

BERRINGTON, CROSS HOUSES & BETTON STRANGE

December/Christmas 2009

Sunday 6th December Advent 2	9.30am	Betton Strange	Eucharist
Sunday 13th December Advent 3	11am	Berrington	Eucharist
Sunday 20th December Advent 4	3pm	Betton Strange	Carol Service
Monday 21st December	6pm	Cross Houses*	Crib Service especially suitable for young children, children, parents, adults & grandparents!
			
Tuesday 22nd December	7.30pm	Berrington	Carol Service with seasonal readings
Friday 25th December Christmas Day	11am	Berrington	Family Eucharist suitable for all ages!
Sunday 3rd January 2010 2nd Sunday of Christmas	9.30am	Betton Strange	Eucharist
Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ	11am	Berrington	Eucharist
Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3	10am	Cross Houses*	Family Service
Sunday 7th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Betton Strange	Eucharist

* 30 minute service held in the Old Chapel Community Centre

GROUP DWELLINGS SERVICE

Holy Communion will be given at The Community Hall, Noel Hill Road, Cross Houses on the FOURTH Wednesday of the month at 11:00am.

ALTAR FLOWERS

December ADVENT NO FLOWERS
January Freda Donnelly



CHURCH CLEANING

December Cheryl King
January Jean Law

CHURCH LOTTERY WINNERS

October 2009	1 st Jean Law	2 nd Joan Jarvis	3 rd Lizzie Ward
November 2009	1 st Andrew Rands	2 nd B. Thompson	3 rd Ann Fryer



The Parish of All Saints Berrington
Newsletter for
December 2009/January 2010



Rev. Judy writes...

Christmas, the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus God's son who was born on earth. If we stop to think for a moment about the nativity story and Jesus' young life, we see his arrival was far from easy.

His parents had to travel on foot a distance to Bethlehem to register themselves in the census. Can you imagine what that must have been like for Mary, almost ready to give birth? And for Joseph who had to support her? Then finding nowhere to stay rejected at every door and eventually resting in a stable cosy maybe, but not the place to give birth to this special child.

Yet they managed as best as they could. Soon after they had to take flight into Egypt another long journey on foot, now with a new baby, fleeing from King Herod...living as exiles, refugees, asylum seekers.

It was tough, but they managed.

Christmas for many of us this year will be tough perhaps without work and debts mounting; perhaps without your own place to live. We won't be able to lavish gifts and heap the table on Christmas Day with mounds of food as we might wish.

But actually that won't matter. It won't matter because we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Christ-mas, and if we focus on this life-giving event, we will find that we have plenty to share. THANKS that he came to love us; thanks that he came to teach us the best way of living our lives; thanks that he cares for each one of us. LOVE to know that whoever or whatever we are, Jesus loves us and wants us to know him. He never rejects anyone.

Gifts we give are tokens of our love and affection for others, just as God gave Jesus to us a gift to save our lives. **PTO/.**

So this Christmas, celebrate the birth of Jesus itself and be thankful.

Come and celebrate with us at the many services in the weeks before Christmas.

You will be very welcome. See list for details.

Happy Christmas and God bless

Judy

A BIG GOD?

This is a story about a little girl who, on the way home from church, turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the Preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

Read this again.....Think.....

PRAYER CLOSET

The prayers of a righteous man availeth much..

James 5:16

Some ideas for things to pray for

Ask God to become REAL in our lives just as he has done in the lives of millions, throughout the centuries before.

Thank God that no matter how dark, dismal or austere our circumstances appear. Nothing can separate us from His love for us shown through Jesus Christ.

.Ask God to show you how we can be peacemakers; and how you can encourage those who are in need of food, shelter, healing, and pray for those who have recently been bereaved or who find this time particularly difficult.

THE MASTER'S CARD

Can you remember the television commercial for MasterCard? It was telling how money couldn't buy certain things; for example, a relationship between a father and son - a priceless commodity! It carried a phrase which said; "*There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's MasterCard.*" In my opinion, they have ALMOST got it right. Just a slight spelling mistake - it should be the **Master's Card**.

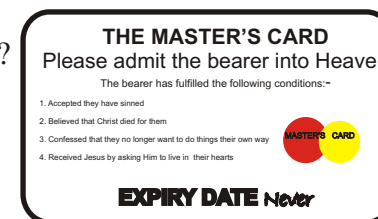
In these days we see the credit crunch biting large chunks out of people's lives, and we see many people losing all their security because it has been based upon money and what it can buy - tangible things. When it's all gone they've got nothing.

However, it would be a sensible idea to acquire a **Master's Card**. You see, the **Master's Card** does not actually cost any money - it is a free gift that has been paid for by Jesus Christ and because there is no expiry date, it will last eternally.

The card provides many, many benefits which are not of this world - it is indeed invisible and therefore cannot be stolen, broken, or corrupted. The card is unique to each holder and so there cannot be any confusion over ownership. The Master knows who owns one and who doesn't.

Some of the benefits that the **Master's Card** will provide are:

- 24 hour, worldwide accessibility
- A real joy despite the difficulties of life?
- An everlasting peace
- 100% reliability
- Eternal life
- Unconditional love



To receive your **Master's card**, read the Bible... ROMANS 10:9 says "*if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*" That decision is entirely up to you, and is a step of faith. Don't delay. This great offer won't last forever. Peace, joy and hope: Invaluable. Faith, contentment and assurance: Inestimable. Salvation: Priceless.

The MASTER'S CARD -don't leave home without it!