

St. James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

February 2003

The people who work as Readers in the Church are, far more frequently, but quite wrongly, referred to as "Lay" Readers. It is wrong because Readers have been "Admitted to that Office" by some specific form of selection: By examination, a prolonged course of study or, perhaps, a combination of both. What's more they have a special piece of paper, given to them by a Diocesan Bishop, to prove it. It is called a Licence. This Licence is presented at a special service in much the same way as a Priest or Deacon received his "Authority within the Ministry of the Church".

The Readers' Ministry is in a category of its own within a much wider and rather complex administration. Readers are not priests and should never try to be. Over the years the Office of Reader has changed greatly but there is still a lot they cannot do. The only Sacrament they can administer is Baptism – and this only in an emergency or by special dispensation. When they dismiss the congregation it must always be with a benediction – never a blessing. And, most important, they cannot forgive sins and so never pronounce words of absolution. With humility they ask that God will forgive "us all"; and never declare that he has already forgiven "you". Over a number of years as a Reader there have been occasions when I have felt very proud and yet very humble to be working in this way. I have been asked to visit people in hospital who knew they had not very long to live. I have also had people telephone and ask if they can drop in for a chat. At such times I have asked "Well, don't you think you should contact the Vicar?" And I have been told, "No! it is you I want to see". When this happened first of all I suppose I felt over encouraged. Did the people really prefer me to the Vicar? I suppose we are all a bit that way inclined until we stop and think and have gained some experience. No, it was because the people did not want to bother the Vicar – he had far more important things to do. And, of course, some of the things they felt they wanted to say were so awful – they would shock him out of his cassock and surplice!

During Adrian's sabbatical leave from his parishes there are Readers here to help you; and we shall be delighted to do so if we can. Having said that, however, for really serious requirements you should get in touch with the Revd. Michael Shepherd. In Adrian's absence he is in charge and will take responsibility for all major judgements and decisions.

Sincerely and with every good wish
John Callaghan.

Vicar:	Revd. Adrian Hough – currently on sabbatical	
Associate Priest:	Revd. Michael Shepherd. 90 Main Street Bretforton.	831266
Churchwardens:	Mrs. Sue Cole. 48 Bretforton Road, Badsey.	831260
	Mr. Chris Smith. 27 High Street, Badsey.	830217
	Mr. John Callaghan.	831194
Readers:	Mrs. Penny Christison 830367	Mrs Sheila Lancaster 833929
	Mrs Yvonne Haynes. 4 Seward Close, Badsey.	830063
Newsletter Editor:		

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2 nd February Candlemas	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Family Worship Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 5 th February	10.00.am.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 16 th February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 23 rd February	11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m.	Praise and Worship Evensong

BADSEY REGISTER (up to 20th January 2003)

CHRISTENINGS: None

WEDDINGS: None

FUNERALS: 17th January Kenneth Austin Ellison
Followed by burial in the Churchyard

MOTHERS UNION

Wednesday 5th February at 10.00.am. – Communion in Church

Tuesday 11th February at 2.30.p.m. – Speaker: Heather Wilcox
Topic: Home Start

Anyone who would like to come along and listen to our Speakers and enjoy a cup of tea with us is welcome at any of our meetings.

SANDRA SPARROW

PRAYER GROUPS

03rd February - 7.30.p.m. at 68 Seward Road
27th February - 3.00.p.m. at Badsey Church
27th February - 7.30.p.m. at 67 Weston Road, Bretforton

LENT COURSE

Mondays in Lent – 7.00.p.m for 7.30.p.m. to 9.00.p.m. in Badsey Church. The first meeting will be on Monday 10th March.

ST. JAMES BADSEY BELL RINGERS GUILD – COMMEMORATIVE PEAL

On December 30th 2002 the Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association rang a full Peal of 5088 changes of 'Evesham Surprise Major', conducted by Gerald C. Hemmings of Hampton, Evesham. All ringers who took part travelled to Badsey by car. This was in celebration of the first full peal rung 100 years ago to the day.

On December 30th 1902, on the newly augmented bells – by the addition of two new trebles, a Peal of 5040 changes of 'Stedman Triples' conducted by Revd. FE Robinson Vicar of Drayton, Berks., now Oxon, who was Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. We assume he brought a band of ringers with him as none of the names are recognisable as being local to this area and it is doubtful that they travelled by car! The Revd. Robinson was well known from North to South of the country and was an extensive traveller in his quest to promote the art of bellringing. The distances covered, as given in his book "Among the Bells" must have taken quite a feat of planning to work round his pastoral duties! There is no explanation as to why he chose Badsey other than it being close to a railway station and possibly the challenge of an augmented ring of eight bells to conquer. His comment on the bells at Badsey – an excellent splice!

Editors Note: Our bellringers seldom get mentioned but we are extremely lucky to have them when so many Churches are not so lucky. Not only do they ring at Badsey but are called on to ring at Churches throughout the Vale. The sound of our Church Bells on a Sunday, at weddings, special wedding anniversaries and other events is a joy. Our bellringers also take part in striking competitions (this means striking the bells in the right place) and various other big bell ringing events. We should remember that our ringers are all volunteers, (many from other Churches come along to make up the team when we are short and some ring with us on a regular basis) who give up their free time to provide us with the joy of this art. They are also self-funded so any payments received from ringing for wedding anniversaries and other special events go into the 'pot' to help with the maintenance and other bellringing expenses. Thank you to Hilary and John Bolton, leaders of the Guild and to all who ring our bells.

THE BADSEY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Badsey Society will be held at Badsey First School on Friday 14th February at 7.00.p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be followed by an informal discussion based on the 1901 Census of Population.

ACTIVITY GROUP



Saturday 1st February in Church. 10.30.a.m. to 12 noon.
All are welcome so do come along and enjoy a morning of fun and friendship. A small charge of 50 pence is made for materials and refreshments.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 17th May at 7.30.p.m. until 11.00p.m. there will be a Barn Dance with a live Band held at The Remembrance Hall Badsey. Details in future newsletters. Keep this date free and come along and have an enjoyable evening and bring your friends.

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD –FEBRUARY ROTA 2003

1st Sunday Mrs Maureen Davies and Mrs Sandra Sparrow
2nd Sunday Mrs Yvonne Haynes and Mrs Stephanie Hartley
3rd Sunday Mrs Sheila Taylor and Mrs Annette Bufton
4th Sunday Mrs Hazel Smith and Mrs Hazel Stewart

March

1st Sunday Mrs Mary Clarke and Mrs Margaret Castle
Lent No flowers in Church

Thank you for the flowers in Church during January. Any queries on Church flowers please contact me on (01386) 832007

Hazel Stewart

CHURCH ORGANIST

As many of you will know, Marlene Atkinson has decided to retire as Church Organist from the end of March. This means that we need to find one or more people who are prepared to provide the music which is such an important part of Church Worship.

We need an organist or pianist to play for Sunday Evensong Services and someone to play organ/piano/keyboard for Sunday Morning Services. These could be the same person or two different people. Weddings and Funerals also require an organist for which a fee is payable.

Anyone who is interested should contact Sue Cole on 01386 831260.

BADSEY & ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Badsey Remembrance Hall on Wednesday 26th February 2003 at 7.30.p.m.

RURAL SAFETY INITIATIVE

RURAL SAFETY FORUMS

West Mercia Constabulary is committed to forming RURAL SAFETY FORUMS in selected rural areas. The forums would be made up of local people who would be willing to give a certain amount of their time to help solve their areas problems. These problems would not necessarily be crime related, but quality of life issues. A certain amount of training would be given by officers from West Mercia. The opening step would be a talk/discussion in the village hall led by the beat manager.

Anyone interested should phone Sgt. Tom Iddon at Evesham police station – 01905 723888 extension 3455, leaving their names and contact numbers, the date would then be set for the initial talk in the village hall.

Sgt. Tom Iddon

TROUBLED TIMES

At this time, with the threat of war in the Middle East, let us **ALL** pray for peace and for the safety of those who have been deployed to the Middle East in readiness for war.