Sunday in the Month (4th February)
28th February is Ash Wednesday, the First Day of Lent, Holy Communion
at 7.30pm.

FUNERALS: 5th January Phyllis Mary Marshall aged 71 years.
10th January Gwendoline Alice Hargrave aged 85 years
(Burial of Ashes)

12th January Elsie Gibbs aged 88 years.
We extend our deepest sympathy to all who mourn their passing.

February is usually one of our coldest months, although with the exceptionally mild weather in the first half of January, we cannot be certain. It's a good time to stay indoors and make plans for the better weather. In the Church we are looking forward in this way to planning for the better use of our building, planning for better use of our worship time and laying plans for even better surroundings to the Parish Church.

In planning the better use of our Church Building, we have completed the installation of a toilet suite and a small kitchen, we have moved the organ and we now hope to partition-off the space left behind to make a separate room for the use of the Sunday School, but it is my hope that this room will have a wider use - more on that subject on a future occasion.

In trying to make better use of our worship time, the PCC will be discussing all aspects of our worship and also other forms that we do not use. This will make for a good discussion and will concentrate our minds on the reason for the Church meeting as it does.

The plans for the Churchyard include the proposed Conservation Area and other conservation ideas. This project is taking a long time to get underway, but I am sure it will be worthwhile. A major item this year will be an increase in the area of the Churchyard Extension, what we usually call the cemetery; there is only enough space left for this current year, so the PCC will have to open up more of the field that was given so long ago by Mrs. Bayliss, a big job, but one which will have to be tackled.

That is some of the planning we need to do; how much will be done and how quickly depends largely on the available manpower.

The last day of the month is the start of Lent which we will be keeping each week as usual with a Wednesday evening Service followed by a discussion group. Prayer and fasting are the traditional ways of keeping this time, I hope you are able to do both, and derive benefit from doing so.

Michael Tompkins.

SIDESMENS ROTA	8.00am	10.30am	6.30pm
February 4th	L. Thompson	E. Thorp & M. Chamberlain	E. Clarke
11th	M. Chamberlain	D. Foulkes & J. Reed	
18th	F. Spencer Lee	F. Cox & K. Minnett	
25th	D. Hamer	D. Turner & B. Dawson	
28th	ASH WEDNESDAY (service at 7.30pm)	B. Dawson	

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 4th & 11th	High Altar	St. Giles
18th & 25th	Miss M. Chamberlain	Miss E. Thorp
	Mrs. M. Hick	Mrs. P. French

No flowers during Lent.

URGENT NOTICE RE WASTE PAPER COLLECTIONS

Notification has been received that our Waste Paper Merchant is no longer able to collect our waste newspapers, magazines and cardboard. No alternative merchant is in a position to assist us, but in view of our relationship over a period of more than 5 years our usual contractor has agreed to collect from Braunston on SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY - so please put out your waste paper on that day, WHICH WILL

BE THE FINAL COLLECTION. More details in the March B.V.N.

BRAUNSTON FRIENDLY CLUB On January 8th an informative talk was given by Mrs. Jane Evans, Community Liaison Officer from Northampton. She told of the many benefits obtainable from the Social Security, and how to apply for these. Mrs. Janet McCarthy gave the vote of thanks. At the last meeting two short slide shows "Folk Lore of the Countryside" and "The Rose of the Shires" were shown by Mrs. Gillian Powell. Many of the old Churches of Northamptonshire were featured in the programme. Monday Feb. 12th Mrs. Hazel Parsons of Barby will entertain. Monday Feb. 26th "Carefree Holidays" of Northampton will show films of their coach holidays.

BRAUNSTON WOMENS' INSTITUTE There being no January meeting some of us visited the Rugby Theatre where the young and young at heart thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime, Cinderella.

Mrs. L. Taylor our speaker at the next meeting, will discuss the work of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, a subject that should be interesting to all of us.
Meeting begins 7.30pm Tuesday 6th February, Village Hall.

FRIENDS OF BRAUNSTON SCHOOL are holding a Jumble Sale at 10.00am on Saturday 10th February in the School Hall. Any jumble will be gratefully accepted. Refreshments will be served.

PARISH COUNCIL

PARKING Motorists parking on Ashby Road are requested not to obstruct the pathways to pensioners bungalows.

VANDALISM Due to Vandalism, the village notice board is to be removed and refurbished, in the meantime Public Notices will be displayed in the window of The Old Forge, 19, High Street..

ALLOTMENTS There is now a waiting list for village allotments. If any villager has one and does not intend to cultivate it this year, please notify Janet McCarthy Rugby 890336.

MISS F. WOODWARD would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and gifts and visited her during her recent stay in hospital.

VILLAGE NOTES

For reasons best known to themselves some animals prefer to make their home alongside the home of mankind. The presence of food and shelter may be the reason.

Not all of these are welcome guests. The Black and Brown Rats are regarded as enemies to be exterminated as soon as possible.

The Black Rat seems to have established itself in England in the 12th and 13th centuries. One suggestion is that it may have travelled in the ships of the Crusaders returning from the Eastern Mediterranean. With them they brought their own variety of flea which also brought the bacillus of Bubonic Plague which swept through Europe under the name of the Black Death. In that era the rules of hygiene were not applied or totally ignored by the Christians of Western Europe, so only in the ghettos of the Jewish population were these applied according to the Mosaic Law as laid down in the third book of Moses i.e. Leviticus, so they escaped the dire consequences of this neglect. Definite figures of the deaths are not available but in England one third of the population perished and in Wolfhamcote we believe none survived.

The Brown Rat established itself in England in the 18th century and in spite of poisons and vigorous attempts to exterminate it, it still flourishes.

One dainty resident which leaves its rather damp surroundings to visit the village is one of the wagtail family. He trots about the street looking for food, and the jerking of its tail gives it its name. In the cool weather it reminds us that spring is not far away. There are several varieties of this bird. Some stay all the winter, but the less hardy migrate to the milder climates in winter.

MATERIAL FOR THE MARCH ISSUE SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY 21ST FEBRUARY.
Duncan A. Gallie (Hon. Editor),
Alston House, High St., Braunston. Tel. No. Rugby 890200.