

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

December 2001

"White butterflies, Angels in The Sky, Bits of Moon"

Two years ago, just before Christmas, I went into a class of four and five year olds in one of our village schools. The children had been working on descriptions of the large white snow flakes which had unexpectedly drifted down on them during the morning playtime. Three of their descriptions had been placed together to make the above line of poetry.

It is a remarkable description and one which has stayed with me. As Christmas approaches, it makes me think about the shepherds on the hillside overlooking Bethlehem and makes me ask what they actually saw that night. What did they experience and what effect did it have on them?

It is very easy to picture them with the occasional large white snowflake drifting downwards, illuminated by the fleeting glimpses of the bits of moon which showed from time to time from behind the clouds as they drifted across the sky. The question is, what about the angels.

If what the Christian faith has claimed and taught about Christmas has any truth about it, then there is no need to doubt the presence of angels. There is no need to doubt that something momentous happened to bring glad tidings to the shepherds out in their fields. Believing in angels is easy if we accept the key and central claim about Christmas.

Christmas is a statement that God was born as a human being. God was born as a human being in order to experience the human situation at first hand. Its joys and sorrows - he knows them, for he has been there. God was born as a human being so as to make personal contact with people and to communicate with them. And if it sounds a bit far fetched, then it seems perfectly reasonable and sensible compared to some of the things which people seem to believe in these days.

God was born as a human being and lived amongst us; and He did this because he loves us. That is the claim of Christmas.

The shepherds are incidental and we will never know exactly what happened to them whilst we are here on earth. They knew snowflakes and moonlight, but something momentous happened at that time and if it is true then the angels fit in perfectly.

White butterflies, Bits of Moon and... Angels in The Sky. Oh Yes: Angels in the sky.

With very best wishes for a very happy Christmas, Adrian

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CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday	2nd December	11.00 a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Christingle Service Sung Eucharist
Wednesday	5 th December	10.00.a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 th December	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday	16 th December	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday	23rd December	NO MORNING SERVICE 4.30.p.m.	Carol Service
Christmas Eve/Christmas Day		11.30.p.m. 11.00.a.m.	Midnight Mass Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday	30 th December	8.00.a.m. 9.30.a.m. 11.00.a.m.	Holy Communion (Badsey) Holy Communion (Bretforton) Holy Communion (Offenham)

At both the 11.30 'Midnight Mass' on 24th December and the 11.00. service on Christmas Day there will be a basket in Church for donations to the work of **Crisis** the organisation which works with homeless people, especially at this time of the year.



Bring your decorated figure to join the kings and shepherds at the stable on Christmas Morning at the 11.00.am. service in Church

BADSEY REGISTER

BAPTISMS: 4th November Michael Robert Haynes

FUNERALS: 7th November Roy Jelfs – at Cheltenham
Followed by a Memorial Service at Badsey.

MOTHERS UNION

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 5th December at 10.00.am. Corporate Communion followed by coffee.

Tuesday 11th December at 2.30.p.m. Carols and Readings.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Sandra Sparrow

EVESHAM SINGERS IN CONCERT

in

ST. JAMES CHURCH BADSEY WITH ALDINGTON

on

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

7.30PM - 9.00PM.



Tickets £5.00 each to include a glass of wine and mince pie.

Come and be inspired uplifted and delighted by this special presentation of much loved traditional Christmas music, folk songs and carols, including the two versions of 'Silent Night', 'the Little Drummer Boy', 'The Jesus Gift', Adiemus and many, many more.

Tickets are available from the Vicar, The Churchwardens or any PCC member
(names and numbers of most are on front cover)



SATURDAY ACTIVITY GROUP

Our next meeting is in the New Year on Saturday 5th January 2002. So do come along and join us between 11.00.am. and 1.00.p.m. in the Church and enjoy a morning of fun and friendship. A small charge of 50pence per child is made to cover the cost of materials and refreshments. Yvonne, Wendy and Annette thank everyone for their support throughout the year and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.

HORSE RACE NIGHT

Thank you to all who supported the evening, especially our eight race sponsors. The night realised a profit of £242.10 for general Church funds.

CHURCH SECURITY

Once again I am asking that you keep watch on our Church and Churchyard. I was very upset that some people who wished to enter the Church were unable to do so because they felt intimidated by the number of young people in the Church porch who did not seem willing to move to allow the people to enter. I have reported this matter to the police. If you know these young people please ask them to be considerate to those visiting the Church. What does not seem intimidating to them (and indeed may not be so) can seem very intimidating and a little frightening to older people, especially in this day and age when care and respect for the elderly has gone only to be replaced by muggings, robbery etc and although we are sure nothing is further from the minds of the young people in the porch it is probably in the forefront of the older persons and indeed younger people also. Thanking you in anticipation.

Sue Cole (831260)

CHURCH PAINTING

Many thanks to the small band of workers who have painted the interior of the Church which should be completed in time for Christmas. The Church looks fresh and clean and we are very grateful for all their hard work. A heartfelt Thank You to you all.

Badsey PCC

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD –DECEMBER 2001

Ladies – Thank you for the flowers in Church during November. Have a rest in December until we decorate the Church for Christmas on Saturday 22nd December. (time to be arranged)



CHARITY TEA AFTERNOON



On Saturday 15th December in Badsey Remembrance Hall at 2.30.p.m.

A tea and cake afternoon with Christmas bits and pieces for sale. All proceeds will be divided between the Acorns Children's Hospice and Evesham Vale School.

Please come along and support this event.

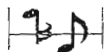
I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Any queries regarding Church flowers please contact me on (01386) 832007.

Hazel Stewart

BINGO! EYES DOWN

A Prize Bingo will be held at Badsey Remembrance Hall on **Friday 7th December** commencing at 7.30.p.m. Proceeds to Church Funds. Donations for Raffle would be appreciated. **Mary Dore**



CAROL SINGING



Carol singing round the village will take place on **Wednesday 19th December**, organised by the Friday Club and supported by the Church Choir. Other singers will also be welcome. Please meet at the Wheatsheaf Inn at 6.30.p.m.

BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Sunday 9th December at Badsey First School 2.00 – 4.00.p.m.

Craft and Toy stalls, Chocoholics, Raffle, Santa's Grotto, Refreshments etc.



BADSEY AND ALDINGTON MILLENIUM GROUP



Commemorative Post at Badsey School. Unveiling of post will take place on Sunday 9th December at 2.00.p.m. Please see Parish Notice Boards for further details nearer the date. **Chris Helm.**

ANOTHER FISHY TALE!!

Peter Prawn and Christian Crustacean had been close friends for many years. One day Peter Prawn said he was fed up with being a little tiddler he wished he could be a big powerful shark, so Christian told him to go and visit the fairy codmother. Peter Prawn did so and the fairy codmother granted his wish. He soon got fed up with being a shark as all the other fish were frightened of him and kept well away and so he didn't have any friends or anyone to talk to. He went back to the fairy codmother and begged her to turn him back into a prawn again, which she did. Peter Prawn was very happy and went to find his old friend Christian Crustacean. "Peter is that really you back again?" asked Christian Crustacean. Yes it is – I'm a Prawn again Christian!! A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Trouble-Free New Year to you all.

Editor.