



All Saints' Church Braunston
"The Cathedral of the Canals"

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Newsletter December 2018

Services:

<p>2nd December 1st Sunday of Advent 11.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church held in Village Hall 5.30 pm Youth Church Held in Rectory 6.00 pm Evensong Held in Parish rooms in Church</p>	<p>3rd – 7th December 6.00pm Prayer Vigil in Church</p>
<p>7th December 7.00 pm Sung Compline held in the parish rooms in Church</p>	<p>9th December 2nd Sunday of Advent 8.00am BCP Holy Communion in Church 11.15am All Age Service held in village hall</p>
<p>16th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent 11.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church held in Village hall 5.30 pm Youth Church held in Rectory</p>	<p>17th December 9.30am Braunston School Carol Service held in Church</p>
<p>23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent 8.00am BCP Holy Communion held in Church 11.15am Family Communion held in Village Hall 6.00pm Carols by candlelight held in Church</p>	<p>24th December Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service held in Church 11.15 pm Christmas midnight service held in Church</p>
<p>25th December Christmas Morning 10.00am Joint Benefice Service held in Braunston Church</p>	<p>30th December Epiphany 10.00am Daventry Team Service at Holy Cross Daventry</p>

Christmas can be tough

Lord God, Christmas always seems to be a time of jolly songs, ringing tills and the expectation that we will have a good time. But that is not how it feels for some. We pray for those whose experiences and pain can be overwhelming especially at Christmas time. We pray they will find comfort in knowing they are not alone; you understand the pain and burdens that many carry. May they know your unconditional love and healing at this time. Amen

This month we remember:

Austin Raymond Smith, Phillip Binding, Valerie Owen, Patricia Streeon, Harold Thompson

Roll of Honour 1914-1918. Albert Capell, Lucas Clarke, Thomas Clarke, William Clarke, Arthur Cleaver, George Dawson, Thomas Dawson, Robert Fielding, William Fillingham, Frank Goddard, Fred Goldfinch, Wilfred Harrison, Charles Jolley, Clarence Kendall, Joseph Lake, Harry Lewin, Thomas Mander, Albert Mander, Alec Mason, William Millard, William Nightingale, Herbert Pateman, William Pateman, William Russell, George Smart, Thomas Smart, Berry Thompson, Harry Wood.

1939-1945. Arthur Adkins, Arthur Chambers, Peter Gray, Alfred Goodfellow, Joseph Owen, Richard Rushall, Richard Thomas, Stanley Ward

Empty chair. All Souls service 14th November, remembering those who are no longer with us but remain in our hearts.

Mary Stigwood, Den Stigwood, James Linnell, Elizabeth Wood, Stanley and Edith Lindley and Irene, Neil Beattie, Peter Hick, Doreen and George Hick, Eric and Ivy Holloway, Michael and Jackie Holloway, Tricia Holloway, Eric and Pat Langham, Kathleen, Frank Cox, Jane Cox, Andrew Cox, Pamela Taylor, Greta Raferty, Annie and John Pickles, Nellie Lancaster, Ralph Lowery, Jack Male, Bill Pateman, Cis Cook, Stan Haynes, Gladys Haynes, Kenneth, Tommy, Edna, John, Betty Ewart, Robert Holloway, Peter Kellas, Vera Kellas, Queenie Pollard, Alan Pollard, Jan Pollard, Maggie Dunn, Mary Janet Jackson, The White Family - Baby Andrew, Trevor, Frank, Gladys and Sylvia. The Brinkman Family, The Payne Family, The Murray Family, Dot Ward, Joyce Ward, Michael George Smith, Eileen Veronica Alsop, Eric George Alsop, Tony Butcher, Andrea Wiggins, John Diamond, Keith Monk, Philip Pye Beret, Shaw and Mickey Mc Cloghy, Bryan and Joan Milton, June Wiseman, Mr Hall, James, Mairead Lynch, Michael our baby, Mum and Dad Day, Samuel Day, James Milner, Joyce Milner, Alan Milner, Kirsty Davies, John and Freda Lacey, Sian Hughes, Dan Griffin, Sheila Rowley, Ben, Chris, John, Francis, Alf, Sarah and Fred Bodley, Joe, Luce and Cliff Allcott, Mary and Alfie Junior Johnston, Shirley Aldridge, Adrian Findlay, Jim Moore, Sandra Harrison-Moore, George Gibson, Joyce, Hilda Pounder, Harry Crowther, Wendy Kirchner, Adrian Findlay

What does Advent mean to me?

Advent gives us the opportunity to reflect on why Christ came to earth and what it means to us. Time to reflect on God coming in the person of Jesus and look forward to when Christ will come again.

I love the build up to Christmas– Movies, mince pies, mulled wine and merriment!

It is so easy to get carried away with all the seasons festivities that we lose the sense of waiting that advent offers us. Our society encourages us not to wait – we can have instant credit, instant communication and information all at our fingertips!

Given this it may seem ludicrous that the church should have Advent - 4 weeks dedicated to waiting. Is this not the church yet again looking backwards, to ideas irrelevant to our society, out of touch and out of date? Would it not be a better idea to abandon Advent all together?

It was only when I was pregnant with our daughter, who was born on Christmas Eve that I realised that I had completely misunderstood what waiting was about. I'm not good at waiting, I get very impatient. Yet no one who is pregnant wants the baby to come too early as that can spell heartache.

I began to discover that waiting is not just about passing the time, that it has deeper and lasting value in and of itself. Waiting can be a nurturing time. Pregnant waiting is a profoundly creative act involving a slow growth to new life.

This kind of waiting may appear passive externally but internally it consists of never-ending action and is a helpful analogy for the kind of waiting that Advent requires. For many of us Advent is a busy time with all the preparations and sitting passively simply is not possible.

Advent, however, is a time for active internal waiting that knits together new life.

Advent calls us into a state of waiting that recognises and embraces that God is present in our lives, Emmanuel, God with us. God wants to be present in our lives and continue to be present.

I heard a reflection on Advent the other day by James Finley, he said -

“Advent has become so busy that there is no time for Jesus. But even though there is no room in the inn, God comes anyway.”

The fact that there is no room in the inn did not stop God from being born, from being present.

Today's world and media; all that's going on internationally, the way humans treat each other, the hectic pace of life, with all its complexities. It seems that there is no room in the inn, no pause or break from it all.

God comes anyway; he's being born into our life moment by moment, breath by breath. The interior richness of everything that happens to us, the ragged unfinished business of things; it seems there is no room at the inn.

I take assurance that God comes anyway.

But in order to discover this, I need to leave the hustle and bustle of the inn, the superficiality of it all, the chatter of it all and find my way in the dark back to the stable.

I have to enter into the humility, simplicity and patience of waiting – to the delicate nature of what is unfolding in my heart and discover where God is being born in my life. I am then asked to bring that delicate simplicity out into the hustle and bustle of the world.

So, for me Advent is a time of waiting as I journey into the depths of what it means to know the presence of God Emmanuel – God with us – the greatest gift of all.

God bless you all this Christmas,

Rev Nat

Important Future Dates for your diary:

Peace at Lunchtime every Wednesday, at 12.30 in the parish room

Saturday 1st December at 12 noon - Christmas Fair in the village hall

Friday 14 December at 8pm - Christmas Extravaganza with City of Coventry Brass Band

Sunday 6th January at 11.15am – Holy Communion and Junior Church held in village hall

Sunday 6th January at 6.00pm – Evensong held in the parish room in Church

Sunday 13th January at 11.15am - Cafe Church style All Age Service – In the village hall. An informal service with bacon rolls and croissants.

All are welcome to contribute items for publication - please email these to Jacqui Lancaster (lankyjac@gmail.com) by the third Sunday of the previous month.