

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

At the time of writing, the Gift Day and the Harvest Thanksgiving are still in the future. Reports of these will be given next month.

The Unveiling and Dedication of the War Memorial Tablet took place on Sunday, September 18th. The Service was most impressive, and I want to express my thanks to all who, by their ready co-operation, made it so.

The members of the Choir had a very enjoyable Outing to London on Saturday, August 27th, and wish to thank all who subscribed towards the cost. It is worthy of note that Mr. W. D. Sparrow has now completed 63 years' service in the Choir. This is a wonderful record, and we hope he will be spared until he has established a record which is quite unique. Frequent claims for "the longest service" are made by Choristers throughout the country, and it would a great thing for him to settle the matter!

Notices of the re-starting of various organisations in October appear elsewhere. We hope all members will rally round and give full support to those who work so hard to make these organisations really "live" affairs.

Sunday, November 6th, will be observed as "Remembrance Sunday." The members of the British Legion will parade at Matins.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

W. B. CHAPMAN.

NOTES AND NOTICES

P.C.C.—Next Meeting, Monday, October 3rd, in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m.

SANCTUARY GUILD.—Next Meeting, Thursday, October 13th, in the Parish Room, following Service in Church at 3 p.m. All Members are urged to attend. The time of future Meetings is one of the subjects to be discussed.

MOTHERS' UNION.—Meetings re-start on TUESDAY, October 11th—at Seward House at 2.30 p.m. I should like to repeat what I said last month, *i.e.* prospective new Members will be heartily welcomed and also those Members who were in any way prevented from attending during the last session.

A.M.C.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.—As mentioned in the preliminary announcement last month, our new session commences on Tuesday October 11th, at 7 p.m. Major S. B. Carter is giving a talk entitled "I wonder what they wore." This should be most instructive as well as amusing.

An endeavour is being made to send our old members a personal invitation card, but please don't think you are not wanted if you don't receive one. Please come along and try to persuade a friend, who has not yet joined us, to accompany you.

On November 8th, Mr. R. Wilson will give us a chat about "Dialects."

M.G.S.

BADSEY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL.—The Headmaster and Staff wish to thank all parents who helped to make the Harvest Festival Service a success by their kind gifts and willing co-operation. Letters expressing real appreciation have been received from the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, and the County Hospital at Avonside, Evesham.

SERVERS ON DUTY

Oct. 2nd.—8 a.m., B. Jennings.
Oct. 9th.—8 a.m., J. Hatcher.
Oct. 16th.—8 a.m., D. Barrand.
Oct. 23rd.—8 a.m., D. Knight.
Oct. 30th.—8 a.m., L. Mitchell.
Nov. 6th.—8 a.m., D. Edwards.

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Oct. 2nd: 8 a.m., Mr. M. Savory; 11 a.m., Messrs. G. Jones and D. Brazier; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. F. Cleaver and W. Hardiman.
Sunday, Oct. 9th: 8 a.m., Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m., Messrs. D. Agg and D. Peet; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. J. Major and P. Case.
Sunday, Oct. 16th: 8 a.m., Mr. B. F. P. Blake; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell and R. Knight.
Sunday, Oct. 23rd: 8 a.m., Mr. J. Major; 11 a.m., Messrs. P. H. Sparrow and A. L. Byrd; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. M. Savory and A. Worthington.
Sunday, Oct. 30th: 8 a.m., Mr. W. Hardiman; 11 a.m., Messrs. D. Peet and J. Major; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. B. F. P. Blake and A. L. Byrd.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

Aug. 28th, £3 11s. 9d.; Sept. 4th, £3 1s.; Sept. 11th, £2 18s. 4d.; Sept. 18th, £2 18s. 7d. Total £12 9s. 8d.

OTHER RECEIPTS: Church Box, 5s. 7d.; Envelopes for August: Church Expenses, £2 11s. 3d.; Church Overseas, 8s. Total £2 19s. 3d. (No. 4, 7s. 6d.; No. 5, 6s. 6d.; No. 6, 12s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 4s.; No. 10, 5s.; No. 11, 5s. 6d.; No. 13, 4s.; No. 16, 2s.; No. 17, 7s.; No. 22, 1s. 9d.)

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Sept. 1st.—Victoria Mary Mustoe.
Sept. 11th.—Sylvia Daphne Bennett.
Sept. 11th.—Duncan Roy Begley.
Sept. 11th.—Barbara Lucy White.
Sept. 11th.—Patrick James Morcombe.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to our Autumn and Winter work together, and I draw your attention to the following important engagements:—

SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER. Harvest Thanksgiving; 9 a.m., Holy Communion (with hymns); 5.30 p.m., Evensong. Preacher, Rev. E. F. Waddy, Vicar of The Littletons. Collections for Church Repair Fund.

WEDNESDAY, 5th OCTOBER. 2.30 p.m., Mothers' Union (Parish Room); 7.30 p.m., Men's Fellowship (Parish Room). Speaker, Mr. C. H. Gardiner.

SUNDAY, 9th OCTOBER. 5.30 p.m., Evensong. Preacher, Rev. F. J. Wells, Vicar of Bengeworth (Interchange of Pulpits throughout the Evesham Rural Deanery).

WEDNESDAY, 12th OCTOBER. 7 p.m., Social Gathering in the Parish Room.

We shall be very glad to welcome prospective new Members to the Mothers' Union Meetings during the autumn and winter. The same applies to the Meetings of the Men's Fellowship. Mr. Sturt is arranging a most attractive list of speakers for this latter, and we sincerely hope all who are interested will come

along. We are very fortunate in securing Mr. C. H. Gardiner at our opening Meeting once again. We still remember his delightful talk on "The Cotswolds" last year.

The members of the Parochial Church Council were unanimous that a series of Social Gatherings during the autumn and winter would afford an excellent opportunity for our people to "get together" in friendly intercourse. So do come to the first of such gatherings on Wednesday, October 12th, and help to make a success of this venture.

Our thoughts go out to several sick people in the parish, and we assure them that they have a place in our prayers.

Please note that Sunday, November 6th, is "Remembrance Sunday." The Services will be as follows:—9.45 a.m., Service of Remembrance; 5.30 p.m., Evensong.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
W. B. CHAPMAN.

Collections for Church Expenses (Aug. 28th to Sept. 18th inclusive) £9 10s. 10d.

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Aug. 28th.—Jennifer Jane Whiting.
Sept. 11th.—David Frank Field.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

BRITISH LEGION (MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SECTIONS).—A Bronze Plaque to the memory of the twelve men from this parish who gave their lives in the 1939-1945 War was unveiled and dedicated in the Parish Church on Sunday, September 18th. The

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Members of the British Legion (Men's and Women's Sections) paraded, and were supported by the Scouts, and by representatives of the British Legion from Evesham, Bretforton, Offenham and Littleton with their Standard Bearers and Escorts. The Church was filled to capacity and this, in itself, was an unspoken tribute to those whom we had in remembrance. The Service began with the Hymn, "O God, our help in ages past." This was followed by the reading of the Lesson by Major S. B. Carter, and the reading of the Roll of Honour by the Legion Secretary. After Prayers, two verses of the Hymn "O Valiant Hearts" were sung, during which the Standard Bearers took up their positions facing the Memorial. The Chairman of our Branch (Mr. A. J. Brazier) then unveiled the Plaque, and the Dedication Prayer was recited by the Vicar. During the sounding of "Last Post" the Standards were lowered, and these were raised again during the sounding of "Reveille." The Hymn was then continued and the Standards presented at the Chancel Steps. A brief but very impressive Address by the Vicar followed, and the Service concluded with the singing of the Hymn "Fight the good Fight," the Blessing, and the National Anthem.

The beautiful Wreaths which had been placed at the Chancel Steps were then arranged on each side of the Memorial. Everyone felt it had been a most inspiring Service and one which will be long remembered. I should like to thank those who rendered such willing help.

It has been suggested that we might have a bronze projection at the base of the Memorial incorporating three Vases so that fresh flowers could be arranged regularly. The firm responsible for the Memorial has been asked to give details of such a fixture. I believe many would be willing to subscribe towards its provision.

P. H. SPARROW.

HOLY BAPTISM

To-day the great majority of children born are brought to Church to be baptized. It is a custom which shows the hold that Baptism has on the minds of English people. The question is this—What do the parents who bring the children mean by their action? Do they, being loyal and practising members of the Church themselves, really desire Baptism as a new spiritual birth for their children, and membership through baptism of the family of the Church? Or are they blindly following an ancient custom, without understanding the privileges and duties involved, just for custom's sake? These are most important questions. On their right answer depend both the welfare of the child's soul and the health of the Church.

The welfare of the child's soul is clearly affected, because, if a child is given the grace of Baptism and is properly brought up by the parents to lead a sincere

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Christian life and to serve God all his days, he obviously receives a great spiritual blessing. But if after Baptism the parents do nothing for the child's spiritual life, break the promises which they solemnly make in church for the child, and are in no way practising members of the Church, then they are doing a great dishonour to Baptism and the gift received, and hurting the child's soul by their own indifference or neglect.

The health of the Church as a society also suffers great harm. How can the Church do the work which it ought to do if day after day, year after year, an increasing number of new members are added who do not understand what the Christian religion means, do not obey the Church's rules, ignore its most elementary claim on their conduct, and live lives which, however respectable, have no particular connection with Christianity? What would be said of any ordinary organization or society or trade union which allowed new members to join on such terms?

The influence and help of Christianity were never more needed than they are to-day. But unless the members of the Church take its rules seriously and accept their obligations, at whatever cost in numbers, the influence of Christianity will steadily and rapidly decline, with most unhappy consequences for the nation.

TAILPIECE

A series of "snapshots" of persons he has met during his ministry are given by the Rev. G. C. Thompson, of Albemarle Baptist Church, Taunton, in his church magazine. They include:—

The ignorants—They know nothing of the experience and power of religion, but are very bigoted against it.

The casuals—come to church to be married, to have their babies dedicated, and then to be buried. Too much of a "fag" to come at any other time.

The futurists—always going to come to church, but for one reason and another never arrive.

The inclements—often meant to be at church, but it has always turned out wet on that very day.

The radioites—they hear some grand sermons on the wireless, can always switch off if the sermon should happen to be on the subject of church-going, and there is no offertory! Aren't they lucky!

The Christians—quiet, unassuming, living and practising their Lord's abiding presence, caring not at all about the praise or blame of men.

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