

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

ASCENSION DAY (Thursday, May 18th)

7 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

7 p.m. Choral Evensong (No Sermon).

Collections for S.P.C.K.

WHITSUNDAY (Sunday, May 28th)

7 a.m. Holy Communion.

8 a.m. Holy Communion.

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist.

6.45 p.m. Evensong (No Sermon), followed by Organ recital by Mr. C. Chilton, Organist of Featherstone Parish Church.

Collections for Sunday School Fund.

Saturday, June 24th, THE CHURCH FETE. Proceeds for General Fund and £1,000 Appeal Fund.

LOOKING BACKWARD

MOTHERING SUNDAY (March 19th). — A crowded Church for the afternoon Service. Lessons read by Mrs. Chapman and Mr. D. J. C. Edwards. Special Hymns sung by Sunday School Scholars and Members of the Mothers' Union.

STAINER'S "CRUCIFIXION" (March 30th). — An excellent rendering by the members of the Choir of St. Lawrence's Church, Evesham, with the soloists (Messrs. G. Hemming and Henry King) in first rate form. A good congregation, but not as many as we had hoped for. Very grateful thanks to our visitors.

PALM SUNDAY (April 2nd). — Well attended Services. Over 300 Palm Crosses distributed.

CONFIRMATION (April 5th). — See later in this issue.

GOOD FRIDAY (April 7th). — Over 100 present at the Children's Service and a record number at "The Watch at The Cross." Extra seating needed in the evening for the Passion Play. The characters were admirably portrayed by Mrs. A. L. Byrd, Messrs. A. L. Byrd, G. Austen Jones, B. F. P. Blake, D. Peet, M. H. Harvey, J. Major, J. M. Chapman, R. Harvey, D. Barrand, and G. B. Jennings. Mrs. Chapman was the Producer, and Mrs. Marshall was at the Organ. We are indebted to all these for what a critic from outside the parish described as a "first rate presentation."

EASTER DAY (April 9th). — The Church, as usual, beautifully decorated—thanks to the faithful band of workers who gave so freely of their time on the Saturday morning. There were three celebrations of Holy Communion, with a record number of 243 Communicants. It is interesting to compare this number with those of previous years:—1945—94; 1946—135; 1947—121; 1948—176; 1949—186. Extra seating was again necessary at Evensong—a most moving final act of Praise and Thanksgiving. I acknowledge with deep gratitude (1) the ready help given by many people in connection with these Services, (2) the very generous Easter Offering.

W.B.C.

MOTHERS' UNION. — The Service on March 28th, attended by members of Badsey, Wickhamford, and Bretforton Branches, was most successful, and the hope was expressed that it might be an annual event. Mrs. Bailey's address was deeply appreciated.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Whitford for making such a wonderful cake. The Competition for it realised £15, and this means we have exceeded the target (£60) for the "Mothers' Union and Sanctuary Guild Bell," £66 having been paid to the Treasurer. Thanks are also due to (1) those who supplied materials for the cake and those who helped with the Competition, (2) the following additional donors to the cost of the Bell—Mrs. Betteridge, Mrs. W. Sadler, Mrs. A. Reed, and Mrs. Chapman (profit on Sale of Egg Cups).

At a Meeting held in the Parish Room on Tuesday, April 18th, it was decided that the Members should be responsible for a stall at the Church Fête on Saturday, June 24th. All present promised their full support, and it is hoped that those who were unable to attend this Meeting will do the same.

Diocesan Festival (Wednesday, May 10th).—'Bus leaves Badsey "Pike" 12.45 p.m., Wheatsheaf Inn 12.50 p.m., Sandys Arms 1 p.m.

Corporate Communion.—Ascension Day (Thursday, May 18th) at 10.15 a.m. A.M.C.

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH.—Hearty thanks to all who helped on April 20th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. — The 2nd Annual Dinner was held at The Wheatsheaf Inn on Tuesday, March 28th, and was attended by over 60 members of the Badsey and Wickhamford Men's Fellowships. Miss Wixey provided an excellent meal, and a very happy time was spent. We are most grateful to Mr. M. G. Savory for making the arrangements, and to the artistes at the Concert. The sum of £41 13s. 6d. has so far been raised for the "Men's Fellowship Bell." Donations have been received this month from Mr. Arthur Keen, Mr. M. G. Savory, and the Vicar.

LOOKING FORWARD

MONDAY, MAY 8th.—Meeting of the Parochial Church Council in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m. The chief item on the Agenda is the discussion of plans for the Church Fête.

TUESDAY, MAY 9th.—The Bishop's Visitation at All Saints, Evesham, at 3 p.m. All Clergy and Churchwardens in the Deanery cited to attend.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th. — Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival in the Cathedral at 3 p.m. Preacher: The Very Rev. The Dean of Worcester.

THURSDAY, MAY 11th. — Sanctuary Guild Meeting in the Parish Room at 7 p.m. Will Members please note the changed time? At the April Meeting the following arrangements were made for the Church Fête on Saturday, June 24th:—1st and 3rd Sunday Groups—Stall; 2nd Sunday Group—Tea Room; 4th and 5th Sunday Groups—Stall. The Fête and the Annual Meeting will be further discussed on May 11th.

THURSDAY, MAY 18th. ASCENSION DAY:—It is hoped as many as possible will make their Communion on this great Festival. For list of Services see above.

THE £1,000 APPEAL

SUNDAY, MAY 28th. WHITSUNDAY.—In the July issue last year it was stated, "the number of communicants was slightly more than in 1948 (when it was double that of 1947), but one could not help feeling that the percentage of absentees on this great Festival was still too high." Cannot we—with memories of the recent Confirmation—do better this year? An Organ Recital will be given after Shortened Evensong by my former Organist at Featherstone Parish Church.
W.B.C.

The position on April 17th was:—

Gifts Received	...	...	...	...	£	s.	d.
Promises	...	...	...	...	535	15	6
					138	6	6
Total					£674	2	0

At their March Meeting, the members of P.C.C. discussed the question of a "follow up" of the circular letter distributed in January. It was decided to leave this until nearer the time of the Church Fête, when it is hoped that those who have not yet responded to the Appeal will do so. In addition to donations acknowledged elsewhere in this issue we gratefully acknowledge gifts from Mr. A. J. Wheatley, Mr. J. M. Chapman, Mr. R. R. Savory and Mrs. W. J. Newbury.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

		Server	Crucifer
May 7th	8 a.m.	D. Barrand	—
	11 a.m.	K. Mitchell	B. Jennings
	6.45 p.m.	D. Edwards	D. Barrand
May 14th	8 a.m.	D. Knight	—
	11 a.m.	B. Jennings	K. Mitchell
	6.45 p.m.	D. Barrand	D. Edwards
May 21st	8 a.m.	L. Mitchell	—
	6.45 p.m.	K. Mitchell	B. Jennings
	May 28th	7 a.m.	B. F. P. Blake
8 a.m.		D. Edwards	—
11 a.m.		B. Jennings	D. Barrand
June 4th	6.45 p.m.	D. Edwards	K. Mitchell
	8 a.m.	B. Jennings	—
	11 a.m.	D. Barrand	D. Edwards
	6.45 p.m.	K. Mitchell	B. Jennings

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, May 7th: 8 a.m., Mr. M. Savory; 11 a.m., Messrs. G. Jones and D. Peet; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. F. Cleaver, T. W. Hardiman and Churchwardens.

Sunday, May 14th: 8 a.m., Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m., Messrs. D. Agg and M. Savory; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. J. Major, P. Case and Churchwardens.

Sunday, May 21st: 8 a.m., Mr. B. F. P. Blake; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and Churchwardens.

Sunday, May 28th: 8 a.m., Mr. J. Major; 11 a.m., Messrs. P. H. Sparrow and A. L. Byrd; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. A. W. Sparrow, A. Worthington and M. Savory.

Sunday, June 4th: As Sunday, May 7th.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

Mar. 19th, £5 17s. 7d.; Mar. 22nd/23rd, 15s. 1d.; Mar. 26th, £3 9s. 4d.; Apr. 2nd, £4 4s. 0d.; Apr. 16th, £3 16s. 1d.; Holy Week Services, £4 18s. 10d. Total £23 0s. 11d.

OTHER RECEIPTS

Appeal Fund (Collection at Stainer's "Crucifixion"), £3 10s. 8d.; **Bishop's Discretionary Fund** (Collection at Confirmation), £3 14s. 0d.; **Church Box**, £1 5s. 11d.; **Covenants**, £14; **Use of Organ**, 6s.; **Sale of Bell Rope**, 10s.; **Rent of Church Land**, £1 15s. 0d. **March Envelopes**. Church Expenses, £3 5s. 8d., Church Overseas, 9s. 4d. **Total £3 15s. 0d.** (No. 4, 7s.; No. 5, 8s. 6d.; No. 6, 16s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 4s.; No. 10, 4s.; No. 11, 4s.; No. 13, 4s.; No. 16, 2s.; No. 17, 5s. 4d.; No. 22, 1s. 8d.; No. 23, 4s. 6d.; No. 24, 10s.).

IN MEMORIAM

By the death of Miss M. A. McDonald the villages have lost one who was familiar to nearly every one and there can be no one more widely respected than she was. For fifty years she taught in our School and many members of our population were her pupils. It is safe to say that her influence and example have done much for them. She was a born teacher and always maintained good order and discipline without apparent effort, but those who knew her best were conscious of the amount of hard work involved. She did much to keep up the very high reputation of the School, but she always shunned publicity and was content to lead a life of quiet unselfishness.
C.A.B.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

March 26th.—Maureen Anne Smith.
April 16th.—Nigel John Hurman.

Confirmation

April 5th (By The Lord Bishop of Worcester):—Neil Harris, Terence Sparrow, Kenneth Haynes, Graham Caswell, James Cole, Norman Langstone, Kenneth Mitchell, Robin Sandford, Leslie Stewart, Maurice Stewart, Roger Martin, Michael Merrett, Eric Salter, Patrick Sparrow, Brian Tomkins, David Rouse, Ethel Mary Worthington, Winifred Jane Bennett, Jessica Ellen Wilkins, Avis Helen Bell, Georgina Marshall, Joan Mary Bell, Margaret Irene Bell, June Bennett, Brenda Wilkins, Mavis Bennett, Gretta Cole, Gillian Bennett, Noreen Brotherton, Marina Chamberlain, Evelyn Haines, Jean Jelfs, Patricia Dyke, Doris Willett, Angela Chapman, Margaret Grove, Mary Holley, Judith Knight.

Marriage

March 25th.—Gordon Basil Jones, South Littleton, and Edna May Salter, Badsey.

Burial

April 11th.—Margaret Anne McDonald, aged 76 years.

THE CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation on Wednesday, April 5th, was deeply impressive. The Church was so full that it was decided to start the Service ten minutes before the appointed time. The atmosphere prevailing was most reverent and devout, and the Bishop's address on the text "Follow Thou Me" will surely linger long in our memories. All those confirmed (38 from Badsey and Aidington, 6 from Wickhamford) attended Service on Good Friday and made their first Communion on Easter Day. We hope the parents and friends of these will heed the Bishop's appeal to them to help the newly confirmed in every possible way. Certainly his appeal drew forth a response on Easter Day. May it continue. The following recent article deserves the attention of us all:—

"There are few more encouraging sights than the crowds of Communicants on such Festivals as Easter and Christmas. The remark is often made "If only all these people would come to Holy Communion on an ordinary Sunday."!

Statistics show that:—

Of 100 children born in this country, 67 are baptised into the Church of England.

Of these 67, 34 subsequently attend Church of England Sunday Schools.

Of these 34, 26 go forward to Confirmation.

Of these 26, 9 make their communion at Easter (and in many cases only at Easter).

The question arises "Where are the 17"? What becomes of the lapsed Communicants?

If the Church could retain all those who are confirmed each year, the consequences might astonish us. The effect would almost certainly be felt outside as well as inside the Church. Parish priests spend long hours in preparing the candidates, but the more conscientious the clergy are the less they are satisfied with the amount of time that can be given to the classes.

It is obvious that something more is required besides the preparation classes. This can best be supplied by the parents or guardians of the young people. Unless the newly confirmed boy or girl has been accustomed to attending church regularly before Confirmation he or she starts with a big handicap. The chief responsibility, both before and after Confirmation, is that of the parents. In the first twelve months or two years after Confirmation most young people require the support of parents or guardians. It is then that habits of regular or irregular attendance are formed. Unless the parents accompany their son or daughter to Holy Communion it is asking a lot of the young person to be the only member of the household to get up and go to church in the early morning. However faithfully the conductor of the classes has prepared the candidates, the effect of a few weeks' or even a few months' preparation is likely to wear off unless it is followed up by home preparation and example. Parents can set their children an example by taking (not sending) their children. By so doing they will give the Church a chance to continue the preparation begun in the Confirmation Classes, which is, alas! so soon broken off. It is probably true to say that if the newly confirmed attend Holy Communion regularly during the first two years they will form a habit which will not easily be broken."

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

ASCENSION DAY (Thursday, May 18th)

9 a.m. Holy Communion.

WHITSUNDAY (Sunday, May 28th)

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (with Hymns).

5.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

Collections for Sunday School Fund.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Grateful thanks are due to those who decorated the Church so beautifully for Easter Day. The Services were most inspiring and were very well attended. A word of praise must be given to the members of the Choir for their rendering of "This Joyful Easter-tide," the soloist being Mrs. Collett.

I want to express my deep gratitude to you all for the most generous Easter Offering.

At the P.C.C. Meeting on April 12th, Mrs. Pearce handed to the Treasurer the sum of £20 from the sale of copies of "The Christian Herald" (a striking proof of her devoted work in this connection) and a further £12 from the members of the Mothers' Union. This latter amount has been realised by means of the box at Branch Meetings during the past session. Hearty thanks to all concerned!

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Parish Room on Friday, May 12th, at 7 p.m. The Proceeds will be for the Sunday School and Choir Funds. Mr. J. E. Sheppard has kindly consented to organise the effort. Articles for sale may be sent to him, or to Miss A. L. Cox or Mrs. Dean. We will gladly arrange to fetch them if notice is given. Please help to make this a great success.

A word of thanks is due to all those who helped with the spring cleaning of the Church.

Our congratulations and good wishes are accorded to Mr. and Mrs. W. Pearce, who celebrated their golden wedding on April 18th, and to Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Collett, who celebrated their silver wedding on April 16th. Most sincerely do we hope that Mr. Pearce will speedily improve in health. Wickhamford Church has no more devoted member.

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

PARISH REGISTERS Confirmation

April 5th (By The Lord Bishop of Worcester):—
Diana Daffurn, Maureen Sutton, Angela Smith,
Sheila Griffiths, Elizabeth Johnson, Margaret Willis.

Collections for Church Expenses (Mar. 19th to April 16th incl.) £14 14s. 8d.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

BRITISH LEGION (WOMEN'S SECTION).—
The monthly Branch meeting was held in the Assembly Room at the Bell Inn on March 27th. Mrs. W. Keen presided and offered apologies for several members who were unable to attend owing to illness and various other reasons.

After the Exhortation, the Minutes were read by the Secretary and items of business which were included were discussed at length.

Owing to the fact that so many members were unable to be present, it was decided to wait until the April meeting to choose a Delegate to attend the London Conference on May 24th and 25th.

After refreshments had been served by ladies of

the committee, Mrs. B. Ockwell, Mrs. W. Andrew and Miss L. Hartwell took charge of the Bring and Buy Stall.

Mrs. O. Warmington was the winner of the monthly draw.

The singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

M. K. CLEAVER.

5th EVESHAM (1st BADSEY) BOY SCOUTS.—Congratulations to T/L. Maurice Salter who has successfully completed his "King's Scout" Badge, and has been chosen to join the County Contingent at the St. George's Day Rally at Windsor Castle. It is worthy of note that the party (which is in the charge of Mr. B. F. P. Blake, District Scoutmaster) will be billeted in London with the 8th Westminster Group. This Group is attached to Westminster Cathedral, and is known as "The Cardinal's Own," as it is sponsored by Cardinal Griffin.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—Mrs. S. B. Carter presided at the April Meeting. After the business portion, Miss Fitch, of the M.E.B., gave a very interesting Cookery Demonstration. In the absence of Mrs. Sears, the distribution of the prizes for the Bulb Competition (postponed from March) was made by Miss Fitch, to whom grateful thanks are due. The Meeting closed with Community Singing, Mrs. Sadler being at the piano. C.M.

NURSING ASSOCIATION. — The Annual General Meeting of the Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Nursing Association will be held in the Badsey Council School on Tuesday, May 9th, at 7 p.m. It is hoped all interested will attend.

I. M. BRADY, Hon. Sec.

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