

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES.

The response to the recent appeal for the Churchyard Fund was most generous, the sum of £60 3s. 3d. being realised. Hearty thanks are due to all donors and to the following collectors: Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Pethard, Mrs. L. H. Sparrow, Mrs. Floyd, Miss Sadler, Miss Allard, Mrs. Savory.

The above mentioned were also kindly responsible for the distribution of the Gift Day Letters. Again there was a very generous response, the record sum of £50 10s. 1d. having been contributed to date.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Sunday, September 26th.

Correction.—In last month's issue reference was made to Nurse Holbrook's "25 years' service amongst us"; this should have read "21 years' service amongst us."

W.B.C.

P.C.C. The following items may be noted from many matters discussed at the Church Council Meeting on June 7th. — The beautiful Processional Cross, most kindly made and given by Mr. C. J. Savory, was shown to members at this meeting. The Vicar proposed to dedicate it at Evensong on the following Sunday. The Lectern Book Markers (which were dedicated on a previous Sunday) were a gift from Miss Gwen Price, daughter of the late Rev. W. H. Price, whom many parishioners will remember as Vicar of Badsey from 1897 to 1903. The Secretary undertook to write to Mr. Savory and to Miss Price thanking them for their gifts. It was arranged to make a contract with Messrs. Nicholson for the regular tuning of the Organ. This will be an increased annual expense but all will agree that this fine organ must be kept in good order. A grant towards the Choir Outing was voted by the Council and there will also be a plate in Church on three Sundays before the outing for any further contributions. The need for a Choirmaster was stressed by the Vicar, and the Council hope to find someone who will take on this work, either voluntarily or for a salary. The Vicar proposed to invite the Flower Show Committee and Helpers to attend Evensong on Sunday, July 25th (St. James's Day) in order to keep up the connection between the Patronal Festival and the Village Fête. As a Memorial to Canon Allsebrook, it was suggested that a screen might be erected between the Chancel and the Vestry, with Vestry doors in memory of George Moisey. It is hoped that these proposals will meet with the general approval of parishioners. — Next Meeting: Monday, July 26th at 7.30 p.m., in the Parish Room.

M.E.S.

SANCTUARY GUILD. Will *all* members make a special effort to attend a Meeting at the Vicarage on Thursday, July 22nd, at 7 p.m., in order that further details regarding the Church Fête on Saturday, September 4th, may be discussed?

MOTHERS' UNION. Twenty-nine Members of the Badsey and Wickhamford Branches attended the Diocesan Festival in the Cathedral on June 9th, and their Banners were carried in the Procession. After a memorable Service, the members, on the return journey, stopped at Pershore for tea.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

June 13th. John Philip Harwood.
June 20th. Janet Elizabeth Wheatley, Garnet Roy Cleaver, Anne Jane Harwood.
June 26th. Caroline Mary Gresty.

Church Collections

Church Expenses. June 6th, £3 3s.; June 13th, £2 15s.; June 20th, £2 7s. 2d.; June 27th, £3 14s. 10d.; total £12 os. 0d.

Gift Day. £50 10s. 1d.

Other Receipts. Churchyard Fund (additional Donations) £2 9s. 0d.; Church Box 5s. 2d.; Envelopes £3 14s. 1d. (No. 4, 8s.; No. 6, 15s.; No. 7, 3s. 6d.; No. 8, 3s. 4d.; No. 11, 2s. 6d.; No. 13, 4s.; No. 14, 18s.; No. 16, 2s.; No. 17, 6s. 3d.; No. 18, 6s.; No. 19, 1s. 6d.; No. 21, 4s.).

WICKHAMFORD NOTES.

The Choir Outing and the Mothers' Union Outing left us with very happy memories. Both parties set out to enjoy themselves, and most certainly accomplished it. Mrs. Collett and Mr. E. Hall were kindly responsible for the arrangements for the Choir Outing, and Mr. and Mrs. Pearce for the Mothers' Union Outing. They are to be complimented on the success of their efforts. The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Pearce on both occasions was very much appreciated. Can anyone supply the answers to the following questions (no prizes offered!): (1) Who was the famous character who was mistaken for a Departmental Manager in a Cheltenham store? (2) What member of the Mothers' Union likes sugar in her tea? (3) Who were the five hardy souls who braved the perils of the deep at Bournemouth and came back with a thrilling story—to which nobody listened?

At the June Meeting of the P.C.C. it was decided that the Harvest Thanksgiving Services should be held on Sunday, October 3rd.

In order to assist in the compilation of a Baptismal Roll, I should be glad to receive details of those children who were Baptised in Wickhamford Church between 1st July, 1943, and December, 1945. It is hoped to start the working of the Roll this month.

The attendances at the Patronal Festival were rather affected by the number of people away on holiday, but it is good to have the observance of the Festival revived.

I am very glad to announce that Mrs. Spragg and Mrs. Figgitt have accepted the invitation of the P.C.C. to act as Church Cleaners.

It was very unfortunate that the weather did not permit the Meeting of the Sanctuary Guild on June 29th to be held in the Garden at The Vicarage. A good deal of useful business was transacted.

W.B.C.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

April 25th. Clive Anthony Roberts.
June 3rd. Patricia Haile.

Church Collections

Church Expenses (June 6th—27th). £11 4s. 10d.; Church Box £1 7s. 3d.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

In the Parish Magazine for July, 1898, the Vicar stated: "July 25th is the Festival of the Patron

Saint of Badsey (St. James, Apostle and Martyr), when we hope to have special Services. It should be a day of great rejoicing in the parish. It is a definite occasion for us to show our thankfulness for the ancient and beautiful Church which our pious ancestors have handed down to us. St. James' Church belongs to all the parishioners. All have a right to join in the worship there, and it is sad to see how many never come to Church. It would be a matter for thankfulness if those who have not recently been in the habit of attending the Services would make a new start on the Festival of the Patron Saint."

A Sale of Work in aid of the Bell Fund was held in the Old School on June 28th. The sum of £11 14s. od. was realised. This wiped out the debt on the Fund, and left a balance in hand.

The Festival of the Patron Saint of Wickhamford (St. John Baptist) was marked by special Services, which were all well attended.

Among the Marriages recorded was "June 2nd—Charles Henry March and Florence Margaret Jones."

CONFIRMATION

The following is taken from the "East Cotswold Church Monthly":—

"Experience has shown that all is not well with those who offer themselves for Confirmation from time to time in our parishes. Our young people are often ignorant of the fundamentals of the Faith, quite unaccustomed to regular attendance at Church, and without any understanding of the Sacraments. It is impossible to remedy all these things through a series of Confirmation Classes alone, and so in future the following definite principles of training will be observed.

"(1) All who wish to be confirmed, must qualify for attending Confirmation Classes by coming to Church regularly during the year before they wish to be confirmed. (2) During preparation classes they will be expected to come to see several celebrations of Holy Communion, when asked to do so. (3) They will be prepared first for Confirmation, and later for Holy Communion; and they will not make their first Communion until they have been properly prepared for it in a Communicants' Class, to the satisfaction of their teacher. It is hoped that these new arrangements will result in our young people being better prepared alike for Confirmation, and for Holy Communion, and for living, working membership of the Church."

It is too early for me to say whether the opening sentences of the above apply to our parishes, but the proposals in the second paragraph are so wise that we shall do well to adopt them.

W.B.C.

INSIDE OR OUT?

Did you go to Church last Sunday?
Or were you like the man who claimed to be "a pillar of the Church," but was in fact only a buttress—supporting it from outside! (*The Daily Express*)

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the June meeting, the President (Mrs. S. B. Carter) was in the chair. Mrs. Sandford was appointed sick visitor for the month. Mrs. Taylor gave a report on the Canning Club and Mrs. Carter gave a report on the visit to Denman College. Mrs. Chapman gave a report on the choir's visit to Worcester for the Music Festival on May 29th. This was followed by a talk by Major Carter on "How to take the chair" and "Making a speech." This was very instructive and often amusing. Mrs. R. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Major Carter. An outing to Oxford on the last Tuesday in August was arranged. A competition, "Floral decoration on a soup plate" was won by Mrs. W. Sparrow, jun., Mrs. P. Hall and Mrs. Pratley. The monthly parcel was won by Mrs. A. Reed. After refreshments, the choir sang the three items they sang at the Music Festival and a happy evening was concluded with the National Anthem.

A Garden Party will be held at The Vicarage on Wednesday, July 14th, at 7 p.m. There will be a "White Elephant Stall" (proceeds for the Canning Club) and various competitions. It is hoped all members will be present.

N. E. KEEN.

BRITISH LEGION (WOMEN'S SECTION)

The County Committee of the Worcestershire British Legion (Women's Section) held a Midsummer Fair at the Guildhall, Worcester, on Saturday, June 26th. As their contribution to the general effort, the Badsey Branch (Women's Section) held a Fruit, Vegetable and Egg Stall. A splendid selection of vegetables and fruit, etc., had been generously given by various growers in the village. All these tempting articles were beautifully arranged on the stall by the women helpers, and were eagerly snapped up by numerous buyers. Long before the end of the Fair every single thing on the Stall had been sold, and some of the fruit, tomatoes, and vegetables could have been sold two or three times over. As a result, the splendid sum of £25 13s. 4d. was handed over to the County Committee. The proceeds of the Fair

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are to be devoted to the various benevolent schemes of the Legion.

R. M. BARNARD.

BADSEY FLOWER SHOW

As is generally known, the above organisation ceased to function during the war years, when everyone rightly concentrated on defeating Hitler & Co. Last year the Show was revived. Many of the old exhibitors think that the younger men and women should "take the reins" and carry on the good work. Will all—young and old—bring along their entries that we may have a really good Show? Many villages which never held Shows prior to 1939 are doing so now. So, wake up, Badsey! 1947 was a very difficult year to get Show exhibits, chiefly because of the very wet Spring and later the drought. This year, however, things are quite different, and with the recent rains it looks as if it will prove an abundant year.

I want to draw attention to one item. Mrs. Savory has very kindly given the prizes for an extra class for ladies—"Floral Decoration on a Soup Plate." Unfortunately, when this kind offer was made the Schedules had already been printed, and it is, therefore, not included. The Prizes will be: 1st, 8s.; 2nd, 5s.; 3rd, 4s.; 4th, 3s. Please help to make this known. I expect the ladies to show us men that soup plates can be used for other things besides soup!

We are glad to know that the members of the Women's Institute will again be responsible for Teas at the Show.

Finally, I hope all will accept the Vicar's invitation to attend Evening Service at Badsey Church on Sunday, July 25th (St. James's Day), that we

may keep up the connection which has always existed between the Feast of St. James (Patronal Saint of Badsey) and the Flower Show.

J. E. KNIGHT

(On behalf of the Committee).

HISTORY OF BADSEY

(Continued)

As each parish was responsible for looking after its own poor, difficulties often arose when some family who had settled in the parish needed help. Disputes were very common and consequently laws of settlement were passed which laid down rules to decide such cases. These were amended from time to time. In 1664 any newcomer could be ejected from a parish and removed to the last place in which he was legally settled, provided this was done within forty days of his arrival. This led to parishes smuggling their poor into another parish without the knowledge of the parish officers. Our accounts are full of items of removal and applications to the Justices. Later certificates were granted in the following form:—

Forasmuch as complaint hath been made unto us, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace by the churchwardens and overseers of the Parish of Badsey that . . . his wife and children lately came and intruded into the parish of Badsey aforesaid, endeavouring there to settle as inhabitants thereof, contrary to law, not having any ways acquired any legal settlement therein nor producing any certificate owning them to be settled elsewhere and they are become chargeable thereunto; we do upon due ex-

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amination adjudge the said Complaint and Premises to be true. And we do further upon examination of taken upon his oath adjudge the said his wife and children were last settled in the parish of in the County of These are to command you the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish of Badsey or some or one of you forthwith to remove and convey the said his wife and children unto the parish of

One can imagine the reception these poor people had on arrival. One is glad to note that the removal could be suspended if the family were unable to travel by reason of sickness or infirmity and it would be dangerous so to do.

The latest certificate is dated 1831. The Act of 1834 establishing unions of parishes made them unnecessary. The reports of the enquiry into settlement give a life story of the family, and I shall hope to give some of these later.

The Bread Charity. The list of the donors of this charity can be seen on the board hanging on the north wall of the nave of the Church. It is headed

“An account of the Severall Charities given to the Church and Poor of the Parish of Badsey :
Mr. Thomas Martin of Aldington gave 5 pounds.
Mrs. Jane Jarrett of y^e same gave 5 pounds.
Mr. Aug^{tn}. Jarrett of y^e same gave 20 pounds.

Mrs. Eliz. George of Badsey gave 7 pounds.
Mr. Jar^t. Stephens of y^e same gave 6 pounds.

The above sums were given to the poor that they might have the use thereof for ever in Bread.” The money was used to buy some land, the rent being used for buying the Bread. As far as I can gather from the accounts, Thomas Martin started the charity and the other donors followed his example, for in the year 1702 there is this entry: “Received of Gerard Stephens the sum of five pounds which was given by one Thomas Martin for the use of the poor of Badsey and Aldington and we are to pay it again to ye next overseers with interest for the same to be layd out in bread as followeth viz 9 great loves at Christmas and 9 more at Easter next.” The nine loaves cost 4s. 3d., so that the interest on the £5 amounted to 8s. 6d. Then we find that bread was also given at Whitsuntide and St. Jamestide to the value of 10s. each time. These early accounts of the Bread Charity also give us the amounts which were levied for the Constable, the Church and the Poor. To take a typical case—In 1705, Bread at Whitson Day 10s. At S. James tide 10s. Att Crismas 4s. Att Ester 3s. Total for bread £1 7s. od. Levies: Constable 2d. Poor levy 9d. highways 1d. Another poor levy 4d. Church levy 1d. and Queen’s tax 4s. 5d. The rent of the land was £2 a year. But 7s. had to be paid to Mrs. George as long she lived.

C.A.B.

(To be continued)

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