

BRAUNSTON PARISH CHURCH The Revd. Michael Tompkins. The Rectory, High St. Tel. 890235

CHURCH SERVICES, each Sunday, at 8.00am. - Holy Communion at 10.30am the Parish Eucharist except 2nd Sunday in the month when we have a FAMILY SERVICE. at 6.30pm. Evensong (with Hymns and sermon on the first Sunday of the month, only)

This month there is no TEAM EVENSONG.

Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily in church at 9.00am and 6.00pm. Services on Saints' Days are published in the weekly Bulletin. The Sunday School, known as Adventurers, meets at 10.15am in church each Sunday; all children of Primary School age are welcome.

FUNERAL: 20th. November, Frank Brailsford Spray, aged 87 yrs. We commend his soul to God.

SPECIAL SERVICES in DECEMBER.

6th. CHRISTINGLE. This popular candlelight service will be at 6.00pm.

Those who have been to this service will want to come again. If you haven't been, you will be made welcome and you will enjoy it.

Delivered with this edition of the BVN there is an envelope to enable you to make a contribution to the work of the Children's Society, should you wish to do so. Please bring this envelope with you to the Service; or, if you are not coming, give it to someone who is (or pop it through the Rectory letterbox).

Please note that no-one will be calling to collect the envelopes.

12th. Candlelit Carols at Wolfhamcote Church, 4.00pm.

18th. Carols and Songs around the Christmas Tree at Braunston School. 10.00am

20th. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Sunday at 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th. 11.30pm Midnight Mass, the first Celebration of Christmas

December 25th. 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service followed by Communion

December 26th. 10.00am Holy Communion

December 27th. usual Sunday Services

Dear Parishioners,

At All Saints' we have just gone through the exercise of giving away one tenth of our regular income. We do this every year, but this year there seemed to be so many deserving causes which were asking for funds that it really hurt not to be able to respond to all requests. The ranks of the needy are growing and I am sure that the gulf between rich and poor is widening. At the Christmas season our attention is drawn to the essential nature of meeting the needs of the deprived, because much need is felt most in winter and because people are at their most charitable when giving presents to all around.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. He was probably not born into poverty, but was born into considerable deprivation, according to the Gospel story - no bed for his mother and a cruel tyrant making the Roman occupation even worse. By his birth he gives hope for the future of mankind, and in his teaching Jesus tells us that there is no shame in being poor, one is no less dignified a human being for being unemployed, and still loved when homeless. The Old Testament teaches that riches are a sign of God's favour and poverty one's just deserts. Jesus would have none of that. If the rich were going to find favour they had to use their wealth for the service of others, with love (= charity). It is from the teaching of the Babe of Bethlehem that we gladly give of our income, with love and best wishes for the Charities we support. Would that we had more to do more good, but we haven't; what we do have is a firm conviction that it is right to give and not to count the cost and are not ashamed to ask others to do so at this Christmas-time.

I hope you have joy in your giving and your receiving this Christmas. Michael Tompkins

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR in the Village Centre, 5th. December from 11.30am to about 3.00pm. OPEN MEETING, followed by the A.G.M. Braunston Twinning Association invite you to join them on 14th January at 8pm in the lounge of the Wheatsheaf to find out more about "twinning" in general and also about the trip to our twin village of Quincy-Voisins which will be from 30th April-3rd May.

BRAUNSTON TODDLER GROUP meet every Thursday at 10.15am in the Village Hall. Children under 5 are welcome (with an accompanying adult). At 8op it's well worth a visit to meet other Mums with pre-school children and let toddlers work off excess energy!

BRAUNSTON PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING - Friday 11th Dec. 10am at the Village Hall. Come and enjoy a song from the children and a chance to purchase your Christmas crafts; various stalls including cakes & tombola, a Grand Christmas Raffle - super prizes!

THE FRIENDS OF BRAUNSTON SCHOOL will be holding a Christmas Fair at the Village Hall on Saturday 5th Dec. from 11am. Everybody is welcome. There will be stalls, games and refreshments. Father Christmas will be visiting the Braunston Grotto and will be delighted to see children young and old.

There will also be a children's competition for the best decorated Christmas Stocking. The prize Draw will take place in the afternoon - tickets are available now from school, committee members & shops in village. BRAUNSTON PANTOMIME GROUP wish to announce their forthcoming pantomime 'ROBIN OF FAWSLLEY' which will be performed between Tuesday 26th & Saturday 30th January 1993 in the Village Hall. Tickets will be on sale between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 16th January in the Village Hall. This year adult seats will be numbered therefore you will be able to choose your seat.

2nd BRAUNSTON SCOUTS Congratulations to Nathan Kemp, Alex Attack, James Benson, Neil Maltby and Philip Maltby on receiving the Chief Scout's Award. They were presented with the award on Saturday, 14th November, at Deans-hanger by the Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, Mr. John Lowther.

There are 6,000 boys involved in Scouting in Northamptonshire. Of the six awards given to the Daventry District, five went to the Braunston Group. These boys have worked for 5½ years in order to receive this honour. A Venture Scout Group has started in the village. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Den. If you are between 15½ and 21 years of age (male or female) and would like to join, come along and find out about their activities. You do not have to have been previously in Scouting.

BRAUNSTON FRIENDLY CLUB On 9th Nov. Brian Dawson gave us a fascinating talk on a visit he and his wife made to Russia in 1990. This was illustrated with slides showing many aspects of Russian life and culture. Pam Giles paid us a visit on 23rd Nov. and demonstrated making several interesting puddings. She also made several quick Christmas table decorations and as always made it all look so easy. Monday Dec. 14th We have been invited to the Village School at 1.45pm to see the childrens production of The Sorcerers Apprentice. This will be followed by a Mince-Pie Tea in the Village Hall at 3.15pm.

Monday Dec. 21st is the Clubs Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm for 12.45pm. January meetings will be on the 11th and 25th, programmes not yet finalized. BRAUNSTON WOMENS INSTITUTE last month we enjoyed a talk on Strawcraft with Mrs. Twigger. Nov. 9th some of us joined other Northamptonshire members to a day out in London.

Tuesday Dec. 1st we have our Christmas Party and Wine Tasting, do remember your gift for the bran tub!
A reminder that those going to Cinderella at the Derngate Sat. Jan 16th meet on The Green at 11.30am.

Happy Christmas to all members, friends and neighbours.

VILLAGE NOTES by Dick Herne The story of the premises now containing Gear Change reveals the density of occupation in the decades when Braunston's prosperity depended upon canal traffic. It also shows how rapidly fortunes changed when business was speculative and resources were limited. The tall three-storied house was built in 1824 for Thomas Cox, a joiner, on the site of a former dwelling owned by Henry Flecknoe.

Another house at the bottom of the garden was shared by Towers, a shoemaker, and Mead, a blacksmith. When the joinery business failed the main house was bought by John Leeson, a well-to-do bricklayer and builder by trade who owned the butcher's shop and other property in Cross Lane. Leeson himself went bankrupt in 1864 and his house was later sold to William March who set up a chemists business. He was followed by Thomas Tipstaff until 1913 when the house came into the possession of Mr. E. Hargrave who ran a bakery and grocery store. The shop had several owners before it was converted to a laundrette and then finally taken over by Gear Change.