

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

Churchwardens: Brian Dawson (890609) and Sheila Rowley (890559)

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 & Sermon on the first Sunday of the month  
only)

This month TEAM EVENSONG will be at Welton, on 21st at 6.30pm.  
Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily in church at 9.00am & 6.00pm.  
Services for Saints' Days are published in the weekly Bulletin.  
The Sunday School meets at 10.15am in church each Sunday; all children  
of Primary School age are welcome.

FUNERALS: February 5th. Peter William Green, aged 72 years.

February 8th. Alice Dorothy 'Doll' Hitchman, aged 74 years.  
We offer our deepest sympathy to the families of these well-known  
Braunston people.

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MOTHERING SUNDAY, 21st March, will be marked in church by a special  
Family Service at 10.30am. All families are invited to join us in  
giving thanks for Mothers.

LENTEN LUNCHESES of Bread and Soup will be served in the Parish Room  
each Saturday in March (6th, 13th, 20th and 27th) from 12.30 to 2.00pm.  
There will be no charge, but there will be a collection which will be  
sent to Somalia to help relieve starvation there. Everyone is welcome;  
do drop in between the shopping and the football and help someone in  
Africa to stay alive.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, the Church's AGM, will be held on  
17th March at 8.00pm in the Parish Room. All Parishioners are welcome  
to attend.

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Dear Parishioners,

The issues of crime and its punishment are filling the columns of  
newspapers and taking much air time, as I write. This is not a new  
subject and most of the solutions being put forward have been heard  
before and many tried. But crime is still with us and it seems to be  
increasing so is likely to be with us for a long time to come. In the  
Victorian age many worthy people saw poverty as the root cause of crime  
and worked hard and spent much money on relieving poverty, but crime  
did not go away. There is no doubt that poverty and social deprivation  
contribute to 'forcing people into crime', but no-one acts against  
their own instincts unless driven very hard. It would seem that our  
materialistic society has raised expectations so high that those with  
more than enough want even more. This may be understandable, but is  
selfish - especially as we see on our television screens, daily,  
people the world over with nothing.

Selfishness is not a crime, but can lead to an awful lot of wrongdoing.  
In Lent, the time between now and Easter, it is a good idea to look at  
our own motives for the things we do; are they for our own advantage  
and someone else's disadvantage? do we just want more? do we care who  
gets hurt by our plans? If we are only out for what we can get for  
ourselves then we are doing wrong, by our neighbour, by God and, maybe,  
by the law. It is by the moral values of society that one can judge how  
'good' life can be, and if life is 'good' what point in crime?

A quick post-script to last month's letter. If you want to know anything  
about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or the Churchyard, do come and ask me  
or the Churchwardens. We are always ready to help and it is NOT too much  
trouble to answer your query. If you ask us you are likely to get an  
accurate answer, which may not be the case if you 'just ask a friend'!

Michael Tompkins.

VILLAGE AWARD The conservation area in Jetty Field has attracted an award from the Esso Community Footpath Scheme. A presentation will take place at the top end of Jetty Field at 3pm on Wednesday March 31st. Braunston Conservation Group and National Starch and Chemical thank all who have given help and encouragement to the project. Development work continues on the first Sunday of each month from 10 to 12am - all are welcome; if you want to check on the particular activity give a call to Pat Herlihy on 890590.

BRAUNSTON FRIENDLY CLUB The Valentine Card Competition was very well supported on Feb.8th. We had some really splendid results. Mrs. Ball and Ray Hollis's cards were judged to be the best but all participants were awarded a small prize. Many thanks to Doris Hall and friends who came along on Feb.22nd and led us in the dancing. Four members enjoyed a game of dominoes. On Monday 8th March we are having a Fish & Chip Lunch, 12.30 for 12.45. Monday 22nd March The Perspectives Theatre are visiting with a show called "A Right Song and Dance". Tickets are £3 which includes tea afterwards (sandwiches, cake & tea) Performance at 2.30pm. On Saturday April 3rd we are holding a "Mile of Coins" event in the Village High Street, to raise funds for the Daventry Area Community Transport Scheme. £25,000 is needed to buy a specially adapted Mini Bus

BRAUNSTON WOMENS INSTITUTE Last month we had a first class meeting with a talk from Mr. Steve Parish on "The Dark Ages". This proved an interesting reminder of our past and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Next meeting March 2nd the speaker is Mr. Kemp and entitled "Just Cruising".

Saturday March 13th A Jumble Sale is arranged at the Village Hall 2.0pm. Wednesday March 24th The W.I. Group Meeting will be in Braunston.

BRAUNSTON VILLAGE GARDENS ASSOCIATION SHOP will be open from March 6th, every Sunday Morning 11-12 noon, for sales of garden fertilizer/compost etc.

#### VILLAGE NOTES by Dick Herne

Ash Tree House, one of the larger houses in the village, stands in a walled garden. Its facade has changed little since it was built. The South side of the Green has seen several alterations. A mid terrace cottage has a new stucco front that gives it extra height. New bungalows have replaced a long line of farm outbuildings. By the path that leads down to Bottom Lock there was once a sawpit where two men worked a two-handled saw cutting planks of wood from tree trunks. Next to it are two cottages that belonged to the parish and were used to house the homeless poor before the days of the workhouse. Adjoining them is a small double-fronted house that once belonged to Braunston's 19th century schoolmaster Mr. E. Smith who painted pictures of the village and the canal. Jettyfields House has a modern datestone - showing the year 1647 - and retains its small narrow windows. The factory entrance, has replaced a lane which contained many small cottages, one belonging to the Rodhouse family who moved to The Shambles. The two cottages beyond it were once a village inn known as The Dolphin.

BRAUNSTON BOWLING CLUB meets every Thursday afternoon 1.45 - 4.00pm in the Village Hall. We would welcome new members (50 +) - just come along on Thursdays, for a trial roll-up!

Material for the April Issue should reach Mrs.M.Foulkes by 21st March.