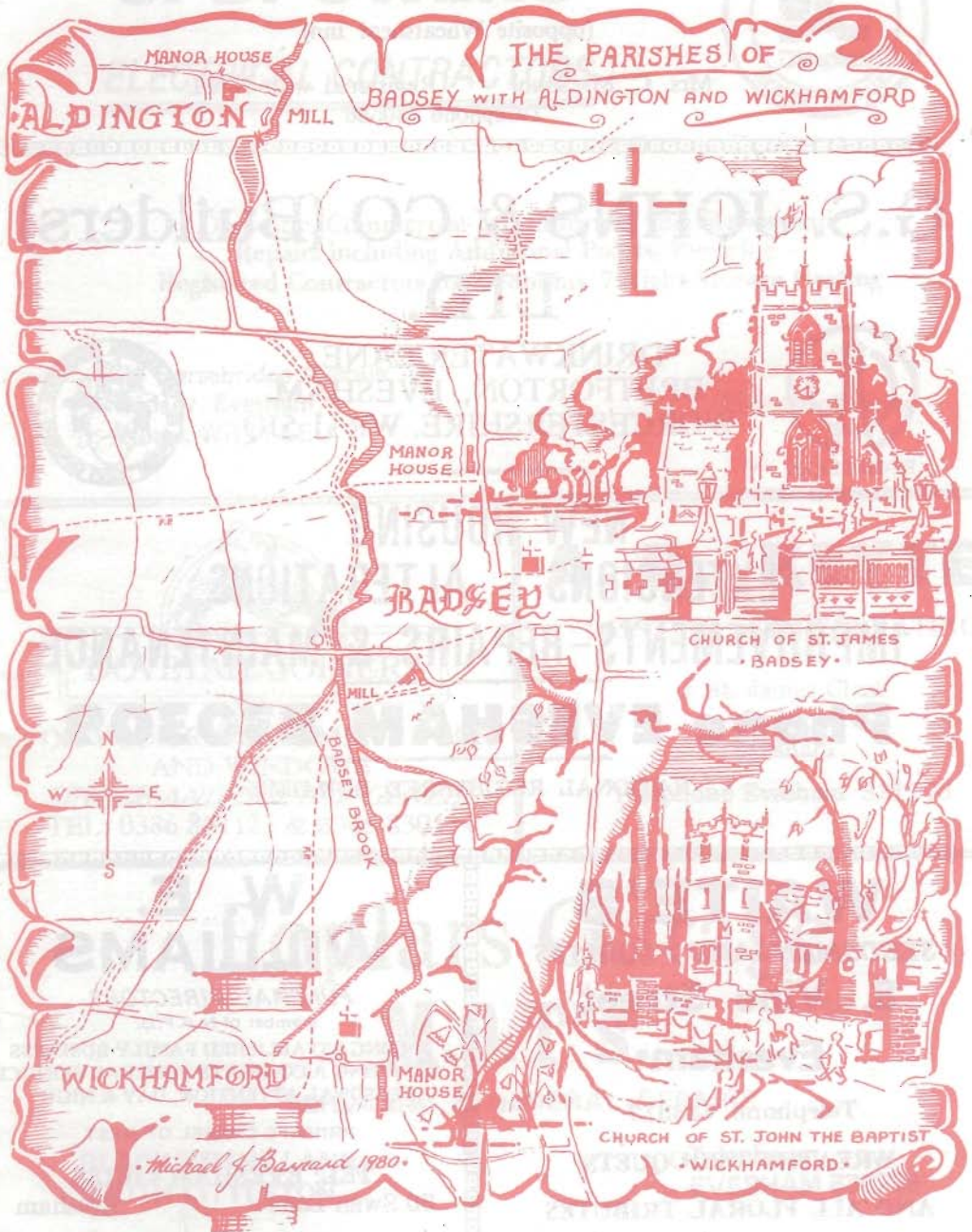


BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

PARISH REVIEW

25p

DECEMBER 1993



The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

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Badsey

Churchwardens:

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15 The Lankets,

Badsey.

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Church of St. John the Baptist
Wickhamford

Churchwardens:

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Mrs. T.G. DUNKERLEY,

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Tel: 830395

THE VICAR'S LETTER

December, 1993

My dear Friends,

Christmas - Romance and Reality

For the last two months we have been thinking about Romance and Reality. First, locally and historically, with Simon de Montfort and secondly, and more seriously, concerning the existence of God. Now Christmas will soon be upon us when once again we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus born in the stable at Bethlehem. Our Christmas festivities and celebrations will overflow with the romance of Christmas. Christmas cards, Christmas carols and the Christmas Nativity Plays will "idealise" the birth of the infant Jesus. And so they must. For there is no other way the glory and joy and wonder of Christmas can be conveyed to us. For a few brief hours the romance of Christmas will fill our lives and lift us from the darkness of this world's night. It will lift us into the light of the heavenly kingdom where with the Church in heaven and on earth and with the multitude of the heavenly hosts we will unite in singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all men". In heart and mind, we will journey to Bethlehem like the Shepherds and Wise Men of old, and see the Infant Child lying in a manger. Such is the romance of Christmas, and our lives, and the life of the world, would be dark and dreary without it.

But Christmas is not just about romance. It is about reality as well. The reality of a poor eastern Family, taking refuge in a stable because there was no room at the inn. The reality of a child being born in a stable and laid in a manger. The reality of God, in Jesus, taking upon himself our human form. The reality of God in Jesus, sharing in our human condition with all its frailties, imperfections and sinfulness. The reality of God in Jesus, becoming like us, that we might become like Him.

There will be many babies born this Christmas, as there have been in Christmases past. Some will be born in the wards of our maternity hospitals surrounded by all the love and care and medical skill it is possible to provide. And we thank God for this. But there will be many others. Those born in the shanty towns of South America, the slums of Calcutta, the war torn villages of Bosnia and Croatia or Somalia. Even among the homeless of our own country. And Jesus will be with them too, as much, we pray, as he will be with us. He will share in the reality of their Christmas just as he will share in the reality of ours.

We can feel so helpless in the face of all the suffering and injustice in the world and the reality of Christmas brings this home to us more than at any other time of the year. We wonder why these things must be. But the reality of Christmas also brings home to us, that we are not alone. God is still with us. In Jesus, God still comes and shares with us in our fallen, sinful and imperfect world. He still seeks to draw us to himself and to each other in the light of his saving and redeeming love. This is the good news every Christmas brings.

So we pray the joy of Christmas and the love of God revealed in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, may abound in all our hearts at this and every Christmastide.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 1993

ST JAMES' BADSEY

5th	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
12th	8.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
19th	11.00am Said Eucharist	6.30pm Carol Service

- 24th Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
- 25th Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Childrens' Christmas
Morning Service
12 noon Holy Communion
- 26th 8.00am Holy Communion
There will be no Evening Service

JANUARY 1994

- 2nd 11.00am Said Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong
9th 8.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion - 10.00am Wednesday, 1st, 8th 15th and 22nd December, and 5th and 12th January.

There will be no mid-week communion on 29th December.

Badsey Sunday School: 11.00am every Sunday during Term
Time - School Lane Playgroup

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD

- 5th 9.30am The Eucharist
12th 9.30am The Eucharist
19th 3.00pm Carol Service
(There will be no morning service on this
Sunday)
- 25th 9.30am The Eucharist
26th 9.30am Said Eucharist without
Sermon.

JANUARY 1994

- 2nd 9.30am Said Eucharist without
Sermon
9th 9.30am The Eucharist

Sundays in Advent: 1 The Advent Hope;
 2 The Word of God in the Old Testament; 3 The Forerunner;
 4 The Annunciation.
 Sundays after Christmas: 1 The Presentation;
 2 The Light of the World;
 Sundays after the Epiphany: Revelation: 1 The Baptism of
 Jesus

LECTIONARY

5th	2 in Advent	Romans 15.4-13 Luke 4.14-21	1 Samuel 28.3-20 2 Timothy 3.14-4.8
12th	3 in Advent	Philippians 4.4-9 Matthews 11.2-15	Isaiah 40.1-11 1 Corinthians 3
19th	4 in Advent	Revelation 21.1-17 Matthew 1.18-23	
24th	Christmas	1 John 4.7-14	
	Eve	Luke 2.8-20	
25th	Christmas	Heb.1.1-5	
	Day	John 1.1-14	
26th	Sunday after	Romans 12.1-8	
	Christmas	Luke 2.22-40	

JANUARY 1994

2nd	2 after	Rev.21.22-22.5	Isaiah 60.13-end
	Christmas	Matt.2.1-12,19-end	1 Corinthians 2
9th	1 after	Ephesians 2.1-10	1 Samuel 16.1-13a
	Epiphany	John 1.29-34	Matthew 3

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me
 and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of
 Heaven belongs to such as these"

BADSEY

7 Nov Deborah Jayne Owens and Thomas David Owens
 of 9, Green Leys, Badsey
 Benjamin Dean Warren of 2, Merstow Cottages,
 Evesham

WICKHAMFORD

- 24 Oct Joshua James Hancock of 4, Parbroath Cottage,
Luthrie, Nr Cupar, Fife.
7 Nov Harvey John Basil Rich of 1, Eversley Cottages,
Oaksey, Malmesbury, Wilts.

FUNERALS: Jesus said, " I am the resurrection and the
life. Whoever believes in me will live
though he dies"

BADSEY

- 10 Nov Harry Clements of 35, Greenleys, Badsey,
aged 75 years (at Badsey)

DONATIONS

BADSEY

- from Mr Peter Marriot in memory of his wife,
Beatrice (Trixie) Violet Marriot
- £100, towards church funds
from Mr Jim Skitt, towards the Christmas
Lighting - £30
in memory of Harry Clements, to St Richard's
Hospice - £132,01 (collection at funeral)

WICKHAMFORD

- in memory of Clifford Armfield Perkin, towards
church funds, - £100 (collection at
Memorial Service and donations)

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 2 Dec Finance and General Purposes Committee, Badsey
Church - 7.30pm
12 Jan Wickhamford PCC, Memorial Hall 1994 - 7.30pm
20 Jan Badsey PCC, Badsey Church - 7.30pm
24 Jan Guild of St James' Badsey Bell Ringers
Annual General Meeting, Badsey Church - 7pm

PARISH REVIEW - JANUARY ISSUE -

LATEST DATE FOR COPY,
WEDNESDAY, 8th DECEMBER - Please note earlier date

PARISH REVIEW - 1994

Subscriptions for the Parish Review are due in January and once again we would like to thank all who give their valuable support to the Review. Due to the increased amount of copy being published in the Review, the price for 1994 will be 30p a copy or £3.60 for a year's subscription, the first price rise for two years. Copy, notices, amusing anecdotes and short interesting articles for inclusion in the Review are welcome and, space permitting, can nearly always be published. Thank you to our subscribers, distributors, contributors and advertisers, for your support during 1993. We hope it will continue in 1994.

BADSEY CHURCH - CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The decoration of Badsey Church for Christmas will take place on Friday, 24th December from 9.30am onwards. Gifts of flowers, evergreen and offers of help will be very welcome. Donations towards the cost of the Christmas Flowers will also be most welcome and may be given to Mrs Hazel Stewart.

CHURCH ARMY COLLECTION BOXES

Church Army Collection boxes should be given to the Vicar as soon as possible in the New Year. New collectors are always welcome and boxes may be obtained from the Vicarage. The Church Army is especially concerned with evangelical and social outreach to the many underprivileged and deprived areas of our nation today. The work is always challenging and in the front line of human need. It can also be dangerous as well. Resources have become increasingly stretched and some cut-backs have already had to be made in the work of the Church Army. Your prayers and support are invaluable and always welcome.

MOTHERS UNION

At our evening meeting on 26th October we sang "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" the choice of Mrs M Davies. The prayers were taken by Mrs Joan Betteridge. Our speaker was the Diocesan Literature rep Elizabeth Kearney. She told us about all the new MU publications, and others, and had brought with her examples of books, pamphlets, and cards for every occasion as well as Christmas cards. The MU sells children's books and cards and Advent calendars and she had also brought pens, badges, bookmarks, candle-holders etc. and did a very brisk trade after her talk. We are always pleased to see Mrs Kearney and what she has to offer. We do have the Deanery rep among our members, Mrs C Davies, who brings us news of new things, from Committee days, so we have an idea of what to expect and are kept up to date.

Our meeting on the afternoon of 9th November was a Mystery meeting. After the hymn, and prayers taken by Mrs Mary Callaghan, and the business was concluded, names of members who had brought a poem, anecdote, prayer or story, were put in a hat and drawn out by the E.M. We had a very interesting time. There was such a variety of material, funny, touching, thought provoking, and we all enjoyed it so much that we felt we must have a repetition in the future.

Our meeting on 4th December will be the service of Carols and Readings, and then there will not be another until the New Year. So may I take the opportunity to wish all who read these notes and are MU members a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 1994.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, make a New Year resolution to visit us! You will find a friendly greeting.
E. Seaman E.M.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wednesday 1st December 10am Corporate Communion

Tuesday 14th December 2.30pm Carols and Readings
1994

Wednesday 5th January 10am Corporate Communion

Wednesday 5th January 2.30pm Committee Meeting
at Byeways

BADSEY WOMENS INSTITUTE

The new President Mrs Joan Butcher welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. The new Secretary Mrs Sheila Taylor read out the minutes which were approved and signed. The trip to Phantom of the Opera in London had been enjoyed by all and Mrs Yvonne Haynes was thanked for organising it. Our skittles team had won the Group Skittles match and been presented with medals by the Group Secretary. Our speaker for the evening was Michael Edwards on 'Rural Reminiscences' which included poems on naval life and sea voyages. He was thanked by Mrs Butcher. Tea was then served. Our social time was 'Anagrams' which was enjoyed by all. The raffle prize was won by Mrs Jane Thompson. Members were reminded that next month was our Christmas meeting with a special buffet by Mary Dore. They were also reminded to bring a small gift for Durcott Lodge and a candle for lighting during the carol singing.

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

A very successful fund raising event was held on 3rd November. The entertainment was given by pupils of Badsey First School and, as usual, was of an extremely high standard. Our grateful thanks are extended to Mr. Hughes for allowing his pupils to visit us. They were coached by Mrs. Jones and Miss Tebby and the many hours of hard work put in by both staff and pupils was reflected in the performance of songs in which every word could be clearly heard. Our thanks are due also to all the helpers who worked so hard in the background, to the stall holders, and, of course, to all who contributed in any way to raise the magnificent sum of £154.60. It was good to see Mrs. Wheatley at the meeting once again after her recent absences.

The last collection of Charity Tubes will be made at the December Meeting. This meeting will be held on 1st December and will be our Christmas Party. Our entertainers will be Mr. Trevor Jones and his ladies choir. The Brownies and Girl Guides will be visiting us the latter to help Mrs. Mary Dore to serve one of her delicious teas! The Christmas cake will be made and given, as in the past, by Mrs. Christine Davies. There will be the usual free bumper raffle. This is always a super afternoon. If you cannot attend please let me know - I need numbers when ordering teas.

ADVANCE NOTICE The first meeting in 1994 is on 3rd January which is a Monday. This is so that the young musicians who entertain us will be able to do so before they return to school on the Wednesday. Peter Moore, Lyn Collins, and Natasha Boon are coming along and, hopefully, others who have not been to us before. Friends are welcome and encouraged to join us at an afternoon of very high standard music to suit all tastes.

On behalf of the members of the Committee I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a truly Happy and Blessed Christmas.

MARY CALLAGHAN.

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The Annual General Meeting was held in October at Legion Headquarters. The Chairman, Mrs Syril, opened with the Exhortation, then the minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and approved. The President, Mrs Reeves, gave her address and thanked everyone for all the work they had done and said what a good year we had had. The Treasurer, Mrs Grinnell, and the Secretary, Mrs Westmacote, gave their Reports. The Chairman, Mrs Syril, gave her talk and said how pleased she was to see so many members attending the meetings and thanked Mrs Val Taylor for making our meetings so enjoyable. Two committee members had resigned and two new ones were appointed. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mrs Newbury, President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee were then all re-elected en bloc.

The Chairman welcomed a new member, Mrs. Caddick. The Competition was won by Mrs J Lake and the draw was won by Mrs J Jelfs, Mrs Crane and Mrs Harris. Refreshments were served as usual, prepared by Mrs Grinnell.

MM.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The boxes this year have yielded the wonderful sum of £465.25 for which, on behalf of the children, I congratulate and thank our faithful supporters. Each year I try to enlist a few new supporters to hold boxes, so, if you can, please consider the possibility.

JEAN IVES
(Honorary Local Secretary)
Tel: 830132

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BADSEY AND ALDINGTON

Copies of this book, which was published in December 1983, are still available and may be obtained from Terry Sparrow at 15 The Lankets, Badsey (Tel: 833368). It costs £2.50 per copy, and all money from sales goes to Church funds.

December

No flowers in church during Advent. But I would be glad of help on Christmas Eve to decorate our church. All offers of flowers, holly, ivy, or any evergreens would be very much appreciated, and could I take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who arrange the flowers through the year, also those who clean the church, I know there are not many of them and they do a good job, because it is always clean and a pleasure to go into. Thank you.

Lastly, may I wish all of you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

HAZEL STEWART

Any queries regarding flowers, phone 832007

ST. JAMES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

Due to anonymous donations over the year, very gratefully received, we have been able to purchase a wide selection of Central Council booklets to help with the teaching/learning process of Bell ringing and Bell Maintenance. These are proving very valuable for home back-up after learning something in the tower. With the latest donation we have sent for a book of 'Standard Methods'. The mats in the ringing chamber had seen 'better days', 8 new mats have been purchased with most ringers 'adopting a mat'. As another year is coming to a close, we would like to thank all who have given us their continued support and encouragement.

JOHN & HILARY BOLTON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The following Christmas Carol was received for publication in the Parish Review, from Miss Joyce Allsebrook, daughter of the late Canon W C Allsebrook, who was Vicar of Badsey with Aldington and Wickhamford for forty two years, from 1903 to 1945. In her letter, Miss Allsebrook said she reads the magazine from cover to cover and that Badsey,

Aldington and Wickhamford are very close to her heart. It is thought older parishioners would like to know of the love and affection with which Miss Allsebrook still remembers the parishes.

A Christmas Carol

His cradle was a manger
His nursery was a shed
Where did the little Jesus
Lay down His sweet head?
Down in the straw and sweet
 smelling hay
Warmed by cows' breathings,
The Holy Child lay.

The Kings came to worship
With gifts from afar
They came to adore Him,
Led by a star
We too, come to seek Him
So sweet and so small
And offer our gifts
At the side of His stall.

Joyce Allsebrook

Report of Wickhamford PCC Meeting of November 10th

Once again financial matters occupied a lot of the Council's time. Mrs Collis had been to several meetings, mainly concerned with how to find sufficient funds to support Church expenses without raising quotas excessively. However, it is inevitable that these will have to be raised by a suggested 17% next year.

Following a visit from a wood preservation expert, he reported that woodworm was active in some areas of the Church, which had not been treated for many years. To protect all the roof timbers, flooring and church furnishings would cost over £1,100, including cleaning and wall protection.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee have approved the installation of more effective electrical heating, which will be unobtrusive. The PCC approved the proposal by Mr Poulter that a fan heater be installed by the main door as a first step.

A request by St John the Baptist Church Stockton-on-Tees to support the building of a church hall to benefit the local community was approved, and £30 will be sent. Our donations to charities will remain at the higher level approved last year.

Church security was again discussed but regretfully it was decided the Church would have to remain locked, except for services or special occasions.

A project welcoming visitors to the countryside and its churches is to be launched in the New Year. It will be known as 'Through the Church Door', and all rural churches will be invited to take part. As this would probably absorb as much energy and organisation as our 'Flower Festival', the invitation was left for consideration at a later date.

DGP

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A good attendance of forty-seven members came to the meeting at the Memorial Hall on Wed: Nov 3rd, at which the main item on the programme was the Annual General Meeting. The afternoon started with our Secretary reading apologies for non-attendance and notices of forthcoming events; and then she produced an unimportant but very unkind and spiteful anonymous letter, giving one persons view and criticisms of the way the club, and indeed the village, is run. It seems such a pity that an individual who fears to sign their name, cannot read all the other items in this Magazine and learn to enjoy all the good spirit that makes a village a village. Birthday button-holes were presented to Mrs Whiting, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Wayte and Mr Wardle, and then a few games of 'Bingo Whist' preceded our A G M meal of steak pie, jacket potatoes and peas, followed by apple tart and cream and a cup of tea. The A G M followed and it was very obvious that the members were happy with the organisation. Our Secretary, Mrs Winkett and Treasurer Mr Street were asked to continue their efforts and the committee was re-elected 'en bloc'

There were no motions or any other business and the meeting was declared closed and the afternoon was rounded off with our usual members raffle. There will be no normal meeting in December but members should note that on Saturday 4th Dec: our annual Christmas dinner will be held in the Memorial Hall at 5.00pm.

Wed: 5th January is new year enrolment meeting and all local residents over the age of fifty are invited to join us. The cost is a mere £1.00 per year and 25p per meeting. We try to provide some good entertainment or an interesting speaker, and there is a good opportunity to get to know your neighbours and make new friends, and in addition one or two coach outings or something similar each year. Come along and you will be very welcome. D S.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB 3rd November 1993

It was most refreshing to see so many members turn out on Wednesday 3rd November at the Memorial Hall, to listen to Mr. Richard Baldwin, lecturer at Pershore College of Horticulture, give an hilarious talk on "Organic Growing".

Apart from having everyone in stitches, Mr. Baldwin did manage to get over a few points, such as, recycling kitchen rubbish, much of which can be rotted down to grow crops and by growing a green crop, first of all, adds nitrogen to the soil, which vastly improves the vegetables, which then turn out to be enormous in size. Compost everything by adding straw or sticks to break down the materials and use an additive, such as nettles, when rubber gloves are best used, stressed the speaker. Also, nettles added to water make a good liquid feed. When it was suggested that by having a pond, a woodpile, a beehive, bat boxes etc., for habitat members were greatly amused and silence for a moment, indicated that they were planning on getting out their saws and spades in order to help save the planet. Mr. D. Hadley thanked the speaker for a most entertaining evening and the competition for the Last Rose of Summer, was won by Mr T.Hale with Mr. J. Cowan and Mrs. R. Hendrick, second and third.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st December, which will be the Christmas Social, when all will be welcome.

A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives much.

It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it and none are so poor but that they can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give a smile, give them one of yours as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

WHAT A GIFT!

At last it was finished, my letter to Father Christmas. It had taken a lot of effort at the age of six to write my list, but now at the beginning of December it was done and top of the list was a Dolls House. I showed my letter to my mother telling her very confidentially, "I know YOU couldn't afford to buy me a Dolls House, but Father Christmas will bring me one!" Little did I know the problem I had caused as I put my letter up the chimney.

On Christmas morning I woke early, crawled down to the bottom of my bed in the darkness, feeling my way. "He's been, he's been!" I shouted. There it was in all its glory, just what I wanted, not a dolls house, but something much more superior, a dolls bungalow and with real electric lights! What a Christmas we had, such excitement and fun as we enjoyed my special gift.

Years later my parents told me of the problem I had caused by my request. No way could they have afforded to get me a dolls house, but they were determined to do their best. Although Dad had never made anything in his life he created the bungalow out of a box and odd pieces of wood, fixing two torches in the roof. Mum had furnished it with oddments and tiny items from the market, but their concern was I would recognise it as home made, be disappointed and lose faith in Father Christmas. To their joy and relief I was excited and so pleased with it, for me it was a dream come true. A bungalow - and all I had asked for was a house! No-one but no-one had one like mine! I can still remember the excitement, still remember my parents telling me their

story, and the love I feel for them cannot be put into words. Love found the way, and love remains for ever.

On Christmas Day God gave us the greatest gift we could ever hope for or imagine. The gift of eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. What did the world see? A baby born in a stable, very ordinary really. But for those who will look and see the Saviour of the world, born for you and me. Two thousand years ago that happened, yes, but the gift is still available today, for you with love from God your Father. Open your eyes, look and see - and accept His gift - with love.

Margaret Cundiff

CHRISTIAN CRACKERS

The Vicar was trying to organise a Nativity Play for Christmas but getting little support. One lady said, "Why can't we have it at another time of the year when we are not so busy?"



"FOR THE LAST TIME, MALCOLM,
THAT IS **NOT** WHAT THE
HERALD ANGELS SANG!"