

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

March 2002

I write these words having just conducted two burial services. One was a service for a gentleman of seventy-six years and the other for a girl aged thirteen. Both followed a long illness.

Death is very often a taboo subject in western society and there is still a marked reluctance to allow children or young people to attend funeral services. We live in a society in which people like to have the facts and in which we want to be in control of our destiny and to make decisions for ourselves rather than having them made for us. Death does not allow us to do that. Unless we commit suicide or refuse medical treatment, we can have very little control over the time of our own death. Similarly, none of us knows what follows death. I may have my own particular thoughts or beliefs, but I have no proof which I can use to demonstrate them to another person as the absolute truth.

When you read these words, it will probably be early in March. However, the publishing schedule of monthly magazine or newsletter means that before the next edition is due out, we will have reached Easter.

Easter is a time of death and Easter is also a time of life. It is time of death because it is when we focus on the death of Jesus Christ, crucified on the very first Good Friday. It is a time of life because it is also the time when we focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter Sunday.

It has been said that death is like the blowing out of candle. However, this is not the extinguishing of a flame which then allows the darkness to come in and envelop everything. Rather it is the removal of a source of light because it is no longer needed - there is now the greater source of light which comes with the dawning of a new day.

Easter is about the dawning of a new day. It is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is about God's promise that new life awaits us all as we depart from this earthly life an move to a new life beyond. The question of suffering and untimely death is a separate question, albeit one which is tied up with the crucifixion of the son of God and a Father's sorrow at the death of His Son. It is also a question which I will address next month.

With very best wishes - Adrian

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CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday	6 th March	10.00.a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	3 rd March	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
Sunday	10 th March	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Mothering Sunday Service Evensong
Sunday	17 th March	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday	24 th March	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Palm Sunday Service Evensong
Sunday	31 st March (Easter Day)	9.45.a.m. 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion (said) Easter Family Worship Evensong

Please note the Easter Services as above. A poster will be issued through the village near Easter to remind us all.

BADSEY REGISTER

FUNERALS:	8 th February	Patrick John Johnston Burial following a service at St. Mary's R.C. Church
	15 th February	Helen Hartwell Following cremation at Cheltenham
	21 st February	Ivor Valentine Rennison Burial in the Churchyard

MOTHERS UNION

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday	6 th March at 10.00.am.	Corporate Communion followed by coffee.
Tuesday	12 th March at 2.30.p.m.	Bron Soan on 'The Children of El Salvador
Tuesday	26 th March at 7.30.p.m.	Holy Week Service

Mothering Sunday posies will be made up in Church on Saturday 9th March at 2.00.p.m. All help will be welcome and much appreciated also suitable flowers and greenery. We are all thinking of Jessie at this sad time, she is in our thoughts and our prayers

Sandra Sparrow

Editors note: Thank you to Sandra and her committee for a lovely MU party at the British Legion on Thursday 24th January. Food was lovely and entertainment very good - everyone enjoyed it very much.

ST. JAMES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

Dedication with a blessing of a complete set of new Bell Ropes presented to the Church by the Guild, represented by Hilary and John Bolton (Captains) and Doug Bott (returned ringer after thirty plus years), took place during the special Service of Communion for 'Candlemas' taken by Rev. Mike Shepherd and assisted by our Reader John Callaghan. Thank you Mike, you did us proud and now it is up to us to do them justice. The bells were a gift to the Church from the Guild of Ringers costing £800.00, made up of donations, weddings and various other fees. All monies given to the Guild are pooled into keeping our lovely unique bells in tip-top ringing condition (the back six of the ring of eight being on a preservation order). Special thanks to Colin, Doug and Clint for helping John with the hanging of the ropes and general cleaning. Many will be asking why the bells were not rung during February – To gain the best lifetime for the ropes we have been advised by the Bell Foundry to naturalise them insitu. In other words leave them to hang for two to three weeks without use. This has given us advantage time to thoroughly spring-clean the belfry and ringing chamber in readiness for the many weddings and special occasions already booked for this year combined with all service and practise ringing. If anyone would like to join us we meet at Church on Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m.

Hilary Bolton

MR. JOHN CALLAGHAN – OUR READER

We all wish John a very speedy recovery and a return to full health following his recent illness. John was taken into hospital in the middle of February and so many people have enquired after him and sent their best wishes that I am sure it has helped him in his recovery. Hopefully by the time this Newsletter comes to print we shall hear that he is home and raring to get back to his many Church activities. Get well soon John and God Bless from everyone.



SATURDAY ACTIVITY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Saturday 2nd March 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.

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 art work, 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 specially for the event.

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

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD –MARCH ROTA 2002

Lent

Ladies, no flowers required in Church until Easter Saturday, 31st March, when we will be decorating the Church for Easter at 9.45.a.m.

There will be a meeting of the Guild regarding the flowers for Easter on Saturday 23rd March at 2.00.p.m. in the Church.

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

BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL - AGM

The AGM of the Remembrance Hall will be taking place on Friday 15th March at 7.30.p.m. All people interested in keeping our Hall should try to attend and anyone who would be willing to serve on the Committee would be most welcome. At this present time there is a threat of closure of the Hall unless new people come forward who would be willing to help keep this 'Village Institution' going. **SO PLEASE COME ALONG** and find out more about what could be done to help. We really do not want to lose our Hall but new blood is needed to enable us to keep it.

OUR CHURCH

Have you ever said, when visiting the Church, "Doesn't the Church look lovely"? Of course you know that there are folks who ensure that it looks 'lovely'. We have cleaners, gardeners, flower arrangers, maintenance men and last year, painters. A big thank you is due to them all who do these jobs in their spare time. **NOW DON'T STOP READING** because you know what is coming! We do need to add to this band of workers. Mathematicians will tell you that three pairs of workers need to clean the Church 4 times a year BUT 12 pairs of cleaners need only do it once a year. Of course we clean it more often than once a month but you get the idea. It takes 2 people approximately an hour to clean the Church. Could you and a friend (or 2 friends) help once or twice a year? Then people visiting our Church will continue to say "Doesn't the Church look lovely?". If you can help in any way please contact Churchwarden **Sue Cole on (01386) 831260**

A TEA AFTERNOON



Will be held on Saturday 23rd March at the Remembrance Hall, Badsey from 3.00. – 5.00.p.m. The afternoon will raise funds for The Meningitis Trust and The Marie Cure Fund. There will be a Raffle, Bring and Buy etc. Entry will be £1.00 to include tea and cakes. Do come along and support these two worthwhile causes and enjoy an afternoon catching up with old friends and neighbours over a lovely cup of tea and equally delicious cake.

PRAYER FOR MARCH

Eternal God we thank you for all that you have given us, for all that you have done for us, for all that you are to us in your beloved Son.

In our weakness you are strength

In our darkness you are light

In our sorrow you are comfort

For all your mercies, we bless you, our Father.

May we live as ever in your presence and glorify you in our daily lives, for our Saviours sake,
Amen