

Community News

Badsey and Aldington

December 2010

GOD'S MOUNTAIN

By Trevor Dennis

It was indeed an awe-inspiring sight. It rose dark and threatening out of the desert, its top many thousands of feet above the surrounding plain, and shrouded always in mist. The holy mountain of God. The mountain where once before, so the story went, God had met his people, the place where surely he would come to them again. The signs were there.

A strange light had appeared in the sky, like a pillar of fire, seeming to want to draw people in its wake towards the mountain. Eagles, buzzards and falcons had been seen weaving strange patterns in the sky. Kings were on the move in distant lands, and local shepherds were getting restless. The signs were there, and people looked out for signs then. The pillar of fire, the birds, the kings and shepherds did not go unnoticed. The desert was no longer deserted, but became a huge metropolis as a great mass of people converged on the mountain from all directions. They came in their thousands, in their hundreds of thousands, and in the end in their millions, almost all of them on foot. There were bands of young men laughing and joking, each trying to give the impression he did not mind the heat and the dust and the weariness of the place. There were small children, for whom this was a great adventure, who really did not mind the heat and the dust, or else were asleep, riding on their fathers' shoulders. There were babies being carried by their mothers, and behind them all the old, the blind and the lame, and a few heavily pregnant women stumbling, gasping in the heat, but still going on, drawn like everyone else to the great surge of rock ahead of them. The rich came on their camels, and the poor came also, their feet bound with cloth to protect them from the heat of the sand and the sharp stones. Saints and holy women and men came together with the godless and the wicked. Ruthlessness and cruelty were among them, and greed, lust and hatred. Love was there in all its fierceness with faith and hope, along with gentleness, kindness and fine humility.

Many joys came to that mountain, many sadnesses too, and much grief. All travelled to the one mountain and for

one purpose. Not everyone was sure that that purpose would be fulfilled. Perhaps God would not make an appearance this time. Perhaps the signs were not signs at all. Perhaps, after all, at the end of the journey everything signified nothing. Yet no one was utterly certain he would not come. All had their hopes, even if they would not admit to them. The mountain held them all in its spell, and one more thing united them: the great weariness of the desert.

As they reached the foot of the mountain they sank down on the rock, exhausted, and the desert larks and the white crowned wheatears ran among their bodies. Nobody dared venture on the slopes above. It was God's mountain, not theirs. Even the wicked and the insane sensed that. They camped at its foot, and waited. What for exactly, they did not know. What would the coming of God be like? They did not know. But they were sure there would be lightning and thunder, a few mysterious trumpet blasts maybe, and no doubt the ground would shake and the mountain would tremble and smoke and burn with fire.

That is what they expected. So, soon after the sun had gone down behind the mountain, making the mist on top seem like the smoke of a great fire, it came as no surprise when a violent storm suddenly broke upon them. They huddled together, drawing their cloaks about their shoulders and around the quivering bodies of their children. The vast black sides of the mountain bent over them. They were dwarfed by them, made to feel as nothing, and at the height of the storm it seemed they might with one last awful crash of thunder, split and crack down upon them and become their burial mound. Yet in the midst of their terror they still waited, listening for the voice of their God in the howl of the wind and the roar of the thunder. For surely he had come to his mountain in this storm, and surely he would speak to them again as he had done through his servant Moses all those centuries before.

Story continues on Back Page

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2 LETTER FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends



Advent sees the start of the new Christian year, a time of expectation and preparation. Within the church, some people draw a parallel between Advent and Lent, and I suppose in one sense there is a link as during Lent we prepare for Easter and during Advent we prepare for Christmas. There is however, a major difference. Lent has an altogether more Penitential feel to it, while in Advent we look forward, anticipating the Incarnation (coming among us in human form) of Christ, and to the final coming of Christ as judge at the end of time. It is also a time of celebration, festivity a time of school holidays and for most people time away from work.

All this sounds as if it is 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 bills or even to just

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	Mrs Sue Cole	831260
Readers:	Mrs Penny Christison	830367
	Mrs Sue Cole	831260
	Mrs Sheila Lancaster	833929
	Mrs Margaret Pye	833537

CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER

Wed 1st	10.00 am	Communion followed by coffee
Sun 5th	11.00 am	Christingle
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sun 12th	11.00 am	Praise & Worship
	6.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun 19th	11.00 am	No Service
	3.30 pm	Carol Service
Sun 24th	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Sun 25th	10.30 am	Family Worship
Fri 28th		No Service

Morning Prayer is said at 7.45 am each weekday at Badsey except Tuesday & Wednesday, which are a Eucharist.

FROM THE REVD RICHARD COURT

make ends meet. The extra pressure of Christmas, particularly where there are children involved, can put a huge strain on relationships; this Christmas in particular, there will be many who are concerned at the proposed government cuts that are going to affect us all in one way or another; and I know that many will be wondering how secure their job or their income will be in 2011.

Perhaps in light of this it may be that there is an opportunity to recapture the essential element of Christmas. The Christmas we tend to celebrate these days seems to be dominated by commercialism rather than the celebration of the birth of Christ who was born into poverty at a time of great unrest. Perhaps it is time to cut back on the non essentials which have now become part of Christmas and to aim for a more simple celebration.

With all best wishes for a good Advent and a peaceful, happy and Blessed Christmas.

Richard

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:	17 Oct	Edward James Rice
	24 October	Alby Careless
	07 November	Ruby Grace Murphy

Funerals: None

Weddings: None

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's nice to be able to write a note to you all. Normally the newsletter is so full there is no room for a contribution from me and that is so good.

I must thank all those involved in producing the newsletter. Thank you to Liz Cudd who gets all the advertisements without which we would have no money to produce the newsletter. Thanks also go to Wendy Morrey who coordinates with the printers and bags the newsletters up. A special thank you to the deliverers without their contribution there would be no point in any of the above.

So please keep your articles, poems and letters coming in and I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sheila Lancaster

ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

DECEMBER ROTA

December - no flowers in Church during Advent. Ladies thank you for the flowers in Church during November. Could you please put in your diaries Saturday 11 December 2.00 pm for a meeting regarding decorating the Church for Christmas.

Any queries regarding Church flowers please contact me.

Hazel Stewart 832007

THREE MEN ON A HIKE

THOUGHT MEN MIGHT APPRECIATE THIS – ESPECIALLY WILL!

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large, raging, violent river. Needing to get to the other side, the first man prayed

“God please give me the strength to cross this river”
Poof!...God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in two hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed,

“God please give me enough strength and the tools to cross this river”
Poof!...God gave him a row boat and strong arms and legs and he was able to row across the river in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed.

“God please give me the strength, the tools and intelligence to cross the river”
Poof!... he was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked a couple of hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

WHEATSHEAF CHARITY EVENT

A charity event is being held at the Wheatsheaf on Thursday 09 December from 6.00 pm. There will be live music in our function room. The performer being Frankie Martin who sings swing and lounge music. The event is to raise money for Help the Heroes and is a world record breaking tour and is being performed in 366 pubs across 366 days. Frankie has already raised over £50,000. Fancy dress is welcome - all the staff will be dressing up. We hope to make this a massive success as it is such a worthwhile cause.

Nikki, Manager, The Wheatsheaf

JIGSAW NEWS



Joseph and his coat of many colours

On 24 October the Jigsaw group met to enjoy an hour learning about Joseph and his coat of many colours. We learnt that we all have special talents and that it's important not to want other's talents; but to be happy with what God gave to us.

We made a colourful collage of Joseph from autumn leaves. You can see this if you visit the church. We also made Joseph photo holders.

There will be no meeting in December.

Please join us on
04 December for Christingle
&

19 December for Carol concert with nativity.

Our next meeting is on
23 January 2011
11.00 – 12.00

Do come along and join the fun.

Craft Workshop
Saturday 05 February 2011
2.30pm – 4.00 pm

BE SAFE NOT SORRY

As the evenings are now drawing in can we please encourage residents to join our campaign to 'Light Up'. Leave a light on and keep your home safe and secure, a well lit home gives the impression that someone is in. Use timer switches to turn lights on while you are out, lock windows and doors and keep gates well secured. Also with Christmas nearly upon us can we encourage people to take extra care. Do not leave presents or parcels in cars or at home. Any expensive items should be tucked away until the last moment. And remember most break-ins are opportunistic.

Don't give thieves a chance!

Julie Pardoe, Community Support Officer.

COMMUNITY NEWS ONLINE

You can now read the Community News on-line. A pdf version of the monthly publication, can be downloaded from www.badsey.org.uk

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BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The October meeting of The Royal British Legion Womens Section, Badsey, Aldington & Wickhamford branch was their AGM. The meeting commenced as usual with the chairman saying the exhalation when she asked members to remember Doreen New who had recently died and was a member of the branch. She then went onto explain the fire exits....just in case we had new members and they needed to know!! The chairman then welcomed the member to the meeting. Next apologies, these were received on behalf of Vera Vokins, Annette Robins, Ann Morcombe, Joan Butcher and Jess Reeves. Address by the branch president was next on the agenda but as she was unable to come the chairman said on her behalf that she is still very interested in the Legion being ex-service and would like to continue to be our president. It was agreed that she should. The minutes of the previous AGM were read and signed as a true record. Report by Hon. Treasurer who had furnished a copy of the annual accounts so that everyone could see what monies had been made and what had been done with it. Susan Cole then thanked Pat Gorin for doing an excellent job. Next came the epic, the Secretary's Report, on what has happened during the year. It was the usual three pages but I hope interesting as not only do I write this report (when I am here) but also secretary of the branch. So you know who to blame for any mistakes!!! The chairman then gave her address but as usual quite a lot that she would say had already been said. She did say to thank all the committee and members as when asked to do anything or when she has her "begging hat" on they always came up trumps. Election of Officers; As previously written Jess Reeves said she would continue as our President and Marje Syril said she would continue as Vice being asked at the meeting. Now for the actual officials, would we be seeing great changes this evening, sorry to

ST JAMES SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Harvest Supper in October was most successful and enjoyable. Over 70 people attended and reports back were most favourable. The Rev. Jim Symonds, who was our entertainment with "A Giggle a Minute", was extremely good and really did give a giggle a minute. Despite the increases in food costs we were able to make over £400 for Church Funds. We were very grateful to all those who made apple pies, especially as some do not live in the village or go to our Church but always support us. We are also grateful to Jane Thompson and Anne Ellender for doing the raffle and door and also to Sandra Sparrow for her much valued help at the 'kitchen sink' with the tea towels. Also to Richard our Vicar for wearing two of his hats, as Vicar and MC.

say not. As all 'the oldies' (sorry about that remark ladies) were re-elected Chairman, Bet Westmacott, Vice Chairman, Jackie Emms, Treasurer, Pat Gorin, Secretary, Val Taylor Committee consisted of Doris Harris, Wendy Beasley, Ann Wilson, Lynne Clarke and Jackie Emms who were all willing to stand. It was suggested that Joyce Marshall and Sara Crump might like to join them and they were willing. Sick Visitor was once again Sheila Lancaster, Standard Bearer - Jackie Emms, Deputy Standard Bearer - Sara Crump, Escort to the standard on Remembrance Sunday was mentioned by the standard bearer who doesn't want to be on her own. This year it will be two younger members to do this honour. Didn't I mention last time that we aren't all a load of old fogies' in the womens section!! A.O.B. Presentation time first was the Rose Bowl won in the alphabet competition by Joyce Marshall. Second a certificate to the Branch of the Womens Section for achieving 65 years of service to the Legion. Notice of the next group meeting at Pershore on 7th December was read out and names who would like to go will be taken at the November meeting. A letter of thanks from the church for the donation the ladies gave when the Harvest produce was sold Annual Dinner came up for discussion and a circular had been sent from 'Bridges' about a carvery meal and pantomime which was of interest, the secretary to look into. After refreshments the competitions, the alphabet one always causes amusement. This was the letter J, and then we departed for home. Oh I nearly forgot that during refreshments the annual membership fees were paid. What other club only charges £5.00 a year and a jolly evening at a meeting monthly. How about joining us!!! You can come along and see if you like us and then join. Ladies membership forms are behind the bar whenever the club is open.

Before Christmas we have our annual Christmas Concert with Avonbank Band which people request year after year so has now become a 'must have' tradition. The concert is looked forward to each year as much by the band as by the audience. This will take place on Saturday 18 December, one week before Christmas. Tickets £7.00 each to include wine and mince pies and starting at 7.30. The advert for this event within this magazine contains names of people you can obtain tickets from: Chris, Maureen, Hazel, Yvonne and Wendy.

Thank you all for your marvellous support again this year and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.



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'K' FITNESS

The last class at Badsey Remembrance Hall before the Christmas break will be on Tuesday 14 December. The first two classes will be combined for a Christmas themed dance class followed by Wine and Mince Pies. Fitness Pilates in Candlelight will follow that. Everyone is welcome to both sessions and of course to the bit in between. I need you to book for these classes even if you normally attend on a Tuesday evening.

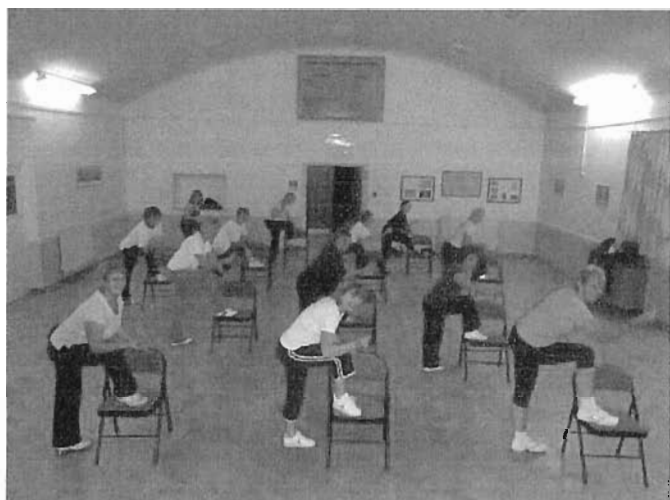
Christmas Dance Class 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm

Learn and Dance an Xmas Themed Routine

Wear something Christmassy, tinsel, hats, or a whole outfit.

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OVER SIXTIES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

There was a good turn out for the November meeting. The speaker for the day was Mr Richard Pugh-Cooke, of the Kidderminster Carpet Museum Trust, who gave a talk on the history of carpet manufacturing in Kidderminster. The trust has been helped by Morrisons Supermarket who have invested over £500,000 in re-furbishing the old Stour Vale Mill on behalf of the trust for the use of a museum, which hopefully should be open in about two years.

Our next outing is the Xmas shopping trip which this year is to the Swindon outlet centre, situated next door to the Railway Museum, the shopping trip has attracted a few of our male shoppers. The Christmas Lunch outing this year is on Wednesday 15 December at the March Hare, followed by a visit to Twyford Garden Centre.

We are all looking forward to the entertainment for our 07 December meeting which will be carol singing by the Badsey School Choir to be followed by refreshments.

BROWNIE TRIP

We went to Briarlea Old Peoples Home to sing songs and look at the sensory garden that we planted.

We sang Let it Shine, The Crocodile Song, The Crow's Song and The Shark Song.

We ate cake and sausage rolls, and had some lovely lemon Juice.

by Sophie Cox

TOWER NEWS

Looking at the calendar for December, we are going to be very busy. Starting with Christingle on the 5th. A Quarter peal attempt on Saturday 11th by a visiting team from Fairford. The Carol Service on the 19th. Midnight Mass on 24th and of course Christmas morning, as well as our usual Monday night practise here - Tuesday night at Offenham and Thursday night at Bretforton of which they both rely on us for back up as we do from them. We extend a very big Thank you to the ringers for their faithful support throughout the year.



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THE SPARKLING STARS

There was a string of six Christmas lights that were hanging over the door of a beautiful, old Victorian home. Amber was a bright yellow light. She shone like the sunshine. Ruby was on the string next to Amber. She glowed like a bright red Santa suit. Forrest was next to Ruby. He emitted an emerald green glow. He liked being the same color as a Christmas tree. Pip was orange. He loved being lit up like a glowing orange. He was on the string next to Forrest. Crystal who was as white as the snow that often fell on her as she hung on the string of lights next to Pip. Skyler, the last light on the string, shined the same color blue that could be found in an ancient iceberg.

The six lights loved hanging above the door during the Christmas season. From there, they could see everything that was going on.

"The stars are so pretty up there, sparkling brightly in the sky tonight," Crystal noticed.

"Yes, they are," agreed Forrest. "That pine tree over there is colourfully decorated," he added, as the group looked at the tall evergreen standing near them and agreed. The family had decorated it with ornaments.

Just then, a car pulled into the driveway. The father got out of the driver's seat and angrily slammed the car door. He walked up to the porch and unlocked the front door to his home, mumbling under his breath as he tried the wrong key.

The mum got out of the other side of the car, rubbing her temples as if she had a headache. She took the baby, Bruce, out of the car seat and carried him into the house. He was wearing a blue snowsuit and was wrapped in a quilt, and he was crying very hard.

"Poor wee bairn," Amber sympathized. "He's probably tired and hungry."

One by one the other children got out of the car, each carrying two or three professionally wrapped gifts with fancy ribbons and bows on them. One of them, a wee boy named Dylan, was sucking on a peppermint stick. He had a red, sticky mess all over his face and hands, and also all over his new coat.

The six lights giggled as they saw him walking towards him.

"His mum isn't going to like it when she sees the mess he's made all over the wrapping paper and his coat," Forrest said, and giggled some more.

"Look at the bow," said Skyler. "It was yellow. Now it's red and yellow." He giggled too.

The next child, a wee lass named Jenny, carried her presents towards the front door. She was crying, "Mum, Keith hit me."

The lights looked over at the car. There sat Keith, yelling, "Big baby!" to his wee sister. He jumped out of the car, made a snowball and threw it at Jenny, hitting her on the back of the head.

She dropped all the presents that she was carrying into the snow and ran into the house shouting, "Mum, Keith threw a snowball at my head!"

The lights looked down on Jenny as she ran inside. Snow was stuck all over her hair. "Awwwww, poor wee thing. I hope she's not hurt," said Ruby, worried about the lass.

Keith stood in the snow and made a pile of snowballs. He started throwing them at the house. SPLAT! One landed just above Pip. THUD! Another slammed into the wall near Amber. Some of the snowball landed on her, but quickly melted from the heat she produced. POW! Another hit Ruby and made her stick to the wall with the snow. "Ruby? Are you all right?" asked Forrest.

Just then the door to the house opened again. "Keith, stop throwing snowballs at the house and bring those presents in here now!" shouted the father. Keith pouted all the way up the driveway and walked through the front door, his head hanging low.

As the door shut behind him, Pip called to Ruby, "Are you all right?"

The heat from Ruby had melted the snow that held her firmly to the house. "I'm fine. Keith had better learn to stop throwing snowballs. He almost shattered me," she said, rather frightened.

"Isn't this supposed to be a season of joy?" asked Skyler. Amber answered, "It's supposed to be, but with all the sweeties and presents, parties, shopping, and let's not forget Santa Claus, it just wears everyone out."

"Is that what Christmas is all about; lights, decorations, gingerbread houses, peppermint sticks and plastic reindeer?" asked Pip.

Continues on next page

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a gentle approach to painful feet

THE SPARKLING STARS*Continued from previous page*

"Listen to me. I'll tell you what Christmas is all about," Crystal began. "Look up into the sky. See how all the stars twinkle? One night, a long time ago, a star shone brighter than any other star. People everywhere could see it. Below that star, a very special baby was born. His name was Jesus. He wasn't born in a fancy house, or in a hotel or hospital, but in a stable full of sheep, goats, maybe a cow, and a donkey that his pregnant mother had just ridden for a long distance. Shepherds stopped tending their flocks of sheep to come and see the baby. Wise men from afar, who were all wealthy men, maybe even kings, brought gifts for baby Jesus.

These gifts weren't games, or stuffed animals, or even rattles, and they weren't wrapped in fancy paper with ribbons and bows. They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. They saw the star and followed it to where the baby lay. Everyone came to see him. He was special. He was God's son. The people of the world would learn things from him, like how to be kind and giving and to love each other."

Crystal stopped for a moment to think. Amber said,

BADSEY W.I.

October was our AGM conducted by Mrs Wendy Booth, W.I. Advisor. The meeting was taken by Vice President Mrs Stephanie Hartley as President Mrs Elizabeth Cudd was on holiday. Elizabeth was re-elected President. Judy Foster, outgoing secretary, thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work. Wendy Booth said Badsey appeared to be a thriving and busy W.I. with a good variety of happenings and events. Our art class and walking group were flourishing, with members of the art class becoming quite proficient with hidden talents being discovered, under the guidance of Bernice Simms and Angela Gash. The Saturday afternoon walking Group increasing in size all the time under the leadership of Maureen Davies. Our walk at the end of October was at Batsford Arboretum, where the colours were absolutely magnificent. A beautiful sunny day helped show off the colours in all their splendid glory, a truly beautiful and uplifting walk. Four new members joined that evening and were welcomed by Stephanie. Following the AGM we had a very fast, fun and busy mini auction carried out by Yvonne Haynes with Judy Foster and Maureen Davies

"Look at how the people remember this event now! They fight, they get angry with their families, and they cry and hurt each other. It seems to me that nobody remembers the real meaning of Christmas any more."

None of the other lights said a word. They silently thought about what Crystal had said. The door opened and the father came outside, shutting the door softly behind him. He took a deep breath of the cold, wintry air and looked up into the sky. The lights watched him. He looked up at the stars as they twinkled and sparkled. A smile broke across his face, as if he'd just remembered something very special, and then he went back inside the house.

"Oh, I see now," whispered Forrest.

A few minutes later, "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright," came from inside the house, filling the night air with music. The lights listened as the family, who were just a few minutes ago fighting with each other, sang a carol about Jesus. Even Keith was singing. "Sleep in heavenly peace," they ended.

All six of the lights were crying. Crystal thought to herself, "Maybe they do remember what Christmas is really about after all."

being the 'very fast' runners. On 6th November we visited Birmingham and went to see Hairspray the Musical. This was a fun and 'good feel' musical starring Brian Connelly and Les Dennis who were both superb. Our next outing will be to join the Birmingham City Organist and Cambrian Brass in singing carols at Birmingham Town Hall. Skittles captain Anne Ellender took us through to the Group Final but unfortunately it was not our night to win. However, we all had a good time and look forward to the bigger County Skittles Tournament next year. Following our annual Christmas Meeting we look forward to another successful and enjoyable year.

We are still collecting bras for the new Breast Cancer Unit to be built in Worcester and thank everyone who have been donating bras. Please keep them coming. During a recent break in the Lake District I saw this sign and thought how apt it was. "Good Friends are like bras – close to your heart and there to support you when you need it".

Members of Badsey W.I. would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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MARY CAMPBELL

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**Weekly
Exercise classes**
'K' Fitness

**The Remembrance Hall
Badsey**

Monday morning and Tuesday evening

Class timetable and details
www.k-fitnessclasses.com

Tel: Barbara Kay 01386 833133

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Recreation Ground Notes The go ahead has now been given! At the time of writing the Council is awaiting a start date from HFN Landscapes, the contractors. Notices about closure of the Recreation Ground play area will be put up on the Parish Noticeboards and on the gates to the Recreation Ground as soon as a start date has been agreed. During the period of the works please would all parents and carers take care to keep their children well away from the area of the works: this is all about giving them a great place to play and no-one wants to see anyone getting hurt in the process. If you have any concerns about safety during the period of the works please telephone Rob Wickens at HFN Landscapes on 01386 555354.

Fundraising: just over £66 was raised through a Table Top Sale and £15 received from an anonymous donor (for which, many thanks). There will be plenty of further opportunities for residents to help provide the great play area our children deserve but any donations would be gratefully received.

Tree works should take place on Wednesday 8 and Friday 10 December. The Recreation Ground will not be closed while the works take place but again please take care when walking on the Recreation Ground on those days.

Funding

USEFUL NUMBERS

PETER LUFF, MP for Mid Worcestershire holds regular surgeries in Droitwich and Evesham.

Tel: 01905 763952

E-mail: luffpj@parliament.uk

Website: www.peterluff.org.uk

or write to: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Badsey Remembrance Hall 01386 832272

Police (non emergency) 0300 333 3000

Pressure Point(Local Drugs Helpline)0800 652 9664

FRANK (National Drugs Helpline) 0800 77 66 00

Victim Support 0845 3030 900
(helping people cope with crime)

Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 980 2946

Childline 0800 11 11
(Children and young people helpline)

Crimestoppers 0800 555111
(Report information about crime, anonymously)

CAB 01386 443737
(Advice and information on a range of issues, including housing, benefits, consumer, employment, money and debt)

As you will know the Badsey Society has received a substantial grant to help them take their fantastic work forward. However, as mentioned in the November Community News the Parish Council wants to ensure that all groups in the Parish can take full advantage of the many and varied opportunities to fund activities and amenities which come to the Council's notice. There are two strands to this: identifying possible whole Parish projects and also ensuring that the right groups are made aware of funding relevant to their areas. To start the ball rolling the Clerk would very much appreciate it if all voluntary/community groups within the Parish would get in touch with her and give her their up-to-date contact information (contact name, address, telephone and email).

Gardening/Trees/Hedges Training Courses

Worcestershire County Council and the Worcestershire Wardens Partnership are hosting a number of training courses over Winter and Spring on topics such as Hedgelaying, Orchard Restoration and Productive Small Gardens. A list of the available courses has been put up on the Noticeboard on the wall of the Spar but if you would like a copy please contact the Clerk.

October meeting

The Parish Council was addressed by David Manning from WDC who is co-ordinator for Opportunity Vale of Evesham. This 3 year project aims to support projects dealing with fuel poverty and/or improving skills and health/confidence within specified areas of the District. These areas include the Horsebridge/Synehurst area of Badsey. One possible project which the Council has already identified is the provision of a play area within or close by that area but please get in touch with the Clerk if you have any other suggestions.

Clerk's contact details: Alexandra Owen (Mrs), White House, Main Street, Aldington WR11 7XB. Tel: (01386) 830083 E-mail: badseyipc@yahoo.co.uk

GOD'S MOUNTAIN

Continued from front page

But no voice came. Only the wind and the lightning and the thunder. Perhaps after the storm? Yes, that was it! After the storm. When, at dawn the next day, the storm subsided as suddenly as it had begun, all eyes turned towards the summit. The mist had lifted. The very peak of the mountain could be seen, not black and menacing, but shining gold and pink in the first rays of the new sun.

Then it was that God came to his mountain. Then it was, in the deep silence of that dawn, that God spoke to his people. But not from the summit. That lifting of the eternal mist and the exquisite shining of the peak, that was a mere jest of his. No, he spoke from among them, from their very midst, down there on the plain at the mountain's foot. Just as the storm ended, in the middle of that great mass of people, a young woman gave birth to a baby, a son, and in the silence of the dawn the child uttered its first cry. God had spoken. Emmanuel.