

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES.

There will be a Confirmation at Bretforton Church on Sunday, November 7th, at 3 p.m. Names of those who wish to attend the Preparation Classes must be given to the Vicar not later than August 20th.

There will be a Service of Re-dedication in All Saints' Church, Evesham, on Sunday, October 10th, at 3 p.m. An invitation from the Bishop will be sent shortly to all who have been confirmed during the past five years.

Sanctuary Guild. Favoured with fine weather, 32 members of the Sanctuary Guild and Mothers' Union had a most enjoyable outing to Wells and Cheddar on July 8th. At the Meeting on July 22nd, plans for the Church Fete on Saturday, September 4th, were discussed. The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26th, at 7 p.m., at the Vicarage. It is again asked that *all Members* should attend. In spite of the urgent request with regard to the Meeting on July 22nd, there were many absentees, only 25 out of 43 Members attending.

Mothers' Union. Members are asked to attend the Meeting of the Sanctuary Guild at The Vicarage on Thursday, August 26th, at 7 p.m., in order that final arrangement for the Church Fete on Saturday, September 4th, may be made.

The news of the death of Mr. G. H. Knight was received with deep regret. He was widely esteemed, and we extend our deepest sympathy to the members of his family. We also extend our sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Jeffries, who passed away on July 28th, and of Mrs. Waters (Wickhamford) who died on July 30th. She had borne her long suffering with great patience and courage.

P.C.C. At the Meeting on July 26th, the Church Council received with regret the resignation of Mrs. Major. Thanks are due to her for the useful work she has done as a member of the Council. Mr. Binyon reported that the Gift Day this year had brought in the record sum of £55 10s. 1d. The donors, to whom we are very grateful, will like to know that a large proportion of their gift is to be spent on beautifying the Sanctuary with new Altar Hangings and Frontal. A Safe for the Vestry, which has long been an urgent need, is to be bought, and will cost over £30. Another expense we must shortly incur is a repair to the face of the Church Clock, which is reported to be coming away from the wall. Plans were discussed for the Garden Fete to be held at the Vicarage on Saturday, September 4th. There will be stalls of all kinds and some novel attractions as well as the ever-popular bowling, etc. Programme tickets will be sold in advance, and will give all details. In the evening a Dance will be held in the Wheatsheaf Assembly Room, by kind permission of Miss Wixey. It is hoped that parishioners will give their loyal support and make the Fete a great success. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 4th.

M.E.S.

Choir Outing. A very interesting outing to Wookey Hole and Cheddar, via Bath and Wells, was much enjoyed by the members of the Choir on Saturday, July 17th. Accompanied by the Vicar, Mrs. Marshall, Messrs. G. A. Jones, M. Savory and E. Mitchell, the party left Badsey at 7.30 a.m., and, after a brief stay in Bath,

arrived at Wells shortly after 11 o'clock. The party viewed the lovely Cathedral and saw the famous clock strike 12. Wookey Hole was reached at 1 o'clock. An excellent lunch was partaken, after which a visit was paid to the Caves. The Caves, illuminated by floodlights, and with the colouring and fantastic shapes of the rock formations, and the underground river, are a wonderful sight. Returning from the Caves, the grown ups of the party were kept under shelter by the rain, which had come on at lunchtime, but the boys were soon enjoying a dip in the Swimming Pool.

Following tea, the party set off for Cheddar, where the Caves were visited, and were voted more wonderful than Wookey Caves. The return journey was via Burrington Combe and Bristol, and Badsey was reached shortly after 10 p.m.

The members of the Choir wish to thank those who subscribed so generously towards the cost of the outing.

A.G.C.

[EDITOR'S NOTE. — With characteristic modesty, "A.G.C." omits all reference to the person who made all the arrangements for an outing which passed off without a hitch. For this, as for so many other matters connected with the Choir, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to him.]

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

July 11th.—Alison Kay Beach.

July 18th.—Richard Charles Lawrence, Bryan Douglas Hay.

July 25th.—Christopher Brian Capener.

Marriages

July 17th.—Sydney Philip Cull, Badsey, and Bertha Turner, Broad Campden.

July 24th.—Norman Walter Jelfs, Aldington, and Annie Mary Briffett, Evesham.

Burials.

July 13th.—George Henry Knight, aged 66 years.

July 31st.—John Jeffries, aged 82 years.

Church Collections

Church Expenses: July 4th, £2 3s. 9d.; July 11th, £2 16s. 1d.; July 18th, £2 11s. 6d.; July 25th, £4 6s. 2d.; total £11 17s. 6d.

Other Receipts: Interest on Bonds, £2 5s.; Churchyard Fund, 10s.; Gift Day (additional donations), £7; Church Box, 10s. 6d.; Use of Organ, 6s.; Donation 10s.; Envelopes for Church Expenses, £4 14s. 8d.; Envelopes for Church Overseas, 10s. 9d. (No. 4, 7s. 6d.; 6, 16s.; 7, 3s. 6d.; 8, 2s. 8d.; 11, 3s. 6d.; 13, 3s.; 14, 8s.; 16, 2s.; 17, 6s. 3d.; 18, 8s.; 19, 1s. 6d.; 21, 4s.; 22, 2s.; 24, £1 17s. 6d.)

WICKHAMFORD NOTES.

Flower Show. The month of August has come around again and this denotes the Annual Flower Show in our small village of Wickhamford. As in other years, we hope to stage a better Show than the last. I do hope that all our good friends in neighbouring villages will still find a few exhibits left in their gardens. Please remember that it is all the small entries that make a great Show.

We are to be favoured with an evening performance by the Pebworth Players, who are noted for their humour and wit. Please make a note of the date, Saturday, 28th August, and bring all your friends.

A. C. WELLAND

(On behalf of the Committee).

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

July 11th.—Paul Edward Folkes.

Burial

August 3rd.—Agnes E. H. Waters, aged 40 years.

Church Collections

Church Expenses: July 4th—25th, £7 16s. 7d.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

In the Parish Magazine for August, 1898, it was reported that the festival of the Patron Saint of our Church and Parish (St. James) was solemnly kept on Sunday, July 24th, and Monday, July 25th. There was a Choral Celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. on Sunday, when there was a good Choir and 21 Communicants. Evensong was fully choral, the anthem being "He shall feed His flock" (from Handel's Messiah), followed by "The Lord is my strength" (Novello). The Organist was Mr. J. Agg, and Mr. Warner accompanied the Service on his violin. The Collections were for the Sunday School Fund, of which Mrs. Sladden was Treasurer. It was reported that there were 185 Children on the books of the Sunday School. On Monday, July 25th, the Services were 8 a.m., Holy Communion; 10 a.m., Matins; 7.30 p.m., Evensong.

The Flower Show was held in glorious weather on Wednesday, July 27th. Lady Lifford, accompanied by Lord Lifford, attended and gave away the prizes. Mr. Stanford was the Honorary Secretary and the Show was most successful.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

NURSING ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday, 13th July, the members of the Committee of the Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Nursing Association, together with a few friends, were invited by Mr. James Holding to "Briarlea." An excellent "Raspberry" Tea was provided and afterwards the Committee held their usual Monthly Meeting.

The Secretary read Correspondence from the County Nursing Association, in which it was stated that the various goods taken over by the Worcestershire County Council, in connection with the new Health Scheme, including the Garage, District Room, and the Fencing around Nurse's Home (38, Synehurst) together with the Medical Equipment, Bags, etc., would be valued, and the value allocated transferred into a Pension Fund to be administered by the County Nursing Association (in conjunction with the County Council) for the benefit of

those Nurses who are, under present arrangements, faced with the prospect of inadequate pensions. At the close of the Meeting, Mr. Holding announced his resignation as Chairman, and hoped that the Vicar, the Revd. W. B. Chapman, would take over his duties. Mr. Holding mentioned that it was always the wish of the late Mrs. Holding that the Vicar of the Parish should be Chairman. In accepting the Office, the Vicar proposed that Mr. Holding should be elected an Honorary Life Member, and this was carried unanimously. In appreciation of Mr. Holding's many years of loyal service to the Association, the Committee presented him with a small parcel of Books, comprising the following: "The English Countryside," "The Legacy of England," "In Search of England," "In Search of Ireland," "In Scotland Again" and "In Search of Wales," by H. V. Morton, together with the following note:—

"Dear Mr. Holding, — We, the Committee of the Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Nursing Association, ask you to accept these Books as a small token of our affection and esteem. We hope they will remind you of the years we have so happily worked together, and that you will have health and leisure to enjoy them.— Mrs. Lees-Milne, Mrs. L. Carter, Mrs. J. Barnard, Miss C. Barnard, Mrs. S. B. Carter, Mrs. E. Cooke, Mrs. M. Harvey, Mrs. H. Idiens, Miss E. Jones, Mrs. H. Reed, Miss E. Sladden, Mrs. R. C. Sparrow, Mrs. R. Taylor, Mrs. V. Wasley, Mrs. I. M. Brady, Mrs. M. Holbrook."

Mr. Holding thanked the Members most sincerely for their gift, and said he would always continue his interest in the Association.

It was decided that future Meetings should be held quarterly, and the next Meeting was fixed for Tuesday, 12th October.

On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. L. Carter thanked Mr. Holding for his great kindness in inviting the Members to "Briarlea." The Rev. W. B. Chapman fully endorsed these remarks, and this brought the Meeting to its close.

Afterwards, a stroll around the lovely garden was very much enjoyed.

I. M. BRADY.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our Members suffered a disappointment when the weather made it impossible to hold the Monthly Meeting in the Vicarage Garden on July 14th. The Meeting was held in the Wheatsheaf Assembly Room, and Mrs. Chapman invited members to visit the Vicarage Garden at any time. Members stood for a minute's silence in sympathy with Mrs. G. H. Knight in the loss of her husband. Mrs. Edwards was appointed Sick Visitor for the month. The President (Mrs. S. B. Carter) then welcomed the Bretforton Folk Dancers, and at the con-

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clusion of their excellent display several members expressed the wish to restart the dancing in Badsey. Competitions were won by Mrs. A. Keen, Miss E. Hartwell, and Mrs. G. Harwood. A White Elephant Stall was organised by Mrs. L. Shelley, Mrs. A. Reed, and Mrs. Pratley. A very happy evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

N. E. KEEN.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

There will be a Tea Party in the Assembly Room, Wheatsheaf Inn, on Wednesday, August 11th. All mothers with babies and toddlers are invited. Tea 4 p.m.
E. H. IDIENS.

BADSEY FLOWER SHOW

I should like to thank all who helped in various ways to make the Flower Show such a success. It was pleasing to see the old names on the prize cards, as well as many new ones.

Do please keep this up, and we shall soon attain the very high standard we reached before the War.

The quality of some of the exhibits was very good and entries in some classes were not only numerous, but were above last year's in quality as well as quantity.

I should like to say a special "thank you" to Mrs. Carter and her very efficient band of helpers for looking after the Teas. This was appreciated by everyone. The Committee, too (with one or two exceptions) were all ready and willing to do their various duties. If we

continue to pull together I think we can look forward to another good Show in 1949.

J. E. KNIGHT.

HISTORY OF BADSEY—Continued.

The Bells

There were only five bells and a small sanctus bell in our tower for many years. They were not capable of being rung in the way that is done now, as it is most unlikely that they were fitted with whole wheels or stays, so that they could not be rung up but only swung half-way up. Change ringing was unknown. Five seems to have been a favourite number of bells. The bells gave a great deal of trouble as I have shown in a former number of the magazine. The clappers were fastened to the bell with leather which required constant attention and frequent renewal. Occasionally a bell had to be recast, as in 1623, and the wheels replaced or mended. But when the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 took place, change ringing took the fancy of ringers all over the country. In due course the people of Badsey decided to have the bells melted down and changed into six. The old tenor must have been therefore larger than our present one, as no new metal was provided when the bells were recast. No doubt the fact that there was a bell foundry at Evesham helped the Church authorities to make the decision. The work was put in hand in 1706, and the Evesham firm—Clark and Bushell—were given the order. And thus our present six heaviest bells were cast. The work was apparently done at Merstow Green, Evesham, where the foundry was. The cost was as follows:—

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| | | £ | s. | d. |
|------|--|-------|----|----|
| 1706 | For Bell Ropes and money spent fetching ye bells | 11 | 4 | |
| | For Mending ye Bell Sollar floar ... | 16 | 8 | |
| | For Casting ye Bells and Articles for ye same | 13 | 14 | 0 |
| 1707 | Pd. for Bell Ropes | 11 | 4 | |
| | the remaining Due for Casting and hanging the Bells | 10 | 13 | 4 |
| | | <hr/> | | |
| | | £26 | 6 | 8 |

But this was not all for in the following year occurs this entry:—

ffor Carrying ye Great Bell to Evesham and for fetching him home againe: 4s. 0d.

While the Bells themselves had stood the test of time well, the same cannot be said of the fittings, for almost immediately the accounts begin to tell us the same tale of repairs and renewals we had before.

The inscriptions on the old six bells are:—

Present 3 Treble. IHS in a square with a cross on the bridge of the H. (Twice on Bell).

4 old 2nd. The same.

5 old 3rd. The same.

6 old 4. ROB PIGEON THO BYRD, THO DVDLEY CHVRCH WARDENS

7 old 5. Same monogram as treble with M.B.F.
8 Tenor. Monogram. MVTAVIT VIGILANS IN SEX NOS CVRA ROBERTI HILL IBI VIC GVL CLARK EFFICIT ARTE SVA ANO.

The MBF. on the 7th is Michael Bushell, Fecit. The monograms and the lettering are good. The Tenor inscription is a good specimen of a Chronogram. The large letters have all a numerical significance as Roman Numerals and will add up to 1706, the date on which the bells were cast. M equals 1,000. Four C's = 400. Five L's = 250. One X = 10. Seven V's = 35. Eleven I's = 11. The translation is, "The Watchful Care of Robert Hill, Vicar of this place changed us into six. Wm. Clark did the work with his own skill." The inscription on the old tenor was "Det sonitum plenum Iesus et modulamen amsenum."

Our tenor is 45 inches in diameter and probably weighs 16 or 17 cwt.

The foundry at Evesham although doing good work was short-lived. The business seems to have been taken over from Matthew Bagley, who made the 4th bell at Elmley Castle in 1686, and also the Bell at Wickhamford. Clark and Bushell always used the monogram as described above. They cast the back five bells at Hinton also using a Chronogram, and the fifth at Offenham, but ours are the only set of six cast by them.

C.A.B.

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