

St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

December 2003

We live in a world which is beset with violence and hatred as well as a lack of tolerance for those who are in some way different to ourselves but whose differences often have no effect on our lives whatsoever. The unrest in The Middle East, the problems in the Gulf, continuing animosity and lack of trust in Northern Ireland... the list could go on and on. Throughout the world, the majority of people long for peace in their lives but are denied that peace by people of violence and by those who deliberately set out to persuade them that to be different is to be the enemy.

However, we also see the same patterns on a smaller scale in our own society. The young person who dares to be different can be the subject of ridicule or bullying. Random acts of vandalism damage not only property, but also the lives of those who own that property. We have recently heard of the case of a man in the West Midlands who committed suicide, allegedly because he could not tolerate any more vandalism to his property.

The vast majority of us long for peace. But peace is not simply an absence of violence or the ability to walk down the street without fear of assault or ridicule - whether that be in Baghdad or closer to home. Welcome as these things would be to countless millions of people, true peace can only come when we hold people as precious whatever their background and openly work for the good of everybody.

At the first Christmas, the angels greeted the shepherds with a message of peace. The angels probably spoke in Aramaic, for that was quite possibly the only language which the shepherds knew. Whatever their language, the words have been handed down to us in Greek and their translation has varied somewhat with time.

The message is one of peace and goodwill from God to men. It implies that the peace which we seek is to be found in the child who is born in Bethlehem. However, there is definitely some form of condition present in the words of the angels. The peace comes to those on whom God's favour rests. This is peace for those who do justice to their relationships and who have their hearts in the right place. Jesus himself later teaches that a person cannot be at peace with God if they hold a grudge against their neighbour. Peace begins with us. If we cannot make peace in our lives and the places where we live, then there is no way in which we can expect to find peace on the world stage.

With best wishes, Adrian

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| Vicar: | Revd Dr Adrian Hough, The Vicarage, Badsey. | 830343 |
| 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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| Wednesday 3 rd December | 10.00.a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 7 th December | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Family Worship Advent Service |
| Sunday 14 th December | 11.00.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Praise and Worship Holy Communion |
| Sunday 21 st December | 4.30.p.m. | No Morning Service Carol Service |
| Wednesday 24 th December Christmas Eve | 11.15.p.m. | Midnight Mass |
| Thursday 25 th December Christmas Day | 10.30.p.m. | Family Christmas Celebration |
| Sunday 28 th December | 9.30.a.m. 6.30.p.m. | Holy Communion Said Evensong |

COLLECTION FOR CRISIS – In addition to the normal collection, a plate will be left at the back of the Church after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and the Family Celebration on Christmas Morning, for the charity CRISIS. This charity supports the Homeless throughout the year.

BADSEY REGISTER (up to 14th November)

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| BAPTISMS: | 2 nd November | Simon Henry Haynes Jack William Grantham |
| WEDDINGS: | 1 st November | Ian Cairns and Clare Boswell |
| FUNERALS: | 14 th November | Margaret Welch Followed by burial in the Churchyard |

MOTHERS UNION

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| Wednesday 3 rd December at 10.00.am. | Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 9 th December at 2.30.p.m. | Carols and Readings in Church. |

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

SANDRA SPARROW



ACTIVITY GROUP



The Activity Group will be meeting on Saturday 6th December at 10.30.a.m., when we will continue preparing for Christmas, so do come along and join in the fun and activities.

A CONCERT BY BRETFORTON SILVER BAND

ON

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

IN

JAMES CHURCH BADSEY WITH ALDINGTON

At. 7.30.p.m.

Tickets £6.00

Children £3.00

Wine and Mince pies will be served.



Tickets available from: Yvonne Haynes (830063) Maureen Davies (832492)
Hazel Smith (832623) Wendy Such (832283) Chris Print (831236) Terry Sparrow
(833368) and the Churchwardens, Sue and Chris (Tel. Nos. on front of magazine)

BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL PTA - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

2.00 - 4.00.p.m

Craft and toy stalls, refreshments, tombola, raffle etc.

And a chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto



FAMILY CELEBRATION FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING AT 10.30.A.M

Come and join us for an enjoyable service with carols, drama, instrumentalists, participation by all, and a birthday cake to celebrate Christ's birth.

Editor: At this time of the year many of us will be attending Church for the Christmas services. We will admire the floral decorations, the Christmas tree, the Nativity scene, the shining brasses and will enjoy the sound of the bells ringing out, the organ playing, the voices of the Church Choir. Let us remember and thank the many people who make all this possible by giving their time, money and effort to keep the Church like this throughout the year. The cleaners, the brass polishers, the flower arrangers, the small band of men who maintain the lighting and do other small works, the organist, the choir, the bell ringers, those who do the pew sheets, the newsletter and those who deliver it, organisers of Church events, those who look after the Churchyard and of course the Clergy. All give freely of their time to practice, rehearse and work in the interests of the Church on a weekly/monthly basis. If anyone is willing to help with any of these "jobs" in the New Year please contact the Vicar or the Churchwardens, (telephone nos. on front of magazine). No matter how little time you can spare or how often you can spare it, we would welcome and be glad of your help. In the meantime join in and enjoy our Christmas Celebrations and may you all have **A very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

ST. JAMES FLOWER GUILD – DECEMBER 2003

Thank you ladies for the flowers in Church during November also for the flowers you supply at your own expense throughout the year, it is very much appreciated. There will be a meeting at Church on Saturday 13th December 2.00pm to decide when we are going to decorate the Church for Christmas. Have a rest during Advent. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Any queries on Church flowers please contact me on 832007. **Hazel Stewart**

VARIETY CONCERT

On Friday 30th January 2004 in Badsey Memorial Hall. Come and join in home-made entertainment by all ages.

BINGO – SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER – THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to Mrs Mary Dore who organised yet another very successful Christmas Bingo in aid of Church Funds. A very big thank you also to all those who donated prizes for the evening. The grand sum of £300.00 was raised. A very festive and enjoyable time was had by all.

BADSEY WEBSITE www.badsey.net – don't forget to visit this website which is full of interesting, informative and amusing information – a must for all those villagers with access to the internet.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 10th December at 7.30.p.m.

BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL

The collection box in the Spar shop is emptied monthly, £17.43 was collected last month, many thanks to all who donated.

Next Committee meeting is on Thursday 11th December at 7.30.p.m. in the back room. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us to raise funds for the Hall over the past year, this is greatly appreciated.

Badsey Remembrance Hall Bingo on Saturday 6th December in aid of Hall funds.

Eyes down at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

MRS. S. EVANS

'CLASSICS AT THE CASTLE'

Friday 9th January at 7.30.p.m. at Hartlebury Castle. Music and song from Mozart to Mendelssohn. Featuring The Gallery String Quartet and Guests. Tickets £10 (to include mulled wine). Tickets available from Sue Cole (01386 831260)

Christian Cracker (from Middlesex)

At the start of the Christmas Nativity Play, five children were to come on, in order, holding cards which spelt out H E L L O. Unfortunately the child with the fifth letter became confused and went on first instead of last. (Activity Group beware!)

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Oh Lord of light and hope, help us to remember that this time of waiting and excitement is in expectation of your coming into the world; that this time of Advent is a time of preparation, not for the commercial greed that Christmas has become, but a time for listening to your voice inviting us to the celebration of the Christ Child's birth at Christmas.