

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

April 2002

Back in the early days of the Christian Church, its leaders spent a great deal of time sorting out exactly who Jesus was and what it meant for Him to be called Son of God. The answer was The Trinity - the idea that the Christian understanding of God is that of Father, Son and Holy Spirit who together make up the one true God. Jesus is therefore both the Son of God and also God Himself temporarily living in human form. In St John's Gospel He is described both as Son of God and as God from God. This has been the Christian belief for almost two thousand years and many people have died defending it against those who would change it because it does not suit their own views.

Last month I promised that I would write something on suffering and these beliefs are key to the understanding of suffering. If we look around us, then it is quite clear that the world in which we live goes wrong. It goes wrong both in the way in which people sometimes treat each other and through natural disasters and incurable diseases. In the process people often suffer through no fault of their own. This then raises the question that if we believe in a God of love, how can God allow such suffering and why God allows the world to be the way it is?

The answer comes in two parts. The first is that the world has freedom built into it. God does not force us to act in a particular way. At every point in our lives, we have the freedom to choose and God does not force our hand. Without this freedom we would live lives of complete boredom and would never have the ability to make decisions for ourselves. A similar sort of freedom also applies to the natural world as it develops and evolves. However, this freedom also means that we can make wrong decisions, natural disasters can occur and incurable diseases can emerge. God had to give us boredom or allow the risk of suffering.

However, God is not content to let us suffer. So, God consents to share in our suffering. God Himself comes as a human being and experiences human life. In the end, He allows us to kill Him in God the Son and to disrupt His life of The Trinity. On The Cross, God experiences for Himself what it is like to be a part of the world and to suffer. God's gift of freedom allows the possibility of suffering, but God Himself shares in that suffering. Then, through His rising to new life He defeats death and brings us the promise that we too can share in the everlasting life of His love beyond the death which ultimately awaits us all here on earth.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------|
| 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

No Holy Communion on Wednesday 6th March

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday | 7 th April | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Family Worship Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday | 14 th April | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion Evensong |
| Sunday | 21 st April | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion Evensong |
| Sunday | 28 th April | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Morning Praise Evensong |

BADSEY REGISTER

INFANT BAPTISMS

Joshua George Sellick
Christopher Andrew Buzzard

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| FUNERALS: | 28 th February | Lesley James Reeves Followed by burial in the Churchyard. |
| | 20 th March | Albert William Thomas Smith Followed by burial in the Churchyard |

MOTHERS UNION

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 8th April at 7.30.p.m. Lady Day Service at Norton Parish Church

Tuesday 23rd April at **2.30.p.m.** 'A Spiritual Walk' by Alma Organ

There will not be a Communion Service on the First Wednesday in April

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

TEA AFTERNOON

Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported the tea afternoon held at the Remembrance Hall on Saturday 23rd March. A sum of £163.40 was raised on behalf of The Meningitis Trust and The Marie Curie Nurses. Thank you to Badsey W.I. members for all the lovely cakes.
Sandra Sparrow.



SATURDAY ACTIVITY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Saturday 6th April 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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May will see the arrival of Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid is a Charity which is heavily involved in the relief operations we see on television following the various natural disasters, droughts and crop failures which occur around the world. Christian Aid also works to build up self-sufficiency so that the impact of such disasters is lowered when they do occur.

Christian Aid week is one of the many sources of income for this Charity. In Badsey and Aldington we are in need of additional collectors and co-ordinators to help the operation go smoothly. Without new co-ordinators all over the country each year, the whole operation as well as relief operations would grind to a halt. If anyone is interested or would like to help, then please contact either myself or Sue Cole. **Adrian.**

A BARN DANCE

TO BE HELD AT BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

ON

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL at 7.30.p.m.

TICKETS £5.00 (to include supper)

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS (and glasses)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

Sue Cole 01386 831260



Yea ha!



ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD – APRIL ROTA 2002

Easter Saturday – All the Flower Guild to do the Easter Flowers

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 st Sunday | Mrs Yvonne Haynes and Mrs Stephanie Hartley |
| 2 nd Sunday | Mrs Sheila Taylor and Mrs Barbara Bennett |
| 3 rd Sunday | Mrs Annette Bufton and Mrs Penny Christison |
| 4 th Sunday | Mrs Mary Clark and Mrs Margaret Castle |

Thank you to those who have sent me donations for Easter Flowers, it is very much appreciated.

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

MRS EVE BENT would like to thank all those who helped and supported her slide evening on February 22nd. £200.00 was raised to go to The Acorn Children's Hospice Fund and St. Richards Hospice.

JOHN CALLAGHAN - a warm welcome back to John, who is making a good, steady recovery following his recent illness and took his first service 'back in the fold' on Sunday 17th March.

CHURCHYARD

Please note that mowing of the Churchyard will not begin until the crocus have died right down. This will take approximately six weeks, so please bear with us if the Churchyard looks a little overgrown and untidy for those few weeks. The crocus were really lovely again but could not be really appreciated as due to the awful weather they were soon over and while they were in full bloom it was too cold, wet and windy for people to actually turn out and see them in all their glory.

We would still appreciate volunteers to help keep our Church in good condition. Anyone willing to spare a couple of hours a month or every two months either cleaning or gardening, either on their own or with a friend or two would be most welcome. Please contact Sue Cole on 831260.

BADSEY VICARAGE

By the time you read this it will be over five weeks since the builders arrived at the Vicarage and began the process of rebuilding it from the inside. The work follows subsidence due to the large poplar tree which was removed two years ago. The work means that I have been operating without a study, books or papers since the middle of February and has made any sort of administration or organisation very difficult. Even though the work should now be just about finished, it will take a number of weeks to sort things out and catch up with the backlog. **Adrian.**

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Aldington residents are preparing to celebrate the Queens Golden Jubilee with a Garden Party and Dance on Sunday 2nd June. More details will become available in due course.

JAPAN

On Thursday 2nd May at 7.30. p.m. John Cole will give a presentation about his year in Japan. Mark this date and look out for further notices in next months issue and on notice boards.