

# St James, Badsey with Aldington

**Parish Newsletter**

**March 2001**

The word 'Lent' conjures up images of people giving up chocolate or some other favourite foodstuff. It is also sounds like a religious sort of thing.

As it happens, Lent is a religious sort of thing but it is not about giving up chocolate, sweets, or whatever. The real purpose of Lent is something to do with looking at ourselves and deciding who we really are and whether we have got our priorities right. Not eating certain things which we usually enjoy can help us to do this but so can times of quiet - often a rare commodity in the world today.

Many years ago I gave up sugar in my coffee for Lent. The funny thing was, that when I got to Easter Day and tried to drink coffee with sugar, I discovered that I could no longer drink it. It was as if I had discovered that I was never supposed to drink the coffee with sugar in the first place. Its a trivial example, but it is also an illustration of how we discover who we really are or who we are supposed to be. The stimulus of not having what we want for a while can help us to discover what we really need.

When we look at the world about us, we can all see problems and things which are wrong, even if we don't necessarily agree what these things are. Part of the problem, is that we live in a society where the pace of life is fast and so we never stop to consider what we are really doing. Another part of the problem is that we have been taught to expect to get what we want- when actually getting what we want may have quite serious consequences for someone else. We have lost the public consciousness that stopping to ask the questions about our identity is an important things to do, whether it be an individual, a group, a village or a country.

Lent began on 28th February (Ash Wednesday) and it ends on 15th April (Easter Day). It is an opportunity for us to ask ourselves who we really are and to decide what are the really important things in life: and, if it matters to you, the chance to ask God what part He wants to play in your making these decisions.

Adrian

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## CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Family Service Sung Eucharist
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	<b>Mothering Sunday Worship</b> Evensong

## LENT STUDY GROUPS

This years Lent Studies will be held on Wednesdays in Badsey Church, beginning at 7.45 and ending at 9.00. They will focus on the parable of The Prodigal Son, with some attention to the painting of the same name by Rembrandt.

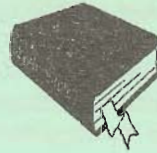
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March - The Younger Son Leaves Home

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - The Younger Son Returns

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March - The Elder Son

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - The Father

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Living The Painting



## PALM SUNDAY

**A special Palm Sunday Service for everyone**

**10.45. a.m. on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**Further details next month**

## BADSEY REGISTER

BAPTISMS:	None.
WEDDINGS:	None.
FUNERALS:	Eva Mary Reed On 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2001 followed by cremation at Cheltenham

## MOTHERS UNION

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March - 10.00.am.	Corporate Communion followed by coffee.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March - 2.30.pm.	'My Year as Mayor' by Mrs Diane Raphael.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March - 7.30.p.m.	'Lady Day Service' at St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March - 11.00.am. - My commissioning as Branch Leader will take place during the Family Worship service on this date. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Sandra Sparrow



## SATURDAY ACTIVITY GROUP

Our next Activity Group will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Church. We meet at 11.00.am until 1.00.pm and fun is the order of the day with creative activity, songs and games. A small charge of 50pence per child is made towards materials and refreshments so do come along and join in the fun.

## CHURCH ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Church Electoral Register (different from the Civil Register) is now being revised. If you are not on the Register and wish your name to be added, please speak to one of the Churchwardens. (names and telephone numbers are on front cover).

## ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

These meetings, which are effectively the Church Annual General Meeting will be held in Church on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March beginning at 7.30. p.m.

These are meetings at which Churchwardens are appointed and at which the Parochial Church Council is appointed for the coming year. Anyone is welcome at both meetings but only those on the Church Electoral Register may speak and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

## ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD – MARCH 2001

Thank you ladies for the flowers in Church during February. There are no flowers in Church during Lent. Details of Church flowers for Easter will be given next month. Any queries regarding Church flowers contact Hazel Stewart on 832007.

## INDIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

As a result of the collection in Church on 4<sup>th</sup> February, together with other donations, we have sent £160.00 to the appeal. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed.

## ART EXHIBITION

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00.p.m. at Badsey Remembrance Hall there will be an exhibition of twenty drawings and water colours of Badsey and Aldington currently being produced on site by David W. Birch, a local landscape painter from Chipping Campden.

5% of profits from sales will go to St. James' Church Badsey with Aldington (price guide £100 - £800)

(Neighbourhood Watchers – the artist will be in a white Mercedes van (H71 LWK) Anyone seeing this van parked anywhere that seems suspicious – beware! – could be artist at work - you have been warned!)

## CLEANING AND PAINTING OF CHURCH

It is hoped to start the cleaning and painting of the Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00.a.m. This is to be quite a task and as it would cost thousands of pounds to have the work done professionally we are looking for volunteers with DIY experience to come along and help 'many hands make light work.' All materials will be provided with the exception of protective clothing. Anyone interested in helping in any way, even if only for a couple of hours, (help will be needed over quite a long period of time) please come along to the Church on that day to find out details. Or contact Chris Robbins on 01386 831004



## OUR NEW LAWNMOWER

John and Mary Callaghan wish to extend sincere thanks to the many friends who contributed so generously to the presentation made to John on the occasion of his completing fifty years as a Reader. After much thought they have decided to use your gift to replace their old lawn mower which, unlike John, has decided to give up active service after a much shorter period!!

## PRAYER FOR LENT:

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful,  
In these days of challenge, make us stronger in you,  
in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;  
in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.