

BRAUNSTON PARISH CHURCH The Revd. Michael Tompkins,  
The Rectory, High Street, 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 TEAM EVENSONG is here at All Saints', 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.

FUNERAL: January 11th. Henry John 'Sonny' Allworthy, aged 75 years.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Margaret and her family in their loss.

Dear Parishioners,

Amidst all the interest and controversy about the goings on with the 'Royals', the question has been asked, 'Should Charles be allowed to become Supreme Governor of the Church?' often followed by 'Should any Head of State be Supreme Governor of the Church?' (The Queen is often spoken of as Head of the Church of England, which she isn't; the Head of the Church is he who founded it - our Lord, Jesus Christ.) In this letter I couldn't possibly cover all the ground that these questions need, but they do come home to us in Braunston when we try to see what is the relationship of the Church with our Village. The Church, as a body of people, is those Christians who meet regularly to worship God and reflect on what the teachings of Jesus mean in their lives and in the lives of others. The universal (or catholic) Church, of which the Church of England is a part, has divided up countries into parishes, so that everyone has a priest who can be called on as needed. The meaning of the Established Church, of which the Queen is Supreme Governor, is that each person in a parish is the spiritual responsibility of the priest appointed to that parish and has rights within the Church of the parish.

All this sounds very complicated, but it isn't. Everyone who lives in Braunston has the right to be baptized, married and eventually buried in, or from, All Saints' church. Of course, anyone is entitled to attend any service which takes place in the church, there are NO private services. And everyone has a right to the pastoral care of the appointed priest, whether a regular attender or not. I think it would make little difference to the ministry in Braunston whoever was 'Supreme Governor'; the services would continue; our daily prayers for individuals and the organisations of the village would not cease and I would like to think that the care for all who live in this ancient parish would continue for ever.

I am very pleased to report that there will be four Concerts in All Saints' church this year; for the Braunston Boat Show there will be the Beauchamp Sinfonietta on the 29th May and Fiori Musicali on the 30th May; the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir are booked for the 26th June, and the Daventry Choral Society will give a concert on 10th June. Four very different concerts which I hope the Village will appreciate and support. Details later.

The season of Lent begins towards the end of this month; a time when Christians re-examine their spiritual lives and their witness to Christ and his Church. I hope everyone can examine how they could better serve each other and our community.

Michael Tompkins.

Material for the March Issue should reach Mrs.M.Foulkes by 21st February.  
39, Greenway. 890965.

The B.B.C's Gardeners' Question Time is coming to record in Braunston on Wednesday 10th March at the invitation of the Braunston Village Gardens Association (21 years after the original invitation was sent!!) We have already contacted all the people who supported our organisation in 1992 (by purchasing at our Garden Products Shop or by entering the Annual Show), plus past committee members. However, should there be any spare tickets, their availability will be advertised. If for any reason you feel that you fit either of the above categories but have not received a ticket application form, please contact Mrs. M. Walsh (BVGA Sec.) on 891174. The recording will be broadcast on Wednesday 28th March, repeated on Sunday 31st (Radio 4).

BRAUNSTON FRIENDLY CLUB meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday in each month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. New members over 60 years of age are always welcome so come along and chat to old friends or make new ones. Interesting speakers and outings are planned throughout the year. We were entertained on Jan.11th by Greta Raftery on piano and a small group of singers from W.I. Margaret Hodgkinson a Home Care Social Worker came on Jan25th to explain the variety of help which can be obtained by the elderly or housebound to help support them in their own homes. Monday Feb.8th Competition to make a Valentine Card. Monday Feb.22nd A Tea Dance plus board games for the non dancers. Many thanks to the Braunston Angling Club for their kind donation of £25. Advance Notice of a visit by the New Perspectives Theatre Co. on March 23rd at 2.30pm with a show called "A Right Old Song & Dance". Tickets will cost £3 but will include tea (sandwiches, cake & cups of tea) Anyone is welcome.

BRAUNSTON WOMENS INSTITUTE The outing to the pantomime on Jan16th was a great success and enjoyed by all. We now look forward to a new year with a full programme. New members will be very welcome at our first meeting of /93 to be held on Feb.2nd at the Village Hall. Mr. Steve Parish will talk on "Herb care & physics in the dark age".

BRAUNSTON C.F. SCHOOL  
The collection at the performances of the Sorcerer's Apprentice amounted to \$106.00. The money has been sent to Save the Children Fund. We were grateful to receive a Science Activities Box - a gift from National Adhesive and Starch. The Box was presented on the last day of term at the 'Songs' Around the Christmas Tree' event by Mr.R.Verner, accompanied by Mr.A.Goddard, Mr.J.Spendley and Mr. R.Brown on behalf of Mr.C.Alderson Smith of National. It is a very useful addition to our Science Resources. Twenty five years ago preparations were being made for the building of a new school in Braunston. In early Spring, it was possible to see the layout of the building, when a few courses of brick had been laid. Children from the old school were shown around the site and they were told of the difficulties the builders had encountered in the foundations work. There were many springs on the site and a great depth of clay. Children were told that the Infant Classrooms had to be built on a concrete platform to support the weight of the building. The new school was officially opened by the Bishop on 23rd November 1968.

VILLAGE NOTES by Dick Herne On the south side of High St. Between Cross Lane and the Green the tall stuccoed house with a slate roof has a varied history. In the early 19th century before the 1834 Poor Law set up District Workhouses - so called because the inmates had to work for their keep - it housed the homeless poor. Then it became a coffee house. More recently it was a general shop and now it is a private residence. Next door the Old Forge is unusual in two respects. It is built of brick and the west end was the Smithy belonging to Sam Cowley, the village blacksmith. The blocked-up coal chute is still visible in the wall. Beyond the adjoining bungalows is a row of stone cottages; the first one bearing a plaque marked R.E.M. 1742 was a village inn. Next to the row is a footpath - Burden Lane - leading to the Archer Ave. estate. This had replaced a huddle of old cottages which housed many canal workers and brickyard labourers.