

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

February 2002

This year, Easter Sunday falls on 31st March, a date which is quite early. This, in turn, means that Ash Wednesday, the day which marks the beginning of Lent, falls on 13th February.

Lent is an unpopular and misunderstood season. Whereas we all get excited in one way or another about Christmas, Lent tends to pass us by. We have learned that it is about giving things up - giving things up which we enjoy - and this not a very attractive proposition. However, this is not really the case and if it is true that some of the pleasures in life are actually good for us then Lent cannot possibly be about giving them up. If we do 'give things up' then this has to be understood as a part of the real purpose of Lent.

In reality, Lent is about asking ourselves who we are. It is about asking ourselves how we 'get on' with the world and relate to the world. It is about asking ourselves how we 'get on with God'. It is about getting our priorities right - and the answer will be different for each one of us.

If we treat Lent as a time to give things up, especially if they are good for us, or as a season to tease other people about the things which they give up, then this is to miss the whole point. The business of giving things up is high on useless in its own right. Its value lies in helping us to think or in reminding us to think, about the important issues in life. The issues of our identity and our relationships.

We live in a world with many troubles. Many of us also know troubles in our own lives and we see troubles around us in our villages. This Lent, we might want to ask what is our relationship to this troubled world and what we are going to do in order to help to put it right.

With very best wishes

Adrian

Vicar:	Revd Dr Adrian Hough, The Vicarage, Badsey.	830343
Assistant:	Revd Michael Shepherd, 90 Main Street, Bretforton	831476
Churchwardens:	Mrs Sue Cole, 45 Bretforton Road, Badsey.	831260
	Mr Chris Robbins, 1 Oak Close, Badsey.	831004
Readers:	Mr John Callaghan 831194	Mrs Penny Christison 830367
	Mrs Sheila Lancaster	833929
Newsletter Editor:	Mrs Yvonne Haynes, 4. Seward Close, Badsey.	830063

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 6th February	10.00.a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 17th February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 24th February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Morning Praise Evensong

ASH Wednesday – 13th FEBRUARY

On Ash Wednesday there will be a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes at Offenham Church at 7.30.p.m. This service will be lead by The Bishop of Dudley and will be open to people from all over The Evesham area.

BADSEY REGISTER

BAPTISMS: None

WEDDINGS: None

FUNERALS: 21st January Lewin Stanley Dresch
Followed by burial at Bretforton

MOTHERS UNION

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 6th February at 10.00.am. Corporate Communion followed by coffee.

Tuesday 12th February at 2.30.p.m. Gerald Heath 'Almonry Slides' of 'Evesham Old and New'

Please note there is no meeting on the 4th Tuesday this month.

Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings.

Sandra Sparrow

ON THE INTERNET?

If you are connected to the internet, you can access a wide variety of information about the Diocese of Worcester and the Church more widely through:

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

ANGELS EXHIBITION

On Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May, Badsey with Aldington Parish Church will be staging an exhibition on the theme of Angels. This will include all forms of artwork, including flower-arranging exhibits and various forms of literature. A number of well-known personalities have already sent us contributions and a former Prime Minister has written a poem especially for the event.

If you would like to exhibit anything which can be vaguely described as art or literature on the theme of Angels, then please write to the Vicarage or telephone, preferably between 12.30.p.m. and 2.30.p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Thursday.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year, the Church has to prepare a new Electoral Roll. If you are on the old roll and wish to remain on the new one, then you must fill in a new form during February. Forms are available in Church or from the Churchwardens. Only those whose names are on the roll can become members of the Church Council or vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April.

BY POPULAR DEMAND

Mrs Eve Bent has had several requests to show her wonderful slides of 'By-Gone days in the Cotswolds and Vale'. These slides are pictures pre 1914, which were first printed on 4" x 4" glass slides and have, in the last few years, been transferred to normal slides and are a wonderful record of yester-year. There are some beautiful pictures of 'The Parks' at Aldington with the wonderful gardens it used to have. The slides also cover many villages here in the Vale and further out into the Cotswolds.

The show will be presented by Mrs Bent's Son, Nick, on **FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY IN BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL at 7.30.p.m.** Monies raised will go towards The Acorns Children's 'Hospice and St. Richard's Hospice. Entrance will cost £2.50 and include a glass of wine or orange juice. So do come along, sit back and enjoy a reminder of days gone by, then sit and reminisce over a glass of wine.



SATURDAY ACTIVITY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Saturday 2nd February 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.

THE BADSEY SOCIETY

It is proposed that "The Badsey Society" is formed with the object of promoting the study and understanding of Badsey and Aldington. Its first task will be the publication of a second edition of "A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington", which will hopefully be on sale before the end of this year. (Copies of the original book, written by Robert Seaman and Terry Sparrow in 1983, have all been sold). A meeting to consider the formal setting up of The Badsey Society will be held in Badsey Church on Thursday 28th February at 7.00.p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend.

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD – FEBRUARY ROTA 2002

1 st Sunday	Mrs Hazel Smith and Mrs Hazel Stewart
2 nd Sunday	Mrs Maureen Davies and Mrs Sandra Sparrow
Lent.	No Flowers in Church

Ladies, thank you for the flowers in Church during January also for providing the flowers in Church all the year round when it is your turn and at your own expense. It is very much appreciated. Perhaps in Spring/Summer if there is anyone with spare flowers in the garden or even foliage that needs pruning it would be thankfully received.

Any queries regarding Church flowers please contact me on (01386) 832700.

Hazel Stewart

HOMESTART

Homestart is a voluntary organisation that supports families, with at least one child under the age of five, who are undergoing periods of stress and difficulty in their own homes.

Homestart has been in Worcester for seventeen years and was last year given a grant by the National Lottery to extend its service to include Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore. We are always looking to recruit volunteers who must have had parenting experience and be willing to share this with local families. Although we need volunteers from a wide-range of backgrounds, we would be particularly interested in hearing from Grandparents. Volunteers must attend our course of preparation – a ten-week course building on existing parenting skills and knowledge. All out of pocket expenses will be paid. For more information please contact Heath Willcocks on 01608 650593.

VILLAGE VANDALISM

It is with sadness and disgust that I have to report on the vandalism which seems to be growing in the village. The first Saturday of the month is Children's Activity Group and when I arrived at the Church 20 minutes before the children begin to arrive I was met with shattered alcohol bottles covering the Church porch floor. Not just a couple of broken bottles but very many. There were wine bottles, lager bottles, and alcohol pop drinks and the like bottles, all deliberately smashed on the floor and outside on the path. Round the memorial cross were more bottles, papers, cigarette packets and ends and worst of all a knife, which was actually spotted and picked up by a child. What mindless vandals could do such a thing? Photographs were taken and the police informed and it is in their hands.

The Village Hall has been vandalised and was left in a dreadful state with human faeces smeared over walls and elsewhere and the stage curtains are beyond use. Windows of the Royal British Legion have been broken and bus shelters vandalised and again smeared with either human or animal faeces. Most of this vandalism seems to be done by groups of young people aged from 12 to 16. It is doubtful that any of them read this Newsletter so if you are parents of young people please tell them what is going on and ask them to report to you if they hear or know anything, then perhaps you could pass information on to anyone in authority without giving your child's name. It is YOUR VILLAGE. Is this how you want it to be? We hear and somehow expect it in deprived inner city areas but not in rural villages. Act now!! Speak to your young folk, know where they are and ask if they would like to be the ones to clear up the filthy messes. How would they feel if some young child had fallen on the broken glass or picked it up and been severely hurt. It could be one of their younger brothers or sisters or someone they know. Most of our young people are lovely, respectful and thoughtful, don't let the minority ruin the village for them, for us and for the future.