

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

December 2002

Last Christmas, as we put the decorations away for another year, so one of the decorations broke. The decoration in question was one which I had bought at an Advent Fair in a small village in Germany during a spell of seriously sub-zero weather a few years ago. The fair in question was the first such event held in the village after the re-unification of Germany and it brought a patch of colour and light to what were then very drab and grey surroundings. When the decoration broke, I decided that there was no way in which I could possibly throw it away and so I put it upstairs in the place where things go when they are awaiting repair. Last week I rediscovered my broken decoration and it is now well on the way to recovery. This might be a case of leaving things to the last minute, it might be that I forgot or it might be that I did not bother until the job actually needed to be done. The truth is probably a mixture of all three.

Yet is there not, in these simple events, a worked out example of what Christmas is all about. Christmas is about God's initiative in Jesus Christ to come to a broken world in order that it might, one day, be made whole. The Christmas readings remind us that God came to a people who knew him not and that he was also rejected because he challenged the ways in which the people in positions of authority understood society and their own position within it. God comes to a broken world in order that it may be made whole when and if, people of good-will cooperate with his purposes. Amidst the tragedy and shattered dreams which we see about us from day to day, we need to remind ourselves that this is never God's will and that his wish is to bring hope and make what is broken whole.

My Christmas decoration is of no intrinsic value. It was made by a youth group in an attempt to raise funds for activities in a village which had nothing to offer them. It was also made in an attempt to remind the people of the village in question that they could now begin to celebrate in ways which they had been denied for many years. It has no value, but it is a symbol which stands for all that is good and for the hope which those young people now saw for their lives and which they had previously been denied. The Christ Child is a symbol of hope for the whole world, but also much more, for here is hope itself come amongst us so that, with our help, the broken may be made whole and men and women of good will live in peace.

With very best wishes for Christmas and The New Year, 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 Smith, 27 High Street, Badsey.	830217
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CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1 st December	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Christingle Service Evensong
Wednesday 4 th December	10.00.am.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th December	11.00.a.m. 5.00.p.m.	Holy Communion Said Evensong and Homily
Sunday 15 th December	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 22 nd December	No Morning Service 4.30.p.m.	Carol Service
Tuesday 24 th December	11.30.p.m.	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	11.00.a.m.	Christmas Family Worship

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1 st December	11.00 a.m.	Christingle Service
Friday 6 th December	7.30. p.m.	Readings and Music for Advent & Christmas – in Church
Sunday 8 th December	6.30. p.m.	Special Advent Service in Bretforton Church
Sunday 22 nd December	4.30. p.m.	Carol Service
Tuesday 24 th December	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Family Worship

VICAR'S SABBATICAL

Adrian Hough will be on Sabbatical from 31st December 2002 to 5th April 2003, in accordance with the standard working arrangements of The Diocese of Worcester.

During that period of time no Church enquiries will be dealt with at the Vicarage.

All enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be dealt with by Revd. Mike Shepherd (tel: 01386 831476).

During the Sabbatical, the Church Council will be chaired by the Vice-Chairman Mrs. Yvonne Haynes. All financial matters should be directed to the Treasurer, Mr. Terry Sparrow.

All other Church enquiries, including those relating to new Headstones in the Churchyard should be directed to the Churchwardens.

A memorandum which gives full details of the working arrangements throughout these three parishes can be found within the Church.

BADSEY REGISTER (up to 18th November)

FUNERALS: 13th November Dorothy Enid Davies
Followed by cremation at Cheltenham

MOTHERS UNION

Wednesday 4th December at 10.00.am. – Communion in Church

Tuesday 10th December at 2.30.p.m. – Carols and Readings

I would like to wish all members a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

SANDRA SPARROW



**TEA AND CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON
BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
2.30. – 5.00 p.m.**



IN AID OF ACORNS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE and THE VALE SCHOOL



**BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL PTA -CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
2.00. - 4.00.pm**

**Craft and toy stalls, refreshments, tombola, raffle etc.
And a chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto**



Do come along and support these worthy causes – you would have time to visit both events and have a really enjoyable start to Christmas. (Round the day off with Christmas Bingo – see back page.) A Peaceful and Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for your articles throughout the year. Do keep sending them in and I will do my best to print them if there is enough space. Please note all items for the Newsletter should be delivered to me by 18th of the month.

EDITOR

CAROL SINGING

The annual Carol Singing round the village by the Friday Club and supporters will take place on Wednesday 18th December. Singers and collectors meet at the Wheatsheaf Inn at 6.30.pm.

ACTIVITY GROUP

Saturday 14th December – 10.30.a.m. to 12 noon – rehearsing for Nativity Play.

Sunday 1st December – 11.00.am. at the Christingle Service – come and start Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Kings and Animals on their journey to Bethlehem.

Sunday 22nd December 4.30.p.m. – Nativity Play at the Carol Service.

YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP

2.30 – 4.00.P.M. Sunday 8th December at Offenham School. Follow up meeting to make banners in preparation for Worship on 27th April 2003. If you would like a lift contact Sheila on 833929. We look forward to seeing you all

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD – DECEMBER ROTA 2002

ADVENT – Ladies, no flowers – rest time! Thank you for the November flowers. The date and time to decorate the Church for Christmas is yet to be decided. I will let you all know.

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

Hazel Stewart

BADSEY & ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Badsey First School on Wednesday 11th December 2002 at 7.30.p.m.

'ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BINGO'

OR
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

at
BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL
Entry down at 7.30.p.m.

PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS



Mary Dore



BE PREPARED

Baden-Powell was a "switched on" type of chap, the motto of the Boy Scouts is a really good one "Be Prepared".

Be prepared for the Winter – what, the Summer hardly over – well Prior Planning Prevents Poor Planning. Things to do in order to be prepared for Winter.

1. Check vehicle tyres/lights/brakes, this includes getting front /rear lights for push bikes.
2. Children's waterproof clothing, try and have some form of reflective material/items on them (Be Safe – Be Seen).
3. Get a torch for when you are walking about in the dark, make sure you have a supply of batteries.
4. As well as the children having reflective material/items on their clothing, adults should as well.
5. Supply of candles for the house, in case of power cuts.
6. Senior Citizens should think about warm clothing, alternative means of cooking a meal, in case of power cuts.
7. Senior Citizens should also get a supply of food (tinned/frozen) just in case the weather gets bad and they cannot get out to the shops for a couple of days.
8. Remember that the Milkman/Postman are contacts with the outside world, cultivate a rapport with them.
9. Let's be good neighbours, keep an eye open for their welfare and they will keep an eye open for your welfare.

BE SAFE and enjoy the winter (when it comes).

Tom Iddon – Rural Beat Manager