

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

June 2003

If we ask a child to describe God to us or to draw a picture of God then the results can be very interesting. They can become even more interesting when we ask them explain why they have drawn God in a particular way. It would also be fascinating to examine the ways in which such drawings have changed over the course of the past fifty years as well as whether there are significant differences between children from rural and urban backgrounds.

One image which still appears is that of a man with a long white beard who is, perhaps, sitting on a cloud. Some children draw a picture of a man and some of them identify the man as Jesus. Another group produce a picture of a cloud or smoke or perhaps a ghostly figure and say that God is a spirit.

Now I am fully aware that we cannot draw an accurate picture of God and there is also a strong argument that we should not try to draw such a picture. There is a sense in which we are trying to describe the indescribable. However, there are many lessons which we can take from such pictures, one of which is as follows.

The Christian faith, like many other world religions, has always used a great deal of human imagery. We have a tendency to describe God in human terms and visualise Him in some sort of human form. Yet the child's picture of God who appears as a cloud, reminds us that The Christian Faith also teaches that God is Spirit and other faiths sometimes make reference to God's spirit in various ways. In the Christian Church, the festival of Pentecost or Whitsun, which this year occurs on 8th June, is the time when we think in particular about God as Spirit.

Today, there are many people who have rejected the major world religions because they do not seem to offer the sense of mystery which is associated with what we might want to call a spiritual presence. However, this idea of Spirit, which is here, there and everywhere, which is closer than we are to ourselves, is a central part of traditional Christian teaching. God is not simply a remote God who inhabits heaven or a cloud. God is also the God who is here, there and everywhere and who moves about throughout the world and often acts in a mysterious way - which is just what a small child once told me, after they had drawn a picture of a god who looked quite strange indeed.

With very best wishes, Adrian

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| Vicar: | Revd Dr Adrian Hough, The Vicarage, Badsey. | 830343 |
| Associate Priest: | 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 |
| 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

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| Sunday 1 st June | 11.00.a.m. 7.00.p.m. | Family Worship Asparagus Service at Bretforton (Bishop of Worcester) |
| Wednesday 4 th June | 10.00.a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 8 th June | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday 15 th June | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion Evensong |
| Sunday 22 nd June | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Praise and Worship Evensong |
| Sunday 29 th June | 8.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) Special Service |

BADSEY REGISTER (up to 24th May)

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| BAPTISMS: | 4 th May | Harvey Beckham Sparrow |
| WEDDINGS: | 24 th May | Matthew Joseph Adamson and Joanna Louise Lovatt |
| FUNERALS: | 30 th April | Gertrude Evelyn Cowley Followed by burial in the Churchyard |

MOTHERS UNION

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| Wednesday 7 th May at 10.00.am. | – Communion in Church |
| Monday 9 th June at 7.30.p.m. | – Quiet Evening at Norton |
| Tuesday 24 th June | – Outing to Malvern Priory with Cream Tea. Leave from the Lychgate at 1.30.p.m. |

If you would like to come along to any of our meetings, you will be made most welcome.

SANDRA SPARROW

NEWSLETTER

We urgently need someone who has the time and would be willing to print out the newsletter at Littleton Resource Centre each month and distribute it to the house distributors. Anyone who can help or for further information please contact one of the Churchwardens. (telephone numbers on front of newsletter)

REVD. MIKE SHEPHERD

The Bishop of Leicester has appointed Revd. Michael Shepherd as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of All Saints, Ashfordby; St. James, Ab Kettleby; and St. Leonard Holwell, all near to Melton Mowbray. Mike will take up this appointment in the middle of September and will therefore be leaving us here with effect from the middle of August. There will be more details on this move and the way in which we shall mark Mike's departure in the July Magazine.

STOP!...IN THE NAME OF GOD

There is a campaign that on the weekend of Friday 20th June to Sunday 22nd June, people across the United Kingdom are being encouraged to stop their work at some point and simply to be or reflect on what they are doing. The way in which this can happen will vary from person to person. However, as a way of supporting this cause, the Clergy and Licensed Readers of these three parishes are encouraging people to stop at some point between 12.00 and 12.30 on Friday 20th June.

It might be that because of the nature of what you are doing you can only stop for a few seconds or it might be that you are able to stop for longer. Either way, you will know that you are sharing with other people both locally and across the country. Each of the three Church buildings will be open and staffed from 12.00 to 12.30 and anyone who wants to come along and sit in silence is very welcome.

BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL SUMMER FETE - On Saturday 28th June 2003

Opening at 2.00 pm by:

MIKE GEORGE FROM BBC HEREFORD AND WORCESTER.

Celebration Reed and Brass Band, Badsey Society local history display, refreshments, bouncy castle, craft stalls, table top sale, grand draw and many more stalls and games. Admission by lucky programme £1.00. Accompanied children free

YOUTH CELEBRATION SERVICE

Thank you so much Cathy, Stephanie, Robin, Hugh, Sheila, Jenny and Sue for the lovely basket of flowers and card presented to me, which was totally unexpected. At the time I was so overcome I feel I failed to thank you all properly. To bring an idea to presentation such as this, takes many willing people, loads of imagination and time. But look what was achieved. 'WELL DONE'. This was the first time the teenagers had lead such a service and it was voted a great success and very enjoyable. Thanks must go to the backing team:- Sheila as overall director and leader, without her forethought it would not have succeeded. Mike and Vicky for their valuable help with the production. Angela for arranging banner material. Hilary created these from the teenagers input plus teaching the ringing of the handbells. Chris for hanging the banners. Julie for making the costumes. Adrian and the people who regularly attend evensong for the use of this time slot. Marlene for playing the piano and the choir which helped make the service an overwhelming success. The ladies who served the coffee afterwards. If I have missed anyone out I do apologise. Working with these young people has been an inspiration.

HILARY BOLTON

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD –JUNE ROTA 2003

- 1st Sunday – Mrs. Hazel Smith and Mrs. Hazel Stewart
2nd Sunday – Mrs Mary Clark and Mrs Margaret Castle
3rd Sunday – Mrs Pat Goldstraw and Mrs Sue Goldstraw
4th Sunday – Mrs Julie Gardner and Mrs Eleanor Sams
5th Sunday – Mrs Sandra Sparrow and Mrs Maureen Davies

Thank you ladies for the lovely floral arrangements in Church during May.
Any queries on Church flowers please contact me on (01386) 832007

Hazel Stewart



ACTIVITY GROUP



Saturday 7th June 10.30.a.m. to 12 noon. Do come along and enjoy a morning of fun and activities with Wendy and Sheila. A small charge of 50 pence is made to cover materials and refreshments but fun is free and guaranteed.

BADSEY WEBSITE

For further and interesting information on Badsey and Aldington, past and present, why not consult the Badsey Website – www.Badsey.Net.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

On Monday 23rd June the Mobile Blood Donor Collection Unit will be at Badsey Remembrance Hall between 1.00.p.m. and 7.15.p.m. The Service appeals to all regular donors to respond to their request for blood. New donors are urgently being sought. The process is quite quick and painless the only criteria is that you be between 17 and 60 years of age and in good health. For any further information please phone 0845 7711711 or visit the unit on 23rd June. After June the next visit to Badsey will be on Monday 29th September at the same venue and at the same time.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th June at Badsey Remembrance Hall at 7.30.p.m.

CHRIS HELM

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Where there is faith there is love
Where there is love there is peace
Where there is peace there is God
Where there is God there is no need.