

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Parish

Magazine

SEPTEMBER, 1950

SUPERSTITION AND MASCOTRY

SUPERSTITION always flourishes in times of crisis, and there is plenty of it at the present time. The word is derived from two Latin words meaning "standing over." It is something left standing over when the religion that inspired it has passed away—a survival as useless as the bone of a prehistoric animal. Some superstitions that abound to-day are survivals of ancient heathenism; others are survivals of outgrown Christian sentiments. Of the latter kind is the superstition against beginning a new venture on a Friday. Friday is thought to be unlucky because our Lord was crucified on a Friday, and in the Middle Ages the day was regarded as accursed; and still thousands who have no thought for His death are slaves to this survival that is left 'standing over.'

The dread of passing under a ladder is another superstition which springs from Good Friday. Every church once had pictures of the Stations of the Cross. One of these represented the lowering of our Lord's Body for burial. Against the Cross there leaned a ladder; and in many of these ancient pictures under the ladder was the devil gnashing his teeth. So the idea grew up that under the ladder was Satan's territory. If you passed under a ladder you were getting dangerously close to him. And still this irrational fear 'stands over,' and thousands who do not believe in Satan, and have never heard of the legend, are afraid to walk under a ladder.

The superstition of 'touching wood' springs from the Cross also. In the Middle Ages most Christians wore a little wooden crucifix. If a man caught himself boasting, he would feel that he had challenged fate and must run for sanctuary. He would touch his wooden cross to avert the ill-luck that might follow. Even in those days it was not a very praiseworthy action; but it had at any rate a religious basis; it was a kind of appeal to Christ for help. But the modern man who grasps a wooden pipe or penholder is simply being stupid.

All the 'thirteen' superstitions spring from the story of the Last Supper, when our Lord and His Twelve Apostles sat down together. The first to rise from the table was Judas, and the next day he hanged himself. So the idea arose that the first to leave, when thirteen sit down, is doomed to death. Hence the idea that thirteen is an unlucky number!

Closely allied with superstition is MASCOTRY. It is said that a certain American financier would never transact business unless he had in his pocket a certain hollow stone with fragments inside that rattled. A famous speed-king always carried a rabbit's paw!

In one of their matches some years ago the Portsmouth Football Club gained an unexpected victory. Their success was attributed to a pair of spats worn by their manager. 'From that moment,' according

to an article in the *Spectator*, 'the spats became a talisman which had to be guarded in the Club's safe, which had to be insured for £250, and which, if they were to do their work properly, had to figure in a ceremony whose rites were as sacred and unvarying as those of any ancient order. The spats had to be carried from the safe to the dressing-room before any cup-tie.' In the 1939 Cup Final one of the players is reported to have carried 'a silver elephant tied to his right garter, a threepenny piece in his right boot, a sprig of white heather in his left garter, and a miniature horse-shoe in the back pocket of his pants.'

Mascotry is a relic of ancient paganism. All savage races assume that a mascot can avert evil. The ancient Egyptian carried a beetle. The modern Laplander wears a queer-shaped bone from a seal. But it is amazing to find in this scientific age educated men and women believing in mascotry. Mascotry and superstition usually flourish when true religion languishes. In every normal person there is an instinct for God and religion, and when this is not developed through normal channels, and when it does not issue in worship, there is a tendency to make a god of some inanimate object. It is a form of paganism, which trusts in stocks and stones instead of in the living God. Mascotry in the bad sense of the word is to be distinguished from the use of some amusing object on the bonnet of a motor car or the treasuring of some curiously shaped stone or faded flower as a memento of a happy holiday.

The word 'mascot' is derived from the Portuguese word for 'magic.' Between magic and religion there has always been war to the knife. Magic says, 'Here are certain inanimate things—they will preserve you from evil.' The Christian says, 'My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. It is He that shall keep thee.'

DIOCESAN MISSION (OCT., 1951)

Canon Gray, who will be the Missioner for Badsey and Wickhamford, will pay a preliminary visit to the two parishes in October. We hope to arrange for him to speak at a Joint Meeting of both branches of the Mothers' Union and of the Sanctuary Guild on Tuesday, October 10th, and a Joint Meeting of the two Parochial Church Councils on Wednesday, October 11th. All Members are urged to keep these dates free from other engagements.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

ANNUAL GIFT DAY

Dear Friends,

The Annual Gift Day will be held on Thursday, September 21st. The Vicar will be in Church from 10.30 a.m. (following Holy Communion at 10 a.m.) to Noon, from 2.30 to 4 p.m., and from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

If you cannot bring your Gift Envelope to Church on Gift Day, please send it any of the undersigned, or bring it to any of the Services on Sunday, September 24th (Harvest Thanksgiving).

The Envelopes will be offered at the Altar at Evensong on this Sunday. We hope you will be with us then, so that, together with our gifts, we may offer our thanksgiving for all that Badsey Church has meant and still means to us.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. Chapman, Vicar.

G. A. King } Churchwardens.

G. A. Jones }

C. A. Binyon, Treasurer P.C.C.

J. Major, Secretary P.C.C.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

8 a.m.—Holy Communion

11 a.m.—Matins

11.45 a.m.—Holy Communion

6.45 p.m.—Evensong. Preacher: Rev. J. G. Jeffreys.

Gifts of Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables, etc., should be sent to Church as early as possible on Saturday morning (September 23rd). Those willing to help with the work of decoration are asked to assemble at 10 a.m.

P.C.C.—Next Meeting, Monday, September 4th, in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP.—A new session opens on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th, at 7 p.m., when we shall welcome a visit from Mr. C. H. Gardiner. Once again we extend a very hearty invitation to all men to attend these cheery, informal gatherings. We ask those who have enjoyed them in the past to bring along a friend. If you can persuade him to "give it a trial," we feel sure he will want to come regularly!

SANCTUARY GUILD.—Next Meeting, Thursday, September 14th, in the Parish Room, following Service in Church at 3 p.m.

MOTHERS' UNION.—The weather was not too kind to us on the occasion of the Summer Meeting on August 11th, but members spent a most enjoyable evening at Seward House, and grateful thanks are due to the Misses Sladden for their kindness and hospitality. The weather curtailed outdoor activities, but one fact is evident, *i.e.*, we have several promising performers at Bowls in our ranks!

Meetings re-start on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th, and the Speaker will be Canon Gray, who is to conduct the Mission in Badsey and Wickhamford next year. Will Members please make a note of the date, and resolve to be present. The Meeting will be held in the Parish Room at 2.30 p.m. and we hope the members of the Wickhamford Branch will join with us.

CHOIR.—Congratulations and hearty thanks to our Choirmaster, Organist, and Members of the Choir for the excellent music on "Choir Sunday." Many people have expressed their appreciation, and their hope that "Choir Sunday" will again become an annual event.

£1,000 APPEAL FUND

I am very glad to announce that, in response to my appeal last month, several gifts and promises—including two of £25—have been received, and we are assured of not only reaching our target but of exceeding it! To have done this in just over seven months is a splendid achievement. When the appeal was launched in January last, we were prepared to believe that to raise such a sum would take two years. I extend very grateful thanks to those who have responded so generously. We have been enabled to arrange that the work of removing the bells to Loughborough for repair shall begin on Monday, September 4th, and the work of setting back the Churchyard Wall in October.

I would point out to those who have not yet responded that the Fund still remains open. Further donations are needed to cover the cost of the memorials to the late Canon Allsebrook and the late Mr. George Moisey, and for the Men's Fellowship Bell. In addition, it was only possible to earmark £300 of the £1,000 for the Churchyard Extension, and if we are to carry out all that is proposed in this connection much more than this amount will be needed. So please do not jump to the conclusion that, because we are assured of reaching the £1,000 mark, "Badsey Church doesn't need any more money" (as someone has put it)!

Gifts and promises during the past month are gratefully acknowledged from: Anon., Mr. and Mrs. B. Jones, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. B. F. P. Blake, Mrs. Savory, Anon., Mr. F. C. Jones, Mr. John Sutton.

Grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Bertram Jones for carrying on the most useful work of repairing the Hassocks.

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Sept. 3rd.—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 J. T. Batchelor.

Sunday, Sept. 10th.—8 a.m. Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m., Mr. D. Agg and Churchwarden; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. J. Major, P. Case and Churchwarden.

Sunday, Sept. 17th.—8 a.m., Mr. B. F. P. Blake; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and E. Velvick.

Sunday, Sept. 24th.—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, Oct. 1st.—As Sunday, Sept. 3rd.

[N.B. Those who are unable to take their duty are asked to inform the Churchwardens as soon as possible.]

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sun., Sept. 3rd		
8 a.m.	D. Edwards	—
11 a.m.	B. Jennings	K. Mitchell
6.45 p.m.	D. Barrand	D. Edwards
Sun., Sept. 10th		
8 a.m.	D. Barrand	—
11 a.m.	D. Edwards	D. Barrand
6.45 p.m.	B. Jennings	K. Mitchell
Sun., Sept. 17th		
8 a.m.	D. Knight	—
6.45 p.m.	D. Barrand	D. Edwards
Sun., Sept. 24th		
8 a.m.	L. Mitchell	—
11 a.m.	D. Edwards	D. Barrand
6.45 p.m.	K. Mitchell	B. Jennings
Sun., Oct. 1st		
8 a.m.	J. Hatcher	—
11 a.m.	B. Jennings	K. Mitchell
6.45 p.m.	D. Barrand	D. Edwards

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

July 23rd, £4 11s. 7d.; July 30th, £5 13s. 10d.; Aug. 6th, £4 12s. 5d.; Aug. 13th, £6 1s. 0d. — Total £20 18s. 10d.

Other Receipts

Church Box 12s. 5d.; **June Envelopes** — Church Expenses £3 16s. 0d.; Church Overseas 10s. 5d.— Total £4 6s. 5d. (No. 4, 9s. 6d.; No. 5, 2s.; No. 6, 16s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 5s.; No. 10, 5s.; No. 11, 5s.; No. 13, 7s.; No. 16, 2s. 6d.; No. 17, 6s. 3d.; No. 22, 1s. 8d.; No. 23, 12s. 6d.; No. 24, 10s.).

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

August 6th.—Nicholas Roy Allen

„ 6th.—Allan Walter Underhill

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

P.C.C. — Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 6th, in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th. — Preacher at Evensong: Rev. J. G. Jeffreys.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st (Harvest Thanksgiving).—9.30 a.m., Holy Communion (with Hymns); 5.30 p.m., Evensong. Please send gifts of Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables, etc., as early as possible on Saturday, September 30th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. — Meetings re-start WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Rev. F. C. Champion, Rector of Hinton-on-the-Green. Subject: "Herbs." We extend a cordial invitation to all men (see Badsey Men's Fellowship Notes).

M.U.—Meetings re-start WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4th. A Joint Meeting with the Badsey Branch will be held on Tuesday, October 10th (see Badsey Notes).

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES (July 23rd, 30th, Aug. 6th, 13th) £9 16s. 10d.

We are very sorry that Mr. Haines is unable to continue with the heating of the Church. We are most grateful to him for all that he has done in this connection for many years. He has done everything possible to ensure the comfort of the congregation

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

5th EVESHAM (1st BADSEY) BOY SCOUTS.—
The Fête, held in the Vicarage Garden on August 5th, was fully reported in the local press, and it only remains to thank all those who contributed, in any way, towards the very satisfactory result — a net profit of £54.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. — Mrs. S. B. Carter presided over a small attendance, the meeting opening with the singing of "Jerusalem."

Business over, the President introduced Mr. C. H. Gardiner, who gave a very humorous and interesting talk on his experiences during the past thirty years. Mr. Gardiner answered various questions, and members look forward to his next visit. He was thanked by Mrs. E. Carter and warmly applauded by all the members.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Shelley and members of the Committee. What a pity only one of the chosen helpers turned up!

The Social half-hour ("Stump the Story-teller") was much enjoyed, Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. A. W. Sparrow proving champions at this game. C.M.

TAIL PIECE

Have you heard of the young Wickhamford housewife who declared, "I read the August Magazine and made a pudding out of it"? This seems to be a new use for old Magazines. We wonder what her husband and children thought of it!

JOHNS

DISPENSING CHEMIST

3, MARKET PLACE, EVESHAM

Pharmaceutical Products of the highest quality

Personal attention at all times

DEVELOPING & PRINTING—

QUICK SERVICE

Phone 285

When considering any

Decorating, Building and Sanitary Work

call on your local builders

C. SAVAGE & SON

who will make every effort to give you satisfaction

Phone BADSEY 309

H. ROBINSON

MANOR DAIRY

BADSEY

T.T. and PASTEURISED MILK

CLEAN and SAFE

DELIVERED DAILY