

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

LENT SERVICES

Sundays.—Services as usual. Course of Sermons on "Some Great Questions" at Evensong.

Wednesdays (commencing Feb. 22nd) 7 p.m.—Lent Service. Course of Addresses on "Symbols of the Holy Spirit."

Thursdays (commencing March 2nd) 10 a.m.—Holy Communion; 4 p.m., Children's Service.

N.B. **Ash Wednesday** (Feb. 22nd) 10 a.m. — Holy Communion; 4 p.m., Children's Service; 7 p.m., Lent Service.

Sunday, March 19th. 3 p.m.—"Mothering Sunday" Service.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Our preparation for a worthy observance of the Christmas Festival was greatly helped by (1) The Carol Service on Sunday, Dec. 18th, for which we thank the members of the Choir and the readers of the Lessons, (2) The Recital of Christmas Music on Wed., Dec. 21st, by Mr. J. Gilbert Mills and Mr. Henry King. Many people have expressed their deep appreciation of the programme, which was rendered with true artistry, and we are once again very grateful to them both.

The Midnight Celebration on Christmas Eve was most moving and impressive, and the Services on Christmas Day were all well attended. Nearly 200 of our people made their Communion during the Festival. I take this opportunity of thanking those who decorated the Church so beautifully.

Mention should be made of the splendid effort of the members of the Youth Fellowship on behalf of the Appeal for the Bells. They toured the Village on three nights and their Carol Singing realised the sum of £15 10s. Well done!

Lent begins on Wed., Feb. 22nd. I draw your attention to the list of Lent Services printed above, and urge you to resolve to make full use of the opportunities afforded. I hope to refer more fully to this matter in Church during the next week or so.

Thanks to the help given by Mr. Velvick, copies of the £1,000 Appeal Letter have been circulated throughout the village. We now await results! We have certainly made a splendid start. Mr. Harry Stewart has made a munificent gift of £100 to the Fund, two village organisations—The Nursing Association and the Flower Show Committee—have made generous grants, the Youth Fellowship, as stated, have "set the pace," and the members of the Mothers'

Union (as usual!) are setting an example by responding at once. Generous personal gifts have already come in — including two from my former parish of Featherstone. The members of the Sladden family have promised to repair and rehang a Bell in memory of the late Mr. G. M. Sladden. May I again state that it will greatly assist the P.C.C. if gifts or promises are made before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on March 3rd. Please note (1) that donations may, if necessary, be spread over two years, (2) that if it is inconvenient to return the slip (attached to the Appeal Letter) to the Vicarage, it can be handed to any member of the P.C.C.

The P.C.C. has fixed the following dates:—Church Fête, Sat., June 24th; Gift Day, Thursday, Sept. 21st. The proceeds of these two efforts will be divided between the Church General Fund and the Appeal Fund.

We are sorry to lose the services of Miss M. Stewart from the Sunday School. She has been a very faithful teacher. We are glad to welcome, as Teachers, Miss P. Barnard and Miss S. Barnard.

We extend our sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. George Allard, who died very suddenly on Dec. 30th.

A statement with regard to the balance in the War Memorial Fund appears elsewhere in this issue. The members of the Committee wish to thank all subscribers to the Fund.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

W. B. CHAPMAN

NOTES AND NOTICES

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING. — This Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Friday, March 3rd, at 7.15 p.m. It will be preceded at 7 p.m. by the Vestry Meeting for the nomination and election of Churchwardens. All members of the Electoral Roll should regard it as a duty to attend. Reports on the work of the Parochial Church Council during the past year and of the condition of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church will be presented, in addition to the annual Financial Statement. The Parochial Church Council for the ensuing year will be elected and representatives to the Ruridecanal Conference appointed.

W.B.C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. — The New Year Party on Sat., Jan. 14th, passed off very happily. The success of it was due to the generous gifts of parents and friends and the hard work put in by those who prepared the teas for the Juniors and the Seniors. We are indebted to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Johnson for

the provision of Milk, Mr. Ockwell for Ices, and Mr. L. Mustoe for Apples. We are deeply grateful to all who helped in any way. The teachers, as always, responded nobly and I want to give a "special mention" to Mr. Blake who worked untiringly throughout the day. It is worthy of note that the weather was so spring-like that the Juniors were able to play in the Vicarage Garden instead of the Parish Room! Is this a record?
W.B.C.

MOTHERS' UNION.—The Party Committee prepared a most appetising tea for the M.U. Party on Jan. 3rd and we all did full justice to it. Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Sparrow and I are very grateful to be relieved of the responsibility in this way. After Tea the "Bells Box" was passed round, and we are glad to report that we have now paid in a first instalment of £8 towards our Bell. Games were played, causing much fun and laughter. We thank Mrs. Leonard Chapman for her help and Mrs. Warmington for her hospitality.

Members are invited to the Meeting of the Wickhamford M.U. on Wed., Feb. 8th, at 2.30 p.m. when Miss Holmes will be the speaker.

Branch Meetings will be held on Tuesdays, Feb. 14th and 28th, at Seward House at 2.30 p.m.

Corporate Communion—Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd) at 10 a.m.
A.M.C.

SANCTUARY GUILD.—The Members had a most enjoyable Party on Wed., Jan. 18th. Miss Wixey provided an excellent meal, and several new games, together with well tried old ones, caused much amusement so that the evening passed all too quickly. At the close some of the Members arranged to hold an Old Fashioned Dance in the Wheatsheaf Assembly Room on Friday, Feb. 10th, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2/- (including refreshments). Proceeds for the Appeal Fund.

Next Meeting—Thursday, Feb. 9th, in The Parish Room, following Service in Church at 3 p.m.

A.M.C.

BADSEY CRICKET CLUB.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Oak on Tuesday, Feb. 21st, at 7.30 p.m.

WAR MEMORIAL.—After all expenses had been met a small balance was left over, and it has been agreed to hand over this balance to the Badsey Memorial Hall Fund. Copies of the photograph of the Memorial (Large size 3/-, Small size 9d.) can be obtained from P. H. Sparrow, 1, South View.

C. A. Binyon, Chairman.

J. E. Knight, Treasurer.

P. H. Sparrow, Secretary.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.—The Parish Room was taxed to capacity on January 10th, when Major R. Ede England favoured us with a most interesting talk, supplemented with photographic slides, describing a tour through France into Spain. The culmination was a very vivid description of the technique of Bull Fighting, the most popular pastime of the Spaniards.

Many questions, couched in terms of typical British disapproval of the "sport," were ably answered by Major England, and enabled us to obtain some idea of the Spanish point of view on this very controversial subject.

Our knowledge of other countries will be further broadened on February 14th when we are to have Rev. R. W. N. Harris (Vicar of Hampton) to give a talk on "Life in the West Indies."

Let's have another "bumper" house. Bring a friend.
M.G.S.

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Feb. 5th: 8 a.m. Mr. M. Savory; 11 a.m., Messrs. G. Jones and D. Agg; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. F. Cleaver and W. Hardiman.

Sunday, Feb. 12th: 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, Feb. 19th: 8 a.m., Mr. B. F. P. Blake; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell and R. Knight.

Sunday, Feb. 26th: 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.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

| | Server | Crucifer |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Feb. 5th | 8 a.m. J. Hatcher | — |
| | 11 a.m. D. Edwards | K. Mitchell |
| | 6.45 p.m. B. Jennings | D. Barrand |
| Feb. 12th | 8 a.m. D. Barrand | — |
| | 11 a.m. K. Mitchell | B. Jennings |
| | 6.45 p.m. D. Barrand | D. Edwards |
| Feb. 19th | 8 a.m. D. Knight | — |
| | 6.45 p.m. B. Jennings | K. Mitchell |
| Feb. 26th | 8 a.m. L. Mitchell | — |
| | 11 a.m. D. Edwards | D. Barrand |
| | 6.45 p.m. K. Mitchell | B. Jennings |
| Mar. 5th | 8 a.m. D. Edwards | — |
| | 11 a.m. D. Barrand | B. Jennings |
| | 6.45 p.m. D. Edwards | K. Mitchell |

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

Dec. 18th (Evening), £2 10s. 4d.; Dec. 25th, £4 11s. 0d.; Jan. 1st, £3 15s. 3d.; Jan. 8th, £3 15s. 0d.; Jan. 15th (Evening), £2 13s. 9d.; Jan. 22nd, £3 0s. 9d. Total £20 6s. 7d.

OTHER RECEIPTS: **Church of England Children's Society** (Dec. 24th), £6 7s. 6d.; **Church Box**, 2s. 10d.; **Use of Organ**, 6s.; **December Envelopes—Church Expenses**, £1 19s. 5d., **Church Overseas**, 10s. 4d. Total £2 9s. 9d. (No. 2, 2s.; No. 4, 5s.; No. 5, 2s.; No. 6, 16s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 4s.; No. 10, 4s.; No. 11, 3s.; No. 13, 1s.; No., 16, 2s.; No. 17, 6s. 9d.).

£1,000 APPEAL FUND DONATIONS.—Mrs. E. Jones, Mr. J. E. Knight, Mrs. W. Harwood, Mr. G. Nightingale, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jackson (Featherstone), Mr. H. Maxwell (Featherstone), Mrs. Enstone, Mothers' Union (1st Instalment) £8, Badsey Flower Show Committee £10 10s. 0d., Badsey Nursing Association £10 10s. 0d., Youth Fellowship (Carol Singing) £15 10s. 0d., Collection at Organ and Vocal Recital (Dec. 21st) £6, Mrs. and Mr. S. H. Johns, Mr. H. Stewart, Mrs. Turrell, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair (Aldington), Mrs. E. G. Knight, Mr. G. Temperton, Mr. F. Field, Mrs. Greening, Mrs. L. H. Sparrow and family, Mr. C. A. Binyon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Geden, Mr. G. Crisp. Total Receipts (to 23rd Jan.) £212 0s. 6d.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Jan. 15th.—Lesley Ann Byrd, Kevin Douglas Styles.

Burial

Jan. 3rd.—George Allard, aged 68 years.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The members of the Choir are to be highly congratulated on the Carol Service, held on Sunday, Dec. 18th. It formed a most fitting act of preparation for Christmas. There was a very good number of Communicants on Christmas Morning and the Church was full for Evensong. Many visitors to the Church during Christmas commented on the beauty

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of the decorations. We are indebted to those who helped to maintain the "Wickhamford Standard" in this respect.

Notable events during the past month have been (1) The Annual Children's Party on Wed., Jan. 4th (for which thanks are due to the faithful band of willing workers), (2) The Mothers' Union visit to the Pantomime at Cheltenham on Monday, Jan. 9th.

The Members of the Mothers' Union are reminded of the visit of Miss Holmes (Diocesan Speaker) on Wed., Feb. 8th.

A Social Gathering will be held in the Parish Room on Wed., Feb. 15th, at 7 p.m. We hope there will be a "full house."

Lent begins on Wed., Feb. 22nd. As last year we shall concentrate on the usual Sunday Services. The subject of the Sermons at Evensong will be "Studies in the Life of our Lord." I hope you will all try to follow the course throughout. There will be a Celebration of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 9 a.m. and the usual special Service on "Mothering Sunday" (Mar. 19th).

We are greatly indebted to Mr. E. Cooke for his work during the past few weeks. He has been acting as Treasurer since the death of Mr. Lees-Milne, and has had a great deal to do in connection with the completion of the Choir Vestry and other repairs. We have indeed been fortunate to be able to avail ourselves of his advice and experience.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

W. B. CHAPMAN.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. — The Speaker at the January Meeting was Mr. C. F. Carter (Midland Bank Ltd., Evesham), his subject being "Some Aspects of Banking." The talk was most interesting and, judging by the discussion and questions which followed, was much appreciated by the goodly number who attended.

The next Meeting is on Wed., Feb. 1st, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. F. S. Larkin, Headmaster of Blackminster Secondary Modern School. Subject: "The aims and work of a Secondary Modern School."

At the closing Meeting of the Session—on Wed., March 1st—Mr. Sturt will speak on "Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting."

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.—This Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Wed., Feb. 8th, at 7.15 p.m. (For Agenda see notice of Badsey A.P.C.M.). All members of the Electoral Roll should attend. It will be preceded at 7 p.m. by the Vestry Meeting for the nomination and election of Churchwardens.

MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE.—The Annual Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Thursday, Feb. 16th, at 7 p.m. It is hoped there will be a full attendance.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS (Dec. 18th, 1949, to 22nd Jan., 1950 incl.) **Church Expenses**, £13 3s. 8d., **Church of England Children's Society**, £2 14s. 3d.

CHURCHGOING

By Canon J. B. Goodliffe, Rector of Cheltenham

We are constantly being told why people do not go to church. Either there is no "hearty" singing, or services and sermons are dull, or personal evangelism is needed.

Such critics always refer to "half empty Churches." Why not "half full Churches," by way of a change?

These critics are much too superficial, and they rarely blame the people for not fulfilling their Christian duties. I have interviewed thousands of such people, who come for a marriage or a baptism, or when they want something from the Church, and here are the real reasons.

(1). They do not come to Church for exactly the same reason as they do not vote at a municipal election, and yet they criticise the Town Council.

A secretary of an invaluable secular organisation told me he circularised 500 people on an urgent matter and included a stamped addressed card. About forty replied!

Just apathy! Just leaving it to somebody else, and then making some excuse for not doing an obvious duty!

That is why so many people do not come to Church except when they need it.

(2). They do not come to Church because it is so much easier to spend Sunday morning gardening, or reading the papers, and it is much easier to attend a concert or go to the pictures at night.

There is no challenge to living, no need to give generously, no discipline spiritually. It is just for those reasons, that they, the apathetic, do not come.

(3). They do not come because there is widespread and growing ignorance of Christianity. "You can be just as good if you don't go to Church" or "Look at People who do go," (they invariably select a bad specimen for comparison), are pathetic examples of ignorance. The Christian goes to Church because he wishes to witness to the Resurrection of Christ, and because Christ commanded him to do so.

(4). A very small minority are hostile, and naturally would not come. They, at least, are honest, and do not require the services of the Church at all.

I admire their honesty, although I disagree with their viewpoint.

Of course we shall be told how the Church has failed. We admit it—every Sunday we begin with a confession of failure. "We have erred and strayed."

Do those who do not come to Church begin *their* Sunday with the slightest admission of their failure?

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

BRITISH LEGION (WOMEN'S SECTION).—About eighty Members and Entertainers sat down to High Tea at the Annual Party on Tuesday, January 24th, in the Bell Inn Assembly Room. A splendid meal was prepared by members of the Committee and other willing helpers.

After tea, Mrs. W. Keen (Chairman) presented to Mrs. Warmington a beautiful pot plant, as a token of appreciation from the Members for her kindness and desire to help at all times.

The social side of the evening was most enjoyable, chiefly due to the splendid entertainment of sketches and musical items provided by Miss G. Salisbury, and the Members of the Evesham Youth Club (Drama Section). On behalf of our Members, Mrs. F. Barnard thanked Miss Salisbury and her Company.

These items were interspersed by amusing games, organised by Mrs. W. B. Chapman (President), and Community Singing, accompanied by Mrs. W. Sadler (Piano), Mrs. Bonehill and Mrs. K. Cleaver (Violins).

M. K. Cleaver (Hon. Sec.)