

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS



## **Christmas Services 2006**

**Christingle Service**  
*3rd December 11.00 am*

**Carol Service**  
*17th December 4.30 pm*

**Carol Singing round the village**  
*20th December*  
*(meet @ 6.30 at The Wheatsheaf)*

**Christmas Eve**  
*11.30 pm Midnight Mass*

**Christmas Day**  
*10.30 am Family Worship for Christmas*

*Please note that following the success of the concert last year **The Avonbank Brass Band** will perform in church at 7.30pm on **Friday 8th December** TICKETS £6.00 (children £3.00) (includes wine and mince pies)*

Dear Friends,

I start on a sad note, as I have to let you know that, due to some financial difficulties and other unforeseen circumstances, it is with great regret that the PCC is no longer able to publish and distribute the Parish Newsletter ("The Bugle" since its re-launch in June this year), I do however, want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those involved in its production and distribution over the past years.

We will in the new year, be considering the options open to us as to the best way of keeping the community informed of news in the villages of Badsey and Aldington.

Christmas is a time of celebration and festivity, the time we remember that God, in the form of Christ, became human and lived among us. It is also a time of school holidays and for most people time away from work.

All this sounds a wonderful opportunity for families to spend more time together. Unfortunately, Christmas is also a time of great pressure on family life. It is probably the 'norm' these days for both partners in a relationship to need to work to pay the mortgage or even just to make ends meet. The extra pressure of Christmas, particularly where there are children involved, can put a huge strain on relationships, which is why the collapse of the Christmas saving fund Farepak has had such a devastating effect on so many families.

The Christmas we tend to celebrate these days seems to be dominated by commercialism; and the lives we lead week by week are so pressured, that it is the family unit that tends to suffer during the festive season. This is somewhat ironic, as the reason we observe Christmas at all, is to rejoice and give thanks for family life, to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

We remember that God was prepared to send his son into the world to be born, not into a rich and powerful family but to a young unmarried mother, Mary, who with her boyfriend Joseph couldn't even find a place to stay on the night her child was delivered. Christ was born into poverty at a time of great unrest; had such schemes existed I am certain that Mary & Joseph would have been paying into a Christmas Club (if they could have afforded to) similar to Farepak. During this Christmas period, I urge you all to enjoy your celebrations and to spend time together as a family, but also to recall to true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Christ.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

With very best wishes for Christmas  
and the New year

from

The Vicar, Churchwardens and  
Parochial Church Council

of

St James, Badsey with Aldington

*Richard*