

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec., 18th (Advent IV) 6.45 p.m. "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."

Saturday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve) 11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas.

Sunday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 10.45 a.m. Sunday School Service and Prize-Giving; 11.45 a.m. Holy Communion; 6.45 p.m. Evensong.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

21st November, 1949

My dear Friends,

I am frequently asked the question "When shall we hear the Church Bells again?" Until now I have had to answer "I don't know," but now the answer is "It all depends on how parishioners respond to the appeal." At their meeting held to-night the members of the Parochial Church Council considered most carefully (1) The Repair of the Bells, (2) The extension to the Churchyard, (3) Further Repairs to the Church now that the work on the Tower has been completed. It was unanimously decided to issue an appeal for £1,000 in order to carry out all that is necessary. Approximately half of this sum—i.e. £500—is needed to repair and rehang the bells. This works out at about £60 per bell. It was decided that two of the bells thus repaired should constitute a memorial to the late Canon Allsebrook, and another a memorial to the late Mr. George Moisey. It was also agreed to ask for offers from individuals or institutions to make themselves responsible for the repair of a bell. I am very glad to announce that the members of the Mothers' Union have already promised to do this. Who will follow their example?

A circular letter, giving full details of the appeal, will be distributed shortly. For the time being, therefore, I content myself with the foregoing. The members of the Parochial Church Council are fully aware of the magnitude of the task, but are confident that all who love and value our Church will unite to accomplish it.

I draw your attention to the list of Christmas Services, and would remind all Communicants of their duty.

Confirmation Classes will begin early in the New Year.

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The Church's year begins on Advent Sunday. This is the Sunday nearest to S. Andrew's Day (November 30th). The Advent season extends to Christmas Eve. It includes four Sundays, each of which has a distinctive message. Advent Sunday tells of our Lord's two comings, in great humility at Bethlehem to be our Saviour, and in glorious majesty hereafter to be our Judge. The second Sunday, commonly called 'Bible Sunday,' draws attention to His coming in His word. On the next Sunday there is brought to our notice the work of His ministers in preparing for His coming again. The message of the fourth Sunday in Advent is of our Lord's coming with grace to help and in mercy to deliver us in our struggle with sin.

As the penitential season of Lent precedes the festival of Easter, so the solemn Advent season culminates in the holy joy of Christmas. Those who know the true meaning of Christmas will not fail to find real happiness. We of the Church must do our best to create the right atmosphere and make the Church the brightest place in the parish this Christmastide, as befits the joyful message we pro-

claim—that unto us has been born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

The vast majority of people in this country call themselves Christians. But only a minority will observe Christmas religiously. It is a strange Christianity which can neglect the worship of Christ on His birthday. When I say that only a minority will observe Christmas I do not mean that few people will have the day off, or that there will not be scenes of outward gaiety and rejoicing, with 'special Christmas attractions' and 'Xmas (what a word!) presents' in the shops. But this is not keeping Christmas as the Christian believes it should be kept. All the outward trappings are not to be confused with the real Christmas.

The true joy of Christmas belongs to those, and only those, who see in Jesus Christ God become man. To understand is to be compelled to worship Him. So the Christian will respond to the age-long invitation: 'O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.'

May the Holy Child bless you in your homes, filling your hearts with spiritual understanding, that so you may behold His glory Whose birthday you shall celebrate with joy.

NOTES AND NOTICES

MOTHERS' UNION.—Next Meeting, Tuesday Dec. 13th at Seward House at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Champion, Presiding Member of the Evesham Deanery. It is hoped all members will make a special effort to attend. There will be no Meeting on Tuesday Dec. 27th. A.M.C.

SANCTUARY GUILD.—Service in Church, Thursday Dec. 8th at 3 p.m., followed by Meeting in the Parish Room. The subjects for discussion are (1) Christmas Decorations, (2) New Year Party. A.M.C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—There will be a short Service on Christmas Morning at 10.45 a.m., followed by the distribution of Awards. We shall be glad to welcome Parents and others who are interested in the work of the Sunday School.

The New Year Party will be held on Sat. Jan. 14th 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 Monday Jan. 2nd.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.—As was anticipated, the goodly number who were present at the last meeting on November 8th heard a most interesting talk on "Dialects" from Mr. R. Wilson, who made us realise that we should be proud of possessing what might be termed a trade mark. He pointed out how dull it would be if everyone spoke with the same tone and pronunciation. Some very interesting questions and observations were dealt with afterwards, and no doubt would have continued if time had permitted.

At the interim meeting on Nov. 29th, Mr. M. Harvey has kindly undertaken to conduct a Quiz and this should put us on our mettle.

The December meeting will be on Tuesday Dec. 13th when Mr. M. G. Savory will give a talk entitled "What's Yours?"

We shall be very pleased to see fresh faces at any time.

GUILD OF RINGERS.—The Annual Meeting was held in the Parish Room on Nov. 15th. The following officers were re-elected: Ringing Master, Mr. G. A. King; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. A. Reed; Sec-

retary and Treasurer, Mr. G. Temperton; Tower Keeper, Mr. E. Mitchell. The Treasurer's Statement of Account shewed a balance in hand of £2 8s. 6d. New Members elected to the Guild were P. Addis, E. Salter, Misses M. Stewart and J. Worthington. Mr. C. A. Binyon read the report on the present condition of the Bells and an animated discussion followed. All the members were of the opinion that, if possible, the work of repairing and rehangng the bells should be undertaken.

The death of Mr. James Field removes a very well-known figure from our midst. He had attained the age of 94, and was greatly respected.

Matter for the January issue must be sent to the Vicar not later than December 17th.

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Dec. 4th: 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, Dec. 11th: 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, Dec. 18th: 8 a.m., Mr. B. F. P. Blake; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell and R. Knight.
 Christmas Eve: 11.30 p.m., The Churchwardens.
 Christmas Day: 8 a.m., Mr. J. Major; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. M. Savory and A. Worthington.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Dec. 4th	8 a.m. D. Knight	—
	11 a.m. B. Jennings	D. Edwards
	6.45 p.m. D. Barrand	K. Mitchell
Dec. 11th	8 a.m. L. Mitchell	—
	11 a.m. D. Edwards	D. Barrand
	6.45 p.m. K. Mitchell	B. Jennings
Dec. 18th	8 a.m. D. Edwards	—
	6.45 p.m. D. Barrand	K. Mitchell
Dec. 24th	11.30 p.m. B. Jennings	K. Mitchell
Dec. 25th	8 a.m. J. Hatcher	—
	6.45 p.m. K. Mitchell	D. Edwards

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

Oct. 23rd, £2 11s. 3d.; Oct. 30th, £3 9s. 7d.; Nov. 13th, £3 3s. 0d.; Nov. 20th (Evening), £2 0s. 6d. Total £11 4s. 4d.

OTHER RECEIPTS: Earl Haig Fund (Nov. 6th), £10 1s. 4d.; Church Box, 5s. 8d.; Use of Organ, 6s.; October Envelopes: Church Expenses, £5 8s. 4d., Church Overseas, 10s. 6d. Total £5 18s. 10d. (No. 1, 2s.; No. 3, 6s.; No. 4, 8s.; No. 5, 8s.; No. 6, 15s.; No. 7, 3s.; No. 8, 9s.; No. 10, 5s. 6d.; No. 11, 7s. 6d.; No. 13, 4s. 6d.; No. 16, 2s. 6d.; No. 17, 7s.; No. 22, 10d.; No. 23, £1; No. 24, £1.). Medical Missions ("Thanksgiving for Health" Envelopes), £3 6s. 9d.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Oct. 19th.—Rachel Johnson (privately).
 Nov. 20th.—Janet Cull; Clifford Royston Hartwell; Michael Sidney Sheward; Linda Barron; Margaret Jean Hall; Sylvia Jean Taylor.

Marriage

Oct. 22nd.—George Tucker, Chipping Campden, and Hilda Mavis Hartwell, Badsey.

Burial

Nov. 21st.—James Field, aged 94 years.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 18th (Advent IV) 5.30 p.m. "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."

Sunday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (with hymns); 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The "Service of Remembrance" on Sunday Nov. 6th was deeply impressive. During the course of the Service Mr. A. J. Brazier unveiled the Tablet bearing the names of those who laid down their lives in the 1939-45 War, and Mr. E. W. Sturt, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, accepted the charge of this Memorial. The Collection for the Earl Haig Fund amounted to £6 6s. 3d.

The Social on Nov. 16th was very well attended and was most enjoyable. Mr. Willis was M.C. for Whist, the prize winners being Miss B. Willis and Mr. Waters. "Twenty Questions" was again a popular feature, and the other games were entered into with zest. We are very grateful to those who sent articles for the Auction Sale, to Mr. Willis for acting as Auctioneer, to those who helped with the refreshments and in many other ways, and to Mrs. Dean for the loan of chairs. A profit of £10 was realised. The next Social will be held on Wed. Dec. 14th in the Parish Room at 7 p.m.

The members of the Parochial Church Council will meet at Robin Cottage (by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. Cooke) on Friday Dec. 9th at 7.30 p.m.

The distribution of Sunday School Awards will take place after the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday Dec. 18th. 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. In the evening we shall have the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." This Service was very much appreciated last year, and I hope very many will come to what is meant to be an Act of Preparation for the Christmas Festival.

I would remind Communicants of their duty to

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make their communion on Christmas Day, and would draw your attention to the fact that since this Festival falls on a Sunday there will be Evensong at 5.30 p.m. If you have visitors for the day do bring them along to worship with us in our lovely little Church on such an occasion.

We extend our sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Newbury. She was one of the oldest residents in our village and was widely esteemed.

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.—At the November Meeting of the Men's Fellowship the talk was given by Mr. G. A. King of Badsey on the "Problems of Hot Water Engineering." This proved most instructive and we are indebted to Mr. King for the guidance and tips he gave to members in answer to questions.

At our next Meeting, to be held on December 7th, Mr. R. J. P. Madge (Surveyor to the Evesham R.D.C.) will speak on "Town and Country Planning Acts." This should prove very interesting and we invite all men to attend.

Future speakers will be: January 4th, 1950, Mr. C. F. Carter (Midland Bank, Evesham). Subject: "Some aspects of our Banking System." February 1st, 1950, Mr. F. S. Larkin (Headmaster of Blackminster School) Subject: "The aims and work of a Secondary Modern School."

It is hoped that we shall have good attendances on each occasion.
E.W.S.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.—(Oct. 23rd to Nov. 20th incl.). Church Expenses, £8 16s. 11d.; Earl Haig Fund, £6 6s. 3d.; Medical Missions ("Thanksgiving for Health" Envelopes), £1 os. 6d.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Nov. 13th.—Maureen Ann Lewis.

Burial

Oct. 29th.—Margaretta Newbury, aged 84 years.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the gift of 12 Prayer Books from Mr. Edward Hall.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Christmas and the Children

Children have a happy knack of making themselves heard, felt and seen at all times, but at this season of the year they are more than ever in our thoughts. As we plan and scheme our way through the bleak austerity which confronts us, determined that its rigors shall not deprive our own little family of the happiness which is theirs by right and custom, it comes as something of a shock to ponder for a moment on the tremendous task which confronts the Church of England Children's Society in similar circumstances. Judged by any standard 5,000 children are a gigantic family, and year after year this Society feeds, clothes, trains and cares for these innocent victims of social misfortune and tragedy.

The passing of the Children Act in 1948 has not, as so many have supposed, conferred any financial benefits, and the Society remains as always a purely Voluntary Organisation of the Church. Space is too limited to relate its many achievements and only our imagination is necessary to create a vivid and soul-stirring picture of the helpless babies, toddlers, cripples, the motherless and fatherless, the tragedy

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of broken families—all of them deprived through no fault of theirs of the love and affection which is every child's birthright.

For sixty-eight years the Society has been ministering to their needs, performing at the same time a valuable service to the Nation. Supported almost entirely by voluntary contribution it is now, because of greatly increased costs, faced with disturbing deficits on the General Fund. They cannot turn away the many deserving applicants which come to them every day and the children already in their care must not suffer. The fact that it costs 10/- every minute to feed their large family entirely apart from the question of clothing and housing, gives some idea of the magnitude of their task today, and it will undoubtedly induce in many of our hearts the urge to give generously at a time when, in spite of difficulties, we shall be enjoying the spirit of Christmas Good Will within the warm and comforting circle of family affection.

Those who read this can make their happiness the more complete by the consciousness of the simple gratitude of some needy and helpless child.

The Parochial Church Councils of Badsey and Wickhamford have decided that the following Collections shall be allocated to the work of this Society:

Badsey. Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m.

Wickhamford. Christmas Day 9.30 a.m. W.B.C.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

BRITISH LEGION (WOMEN'S SECTION). — The Annual General Meeting was held at the Bell Inn Assembly Room on Tuesday, October 25th.

Mrs. W. B. Chapman presided and after the Exhortation addressed the Members.

After the adoption of the minutes, the Secretary read her Annual Report.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. W. B. Chapman; Chairman, Mrs. W. Keen; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. F. Barnard; Secretary, Mrs. M. K. Cleaver; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Major; Standard-Bearer, Mrs. I. Knight.

The Committee was elected as follows: Miss L. Hartwell, Mrs. M. Harvey, Mrs. N. Cook, Mrs. W. Andrew, Mrs. B. Ockwell, Mrs. E. Cleaver and Mrs. M. Savory.

Sick Visitors: Mrs. W. Sparrow and Mrs. M. Savory.

After refreshments had been served, Miss G. Salisbury and members of the Evesham Youth Club (Drama Section) presented a sketch entitled "The Choir Supper" which proved to be most amusing and was thoroughly enjoyed.

M. K. CLEAVER

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