



January 2023

## Newsletter of the Churches of Ashby St. Ledgers, Braunston and Welton

### SERVICES & EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January** Braunston (Communion) **10.30am**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** Epiphany **Zoom** Communion **7.30pm**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January** Ashby (Communion) **10.30am**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January** Braunston BCP Holy Communion **9.15am**  
Braunston Family Service **10.30am**  
Holy Cross, Daventry Prayer and Praise **6pm**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** Welton (Communion) **10.30am**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January** **Outdoor Family Church** Braunston Scout Hut **11am - 1pm**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January** Ashby (Communion) **10.30am**

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Prayer and Praise

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023  
6pm Barby

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023  
6pm Braunston

### TINY TREASURES

A parent/carer & toddler group.

**Parish Room in All Saints' Church, Braunston**

Tuesday mornings during term time 9.00 - 11.00am.

Restarts on January 10<sup>th</sup> following the Christmas break. The Church door will be open, just come on in.

### Prayer Chain

If you would like to be included in the prayer chain and receive a copy of the prayer chain or receive prayer for yourself, please contact either [suejennens21@gmail.com](mailto:suejennens21@gmail.com) or your church warden.

### OUTDOOR FAMILY CHURCH

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

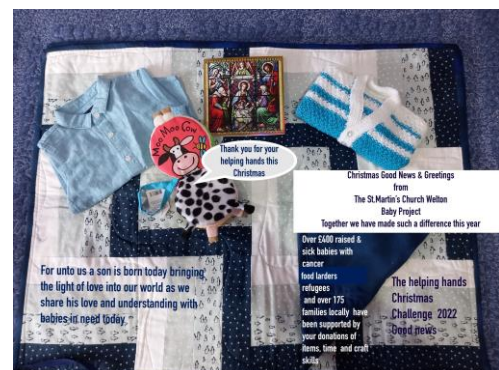
**11am-1pm**

**Meet at Braunston Scout Hut**

Activities, family fun, Bible Story and Sausage Rolls.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to get our churches ready for the Christmas Services and have helped to organise the busy December schedule.

### News from The Baby Project



A big "Thank you" for the magnificent response to the Christmas "Helping Hands" Appeal. Gilly is now surrounded by toiletries for babies and toddlers; if you know any families in need, please let her know.

In future, the Baby Project Newsletter will come out mid-month; so don't worry if you haven't received yours yet.

### CONTACTS

#### Vicar:

Rev. Kathryn Evans

Phone: 01788 726912

Email: [revkathryn@outlook.com](mailto:revkathryn@outlook.com)

#### Keep up to date online:

Braunston Website: [www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsbraunston.org.uk)

Welton Website: [www.stmartinswelton.org.uk](http://www.stmartinswelton.org.uk)

Ashby St. Ledgers Facebook: Ashby St Ledgers Church

Dear Friends and Neighbours.

Happy New Year! As we move into New Year, I'm tempted to simply leave you some space to write your hopes and plans for the year ahead. After all, there is something very appealing about a blank sheet – a fresh start. So here it is:

But then I thought ... sometimes there is nothing more frightening than a completely blank page! Where on earth do we start? We need some guidelines – a framework – a jumping off point. What do we want to change spiritually, emotionally and physically? And what do we want to do to change the lives of others? Where do we want to be by the end of 2023?

And then I thought ... actually we don't ever start with a blank page, do we? It's like the old joke about asking people for directions, where they say "well, I wouldn't start from here". We don't start with a pristine white page, we start with the world as it is; with us as we are. It's not simple. We would perhaps prefer to start from somewhere else. And sometimes we can't quite see how to do that.



Recently I heard of a friend's experience at a charcoal drawing workshop. They were given a picture of a veiled woman from the Old Testament to copy. The artist promised to talk them through each step. The first instruction was to cover the entire sheet in thick black charcoal and then to smudge it with a paper towel. I'd have thought you'd draw outlines and shade them in, leaving the white parts, like my mother-in-law does with her watercolours. Instead of drawing the dark onto the light, they used a charcoal rubber to draw the light out of the dark.

The light and beauty of our lives often emerge from darkness, too, just like a charcoal picture. And as we heard in the readings over Christmas, the darkness doesn't overcome the light. It never will. Just as we celebrated the light of Christ coming into the world's darkness at Christmas, so we celebrate his light in us as we move into a new year. We start from where we are – with all of our dark parts and smudges – and he draws the light out in us. We are enhanced, illuminated. And we are able to reflect His light into the world around us, too.

So don't despair if you see more smudges than fresh white paper in yourself as you start this new year. Simply give permission for the light to enter and see where he takes you this year.

May God bring you his light and his peace this January, and throughout 2023.

Every blessing,

Kathryn

Please send all contributions for the February Edition of the Newsletter to Jackie at [safeguarding@stmartinswelton.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmartinswelton.org.uk) by 18<sup>th</sup> January.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other church notifications by e-mail, please let me know. You can then have the newsletter in glorious technicolour!