



The Parish of St James, Badsey with Aldington

Parish Newsletter

February 2007

Dear Friends,

'Will you send me an email' I said to someone the other day, to remind me to do something for them as I didn't have my diary with me at the time. As I sit down to write this letter I am conscious that I have now received the email but have not yet completed the task. The reason I mention this is that so much of our lives appear to be dominated by emails and text messages, I fear we are in danger of loosing the art of conversation. Not that many years ago, we would receive a letter, which someone had taken the time, and care to write (by hand) and we would read it, then think carefully of its content, and compose a response. If it was thought to be important we would file it away somewhere and if it was from a loved one, probably tie it with a ribbon and put it in a shoe box or in the bottom of a drawer for safe keeping. Just before you think that the vicar has lost the plot completely, headed off on some nostalgia trip, and you throw the magazine in the bin, let me explain.

All these letters and other 'keep sakes' like photograph albums, were something we kept and shared with friends and family, historians throughout time have relied on the written word to more fully appreciate our ancestors and understand where we have come from. Once we receive an email or a text message we invariably delete it – there is no longer any record of what was said or done; digital photographs are stored on computers and never looked at. We are in danger of deleting history as we go, in a few years there may be nothing for our children's children to look back at. I am not advocating turning the clock back, technology has a lot to offer us, and I am all for it; but I do have some concerns. You may think that the bible is irrelevant to our modern world, or that history books are boring and sometimes one-sided, written by the victors of a conflict (and that of course is your choice), but they are important historical accounts of the past. Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, tries to answer questions we still ask today - why we are here and how the world was created. The New Testament gives an account of the life of Christ and contains letters to the early church. If St Paul was around today, he would probably write St Paul's email to the Philippians, or his first text message to the Corinthians, and I wonder if they would still exist in two years time never mind two thousand years.

Christ spoke to people as individuals making them feel special and spending time with them, how we communicate with one another is important, even more so if we think of ourselves as Christians. We, like Christ, in the midst of all our emails and text messages, need to find time to communicate with one another. If you don't 'do' email and txt msgs perhaps you are already better at communication than those of us who do! Now that Christmas is over and before we start thinking of Easter, make time communicate and don't forget, one important aspect of communication is listening.

May God be with you in your listening.

Richard

Church Services

Wednesday 7th February	10.00 am	Eucharist with members of Mothers Union
Sunday 4th February	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship (followed by coffee) Evensong
Sunday 11th February	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Praise and Worship (followed by coffee) Eucharist
Sunday 18th February	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Morning Celebration (followed by coffee) Evensong
Sunday 25th February	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Eucharist (followed by coffee) Evensong
Sunday 4th March	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship (followed by coffee) Evensong
Wednesday 7th March	10.00 am	Eucharist with members of Mothers Union

Church Contacts

Vicar	The Revd Richard Court, The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey.	834550
Churchwardens	Mr Chris Smith, Mr Chris Robbins,	830217 831004
Readers	Mrs Penny Christison, Mrs Sheila Lancaster, Mrs Anne Potter,	830367 833929 424429

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

21 January Rhys Watson Emms

Funerals

12 January Susan Mary Allen
15 January Rodney Hooper Downing
19 January Freya Isabella Mei-Wah Wu

Women's World Day of Prayer This year's service will be held in the Parish Church of St Mary & St Milburgh in Offenham on Friday 2nd March at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Dominique Hardiman, chair of Broadway branch of WWDP



Wednesday 7th February at 10.00 am Communion in Church followed by coffee and a 'chat'.

Tuesday 13th February at 2.30 pm
in church

'Sense at your fingertips'
Speaker Jenny Barton
(New Diocesan President)



Wednesday 14 February 7.15 pm in Remembrance Hall speaker from 'the PDSA'. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



Bretforton Band Concert in Offenham Church 7.30pm 3 March 2007

in aid of St Mary & St Milburgh Church, Offenham
£5.00 in advance or £6.50 on the door

Tickets available from Alex & Penny Christison or The Revd Richard Court
(See contact details opposite)

Badsey and Aldington Parish Council

The Parish Council meet on the last Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Remembrance Hall.

St James Flower Guild

Thank you all for the lovely flowers over Christmas and during January, the rota for February is: 4 Feb Maureen Davies & Sandra Sparrow; 11 Feb Annette Robbins & Sheila Taylor; 18 Feb Julie Gardner & Eleanor Sams.

Please note there are no flowers during Lent.

The Flower Guild is holding a flower festival in Church in June 2007 under the guidance of Mrs Hazel Stewart, please contact Hazel on 01386 832007 for any queries regarding church flowers.

Lent Course There will be a series of five sessions in this year's Lent course to be held on Monday evenings starting at 7.30 pm in church on 26 February, 5, 12, 19 and 26 March.

During the five weeks we will be covering the following topics *Slavery, Friendship & Prayer, Change & Struggle, The Bible, and Redemption & Restitution*

WEB SITES There are three websites which contain information for Badsey and Aldington

History	www.badsey.net
General	www.badsey.org.uk
Church	www.ourbenefice.org.uk

Useful Numbers

Police (non emergency)	08457 444888
Pressure Point (Local Drugs Helpline)	0800 652 9664
FRANK (National Drugs Helpline)	0800 77 66 00
Victim Support (helping people cope with crime)	0845 30 30 900
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 980 2946
Childline (Children and young people helpline)	0800 11 11
Crimestoppers (Report information about crime, anonymously)	0800 555111
CAB (Advice and information on a range of issues, including housing, benefits, consumer, employment, money and debt)	01386 443737



**St James is part of the united benefice of
Badsey with Aldington
Offenhams and
Bretforton**