

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

March 1999

On 31st January, some seventy people from these three parishes assembled at Blackminster School for a Church Service. This was then followed by a conference attended by some sixty of those people. The purpose of this conference was to examine the life of the Church in these three parishes and to begin to draw up a plan for our medium term future. This work built on the discussions which had occurred during the principal services in all three Churches on the three preceding Sundays. Following the conference, the plan was edited and fine tuned with the addition of a few items which had been discussed on the earlier Sundays but overlooked on the 31st.

These plans have now been printed and distributed to most of the people who appear to be involved in the life of the local Church along with a variety of other leaflets and information. It would clearly have been unreasonable to have sent all the information to every household in the parishes, but you should have received a black and white copy of the plan within this magazine. Copies of the other leaflets are available in Church.

The plans will be put into action by a number of Task Groups, some of which contain members of all three parishes and some of which are specific to one parish. These groups will be dealing with The Church Community, our Mission and Outreach and Worship. As I write, most of these groups have already met and begun to consider how to implement the plan.

What is interesting about this whole exercise is that everyone in the parishes was welcome to attend, and was invited via the magazines and that my only input into the plan came at the editing stage. The plan is almost entirely made up of what people who worship in our Churches want, but had never been asked to say. Everyone has had the opportunity to contribute and this is truly a plan which is the voice of those who chose to be involved. Some clergy will not let their parishes do this sort of thing - that is not the case here. We await the outcome with interest.

The other interesting thing about the weekend was the presence of two visitors from our partner Churches in Eastern Germany. They thoroughly enjoyed their time here and left feeling - as I do - that the partnership should be very worthwhile. We face similar problems, but have reached that point from very different directions. They are also very interested in our plan.

With very best wishes,

Adrian

Vicar:	Revd Dr Adrian Hough, The Vicarage, Badsey.	830343
Churchwardens:	Mrs Sue Cole, 45 Bretforton Road, Badsey. (there is a vacancy for a second Churchwarden)	831260
Reader Emeritus:	Mr John Callaghan, 7. School Lane, Badsey.	831194
Newsletter Editor:	Mrs Yvonne Haynes, 4. Green Leys, Badsey.	830063

CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3 rd March	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th March (Lent - 3)	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	All Age Worship & Baptism Sung Eucharist
Sunday 14 th March (Lent - 4)	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Mothering Sunday Service Said Holy Communion (rite B)
Sunday 21 st March (Lent - 5)	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist Evensong
Sunday 28 th March (Palm Sunday)	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evensong

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Tuesday 30 th March	7.30 p.m.	Evensong
Maunday Thursday	12.00 noon	Blessing of The Oils at Worcester Cathedral
(Badsey)	7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion and commemoration of The Last Supper
Good Friday	2.00 p.m.	Hymns Readings and Meditation
(Badsey)	7.30 p.m.	Hymns Readings and Meditation
(Bretforton)		
Holy Saturday	8.00 p.m.	Easter Eve vigil at Offenham
Easter Sunday	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	All Age Worship Holy Communion

BADSEY REGISTER

FUNERALS	12 th February	Vernon Aitchurch In Church followed by burial
	17 th February	John Welch in Church followed by burial

BISHOP'S VISIT TO THE BENEFICE

A letter of appreciation has been received from the Bishop following his visit to the benefice on Tuesday 26th January. He says "It was a delight to worship with so many of your parishioners and I should be grateful if you would pass on to them all my appreciation of the time they gave and the generous hospitality which they extended to me".

CALLING ALL CHILDREN – MOTHERS DAY

Would you like to make your own Mothers Day card? – then come along to the Church on Saturday 13th March at 11.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. where you will be provided with all the materials you need to make that special card for Mum. We will have squash and biscuits and, if time, an activity or game. Parents – you can bring your children along between those two times and leave them with our willing helpers, there will be no charge on this occasion and no age limit though children should be over the age of 5. So do come along and make your own Mothers Day Card and have a little fun as well.

MOTHERS UNION

The New Year Party was held at the 'Round of Gras' on 26th January. Bishop Peter visited us there, accepted a card of greeting from us and blessed our work and us. We enjoyed the good food provided by Angela and Mark and the music and songs of the Lygonian Singers. Thanks to Thelma Thorpe and Mary Callaghan for organising a lovely evening and Sue Cole for arranging the entertainment.

On February 9th Rita Smith demonstrated life-saving techniques on willing 'patients' from the branch.

Wednesday March 3rd 10.00 a.m. Corporate Communion (coffee to follow)

Tuesday March 9th 2.30 p.m. 'Oberammagau' – Yvonne Bentley

Tuesday March 16th 7.00 p.m. Deanery Festival Service at All Saints Church, Evesham

Saturday 20th March Coffee morning at Church House, Evesham in aid of Deanery Funds.

As always we welcome visitors to our meetings. The talk on 'Oberammagau' will be illustrated by slides. **Jean Ives**

ST. JAMES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS.

On Monday 1st March Practice will take place as usual but only until 8.00pm. On this day it has been requested that all Towers with ringable bells, **ring out in celebration of the new Land Mine Treaty**. Badsey will contribute with 30 minutes of Call Changes starting at 8.00 p.m.

On Sunday 14th March (Mothering Sunday) ringing will take place for the Special Morning Service. As is customary there will be no ringing during Holy Week.

I was asked the other day about DONATIONS made to the Guild. Any donations are very gratefully received and put into the Guild of Bellringers Tower Fund, along with wedding fees and fees from visiting bands of bellringers, for on-going repairs and maintenance such as liquid refreshment for the bells (grease!), repairs to woodwork and fabric etc. One single rope costs well over £100.00. We also have annual commitments such as affiliation fees and other outgoings that are separate to the Church. Donations we give to other bodies, such as the Millennium Fund, come from the bellringers themselves and so far £50.00 has been collected and given to the fund. Well done Bellringers. **Hilary Bolton**

St. James Flower Guild

March – No flowers in Church during Lent.

April -1st Sunday - Easter: We will be decorating the Church for Easter on Saturday 3rd April starting at 9.30.a.m. Any donations for Easter Lilies would be very much appreciated.

Any queries about Church flowers please contact Hazel Stewart on 832007.

BADSEY CHURCH MAKES NATIONAL HEADLINES!

I am sure by now most of you will have heard of the group of people being locked inside the Church on the evening of Monday 15th February. Never did we think that one small item in the Evesham Journal would cause such a furore among the national media. The news item appeared in such newspapers as The Times, The Guardian, The Daily Mirror, The Daily Mail (nearly a whole page!), The Daily Telegraph (front page), The Birmingham Evening papers, The Evening News, The Gloucestershire Echo and many more local papers. The Vicar and some members who were locked in were besieged with pressmen, press agencies, radio programmes and television. Live broadcasts were made on Hereford and Worcester, Five Alive, Radio Heartland's, Radio Gloucester and recorded interviews were made for BRMB, The Bear and others. Camera crews were sent from Midlands Today and Central Television South (both on Tuesday 23rd). Filming and interviews took place inside the Church and were broadcast that night on BBC 1 at 6.30.p.m and Central News (South). Unfortunately we are unable to receive Central South (we receive Central Midlands) but people south of Evesham did receive it and friends and relatives have recorded videos. I am pleased to say no one has suffered any ill effects from being locked in by young David Cole, who has had to take an awful lot of stick (as have we all!) . David is a young bellringer and was in charge of the locking the Church that night instead of Jim Ives. Just to let you know David that we bear you no ill will and, if the truth is told, we have enjoyed all the media attention and the 'few moments of fame' and yes, we can take all the ribbing you like! Does anyone know the identity of our rescuer? If so please let the Vicar or editor know so that we can thank him.

Apologies to the members from Offenham and Bretforton who were locked in with us. The meeting that evening was to discuss how we could draw people's attention to the Church (we certainly did that!) and to encourage you to come along and see how the Church is trying hard to move forward and become an integral part of the village. We hope to start offering new services, social activities for children and adults, village welcome packs for newcomers etc in the very near future. If you have any comments or suggestions YOU would like the Church to know about why not write them down and leave them inside the Church for the Vicar and other members of the PCC to discuss and perhaps act upon. We can only give you what WE think you want but can give you what YOU want if you let us know. We promise not to lock anyone in!

EASTER PAINTING COMPETITION

All children of Badsey, Bretforton and Offenham are invited to paint an Easter Picture and leave it in the Church with their name, age and telephone number or address on the back. These will then be displayed in the Church over Easter and then judged and prizes will be awarded for the best pictures in each age group. The prizes will be awarded at a service after Easter. See next month's newsletter for details of the prize-giving - meantime get painting and leave your pictures in the Church where they will be collected up ready for display over Easter. Any age can enter.