

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 19th (Advent IV).—6.45 p.m., "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."

Friday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve).—11.30 p.m., First Communion of Christmas (with Hymns).

Saturday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day).—8 a.m., Holy Communion (said); 11 a.m., Holy Communion (said).

Sunday, Dec. 26th (St. Stephen, M.).—8 a.m., Holy Communion; 11 a.m., Sunday School Service (Parents and all interested in the Sunday School invited); 6.45 p.m., Evensong.

Sunday, Jan. 2nd.—Preacher at 6.45 p.m., Rev. E. H. Moseley, Diocesan Organising Secretary, Church of England Children's Society.

Early in the New Year we hope to receive a visit from the Evesham Choir under the direction of Mr. A. M. Slatter, in selections from "The Messiah." At the moment Mr. Slatter is, unfortunately, confined to bed under doctor's orders. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Henry King for training the Choir for the Carol Service on Sunday, December 19th.

P.C.C.—Next Meeting, Monday, Dec. 6th, in the Parish Room at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Please note that there will be a special Christmas Service for Sunday School Scholars on Sunday, Dec. 26th, at 11 a.m. Parents and others interested in the Sunday School are heartily invited to attend. The distribution of Awards will take place after the Service.

The New Year Party will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15th, in the Old School. We shall be very grateful for donations and gifts of food. It would be a great help if those willing to help in this way would inform the Vicar or any of the Teachers not later than Wednesday, Jan. 5th.

SANCTUARY GUILD. — Service in Church on Thursday, Dec. 9th, at 3 p.m., followed by a Meeting in the Parish Room. Will all Members try and attend, in order that arrangements can be made for the decoration of the Church for the Christmas Festival.

M.U.—Meetings will be held on Wednesdays, Dec. 1st and 15th, at Seward House at 2.30 p.m. The New Year Party is fixed for Tuesday, Jan. 4th. At the Meetings in November, Mrs. Chapman has spoken on "All Saints Day" and "The Church Overseas." Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Allard presented our gift for "The People's Offering" at the special Service in the Cathedral.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. J. Gilbert Mills and Mr. Henry King for the splendid Organ and Vocal Recital on Nov. 11th. The rapt attention throughout of the large congregation was a striking testimony to the artistry of both our friends. The report in a local newspaper ended with these words: "Had the audience

been able to show their appreciation, it is certain that they would have heartily applauded both performers." In the opinion of many of us, the atmosphere of devotional stillness was a far more moving tribute.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. — There was a gratifying attendance at our first meeting in the Parish Room, when Mr. P. G. Feek gave a most interesting talk on "The History of Clocks and Watches" in a way which captured and held the attention of all present. This was borne out by the many and varied questions which were asked after the talk, and the lucid answers given left nothing to be desired.

We were happy to welcome some of our friends from Wickhamford Fellowship, and hope to see them again.

Mr. A. P. Heathfield is visiting us on Tuesday, December 14th, at 7 p.m., his talk being entitled "A Dish of Brains."

On January 11th we shall be enlightened on "How Law and Procedure affect the Common Man," by Mr. E. W. Sturt.

It is confidently anticipated that our numbers will increase and that those who enjoyed our first effort will bring a friend.

M.G.S.

The news of the death of Mr. H. Keen, after a comparatively short illness, came as a shock to his many friends. We shall greatly miss his cheery presence and friendly manner. We extend our deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.—In a Table Tennis Match versus the Scouts on Nov. 26th, the Youth Fellowship were successful by 12 games to 6. Scores (Youth Fellowship names first): M. Salter lost to R. Sandford 1—2; G. Jones beat N. Harris 3—0; B. Jennings lost to J. Bennett 0—3; D. Brazier beat J. Andrews 2—1; D. Barrand beat L. Grinnell 3—0; D. Edwards beat A. Vale 3—0.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Nov. 14th.—Angela Joan Jinks.

Confirmation

(By the Bishop of Worcester at Bretforton Church, on Nov. 7th).

Janet Ballard, Hazel Barrand, Shirley Evans, Angela Harris, Joan Jelfs, Georgina Olsson, Joy Worthington, Peter Addis, Douglas Bott, John Hatcher, Dennis Knight, Geoffrey Meadows, Peter Smith, Edgar Mitchell.

Burial

Nov. 16th.—Henry Keen, aged 64 years.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Church Expenses: Nov. 14th, £2 17s. 9d.; Nov. 21st, £2 6s.; total, £5 3s. 9d.

Other Receipts: Earl Haig Fund (Nov. 7th), £10 4s.; War Memorial Fund (Nov. 11th), £10 2s. 6d.; Church Overseas Fund (Nov. 28th), £3 11s. 5d.; Use of Organ, 6s.

Envelopes: No. 4, 7s. 6d.; No. 6, 12s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 4s. 6d.; No. 10, 2s.; No. 11, 4s. 6d.; No. 13, 3s.; No. 16, 2s.; No. 17, 7s.; No. 18, 4s.; No. 19, 1s. 6d.; No. 21, 2s. Total, £2 14s.

Missionary Boxes have so far been received from Mrs. Holley, Mrs. Austen Jones, John Hatcher, Angela Chapman, Rosemary Jones, Rosalind Major, C. A. Binyon, Brian Tomkins, G. Crisp, Misses H. M. Hall and N. E. Smith, Derek Barrand, the Misses Sladden, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. M. Savory, Mrs. M. E. Reed, Mrs. A. W. Ballard, Anon. It is asked that the remaining Boxes should be returned as soon as possible in order that the account may be made up.

N.S.P.C.C. — The Collection, in Badsey, for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, amounted to £7 14s. 6d. Mrs. Idiens is most grateful to those who gave so generously.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 19th. (Advent IV).—5.30 p.m., "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."

Saturday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day).—9.30 a.m., Holy Communion (with Hymns).

Sunday, Dec. 26th (St. Stephen, M.).—5.30 p.m., Evensong.

Sunday, January 2nd.—Preacher at 5.30 p.m., Rev. E. H. Moseley, Diocesan Organising Secretary, Church of England Children's Society.

M.U.—The Meetings during the past month have been very well attended. The Vicar has spoken to us on "A Parson's Lot," and Mrs. Mason has continued her series of Readings.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. — The Meeting on November 3rd was very well attended, and all appreciated Mr. C. H. Gardiner's delightful talk on the Cotswolds. The Speaker on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, will be Commander A. G. Woodward (Beckford). He will speak on his recent visit to America, and his talk will be illustrated by films. A hearty welcome awaits all who are interested. We were

very glad to have some of our friends from Badsey at our first meeting.

CONFIRMATION.—The following were confirmed by the Bishop of Worcester at Bretforton Church on Nov. 7th: Ramona Daffurn, Betty Hancock.

P.C.C.—Next Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 15th, in the Parish Room at 7 p.m.

We offer heartiest congratulations to "Jack" Haines on being awarded his international cap. Wickhamford is justifiably proud of the honour conferred on him. But why, oh why, did a Birmingham newspaper describe him as "a native of Evesham"? Other papers could do no better than "Wickham Ford" and "Wickhamsford (Near Badsey!)" — "What do they know of England who do not Wickhamford know"?

SUNDAY SCHOOL. — The distribution of Awards will take place after the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, Dec. 19th. Parents and all interested in the Sunday School are invited. There will be no Celebration of Holy Communion at 11.40 a.m. on this day.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.—Church Expenses (Nov. 14th—28th), £6 8s. 6d.; Earl Haig Fund (Nov. 7th), £3 7s. 6d.; County Memorial to Worcestershire Regiment, £2 7s. 2d.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Another Advent season is upon us, challenging our faith in the two comings of our Lord, one past, the other future. His first coming was so different from what men expected that many were offended and failed to recognise in the Babe of Bethlehem the Christ, the Saviour of the World.

*They all were looking for a King
To slay their foes and set them high;
Thou camest a little tiny thing
That made a woman cry.*

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His second coming is variously interpreted. Maybe as in the case of His coming nineteen hundred years ago, when men's preconceived ideas were far astray, it will be so again. We need not trouble ourselves about the details of that coming, much less the time of it, for "of that day and hour knoweth no man." Faith is content to wait, and satisfied to repeat, "We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge."

Advent merges into Christmas, and as it does one is reminded of those lines of G. K. Chesterton:—

*Tread gently under snow and rain
To reach the place where man may pray,
The way it is so very plain
That we may lose the way.*

The way to Bethlehem would seem to be plain, yet very many miss it. The fact that we are outwardly merry, or that we join in the old Christmas revelry does not necessarily mean that we are truly happy, or that we have found the way to Bethlehem. That little town may remain a mere name, as remote from our daily life as it is from our parish. On the other hand, Bethlehem may be a constant inspiration, bringing true joy each Christmastide, and remembered throughout the year. Whether we class ourselves with the simple shepherds or with the wise men, Bethlehem calls us. The point is that the shepherds and the wise men were alive to the presence of God. If we have found the way to Bethlehem, our Christmas will be happy indeed. O come, let us adore Him!

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

As we think of Him who though Lord of all was born in a stable as there was no room at the inn, our thoughts pass on to the many children of our own and other lands who are likewise homeless and unwanted. I feel sure that many would like to make, as an act of thanksgiving for their own happy homes, a special Christmas gift by doing what they can to help some of these children in need, and I would like to bring to your notice the work of the Church's own Society which was founded for this special purpose. The Society is caring for over 5,000 children, and, contrary to the belief of some people, receives no Government grant. The Parochial Church Councils of Badsey and Wickhamford have decided that the following Collections shall be allocated to the work of this Society:—

Badsey: December 24th, 11.30 p.m.; December 25th, 8 and 11 a.m.

Wickhamford: December 25th, 9.30 a.m.

W.B.C.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. — At the November meeting, Mrs. S. B. Carter, the president, was in the chair. Mrs. M. Savory reported on the Worcester conference and Mrs. L. Longmore on the Avon Group meeting at

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Bretforton. The President appealed for a new Savings Group Secretary, and Mrs. Edwards volunteered. No nominations were received for the new committee. An excellent film show was given by the Rev. Thornhill, of Alderminster. Mrs. G. Grove was appointed sick visitor for the month.

N. E. KEEN.

NURSING ASSOCIATION.—At the Quarterly Meeting on October 12th, the suggested Draft Constitution for District Nursing Associations was discussed. The object is to make clear what should be the work of such Associations now that they no longer directly employ the District Nurses. It was generally felt that the suggested Constitution should be adopted at the next General Meeting of our Association. For the information of former members of the Association it is pointed out that in the future the Association may consist of:—

(1).—Those persons who were subscribing Members of the Association on July 4th, 1948;

(2).—Any persons resident within the area served by the Association who make application in writing to the Secretary before the next General Meeting.

I. M. BRADY.

BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL COMMITTEE.

—At the Annual General Meeting, held on Monday, Nov. 22nd, the Treasurer reported that the Assets at the end of the financial year amounted to £3,451 12s. 6d., plus the valuable site at Synehurst.

The resignation of Mr. J. E. Knight as Chairman was received with much regret, for he has rendered yeoman service. We are glad that he has consented to remain as a Member of the Committee.

It appears that there is a feeling in the Parish that the Committee could do more regarding the start of building operations. We assure all those interested that everything possible will be done as soon as ever we are advised by our capable friends "in the trade" that a start is possible.

We welcomed the very few fresh faces at the Meeting, and express our grateful thanks to all our helpers.

The Christmas Whist Drive will be held in the Council Schools on Monday, 13th December, at 7 o'clock. The Prizes will consist of Christmas Fare, and we look forward to seeing you all.

We take this opportunity of wishing all our friends a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

H. L. HATCHER.

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