

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Parish Magazine

AUGUST, 1953

The following article by one who is always a welcome visitor to Badsey and Wickhamford is of especial interest. It is reprinted from "The Layman," by kind permission:—

A DIOCESAN MISSION IN RETROSPECT

By C. P. R. RAYMER

When I received a letter from the Editor asking me to let him have my reflections on the results of the Bishop of Worcester's Mission, I had just returned from witnessing that very fascinating spectacle of nature, the Severn Bore. At first all you see is the placid surface of the river, then the great wall of water comes roaring upstream, splashing the banks, and dislodging flotsam floating in the quiet backwaters. Fifteen minutes later the river is quiet again, but underneath the surface considerable movement has taken place.

All Was Quiet

The effect of the Mission on the Diocese has been not unlike that of the Bore upon the Severn. At first the parishes were outwardly quiet and placid, especially away from the towns and the larger centres of population. Then in October, 1951, the great wave of Evangelism which had been building up for more than a year broke over the Diocese. Now outwardly all is quiet again, but we know that there are many who have been moved out of their backwaters by the Mission and are now in the tideway of the Church's Life.

Strategy

The Mission was divided into two parts, the first week being taken up with services in the churches and talks to parochial organisations by the various Missioners. The second week was spent in approaching those outside the Church, meetings being held in public houses, halls and canteens. Unfortunately the incidence of the General Election rather spoilt the effect of the second week, as several parishes had either to postpone or cancel the arrangements they had made.

Some Results

The effect which the Mission had on those outside the Church cannot therefore be determined, though evidence is not lacking of men who have since come forward and "ratified and confirmed" the vows made on their behalf at their baptism. Regarding some of the results of the impact of the Mission on the members of Parochial Church Councils and the regular congregations, however, I can provide first hand evidence.

The Challenge Accepted

Not long before the Mission, the Bishop commissioned a Panel of Laymen from the members of the Board of Finance, to advise and help the parishes on all matters relating to Church Finance. At first we were concerned with the Annual Quota but recently, following a decision of the Chamber of Laity of the Diocesan Conference, we have been visiting those parishes whose incumbents' stipends are below the agreed minimum of £500 a year net, and discussing with them ways and means by which the sum required can be raised. Though most of these parishes are in remote country districts, their response has

been more than encouraging, and almost without exception Church Councils have willingly agreed to undertake the task confronting them. Churchgoers and nonchurchgoers alike are realising that the continued residence of a parish priest in their village depends in no small measure on how deep they are prepared to put their hands in their pockets. I am certain this challenge would not have been met in the way it has but for the Mission.

Those "Bungaloid" Growths

The Mission too has effected the attitude of parishes within whose boundaries new housing estates have been erected since the War. Where previously Church Councils have been inclined to regard the people on these estates as intruders, and to leave them to their own devices, there is now a willingness to assist them to obtain both a place of worship and a priest or layman to work amongst them. The practical implications of belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man have been fully realised.

A Great Result

What of the effects of the Mission on those of us among the Laity, who were privileged to assist in its preparations? The end of the Mission found us uplifted, but, with the knowledge that we must come down from the mountain top into the plains, those words of the father of the deaf and dumb child to Jesus, "Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief" kept echoing in our ears. We realised that in this scientific age in which we are living, it was imperative that we should know why we believed what we believed. As the Bishop of Bristol has put it recently, we felt obliged to look to our intellectual roots. This then was the task which we set ourselves through prayer, meditation and reading. What has been the result? For my own part I feel the experience has been one of great benefit. To let your intellect examine your Faith is a spiritual exercise as exhilarating as, and very much akin to, that of checking your bearings for the first time in a boat out of sight of land, and finding them correct. The potentialities of the power of Faith stand revealed to the imagination and one is lost in reverence, love, and praise. For this experience alone the Mission would have been well worth while.

Their Father in God

My reflections on the Mission cannot be complete without paying a sincere tribute to the part the Bishop of Worcester himself has played in achieving its success. Before the preparation for the Mission started, he was, to the younger members of the Laity in the Diocese, who did not know him well, a kindly if somewhat remote Diocesan Bishop. Today he is in very truth, in deed as well as in word, our Father in God.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

THE CHURCH FETE

We were favoured with beautiful weather on Saturday, June 27th, and the Fête was an outstanding success. The receipts were £252—easily the highest figure since I came here. The result is a striking proof of the generous giving and ready help of Church people. We were very grateful to Mrs. E. Cooke for kindly coming to perform the Opening Ceremony and for her delightful and appropriate speech. She was thanked on our behalf by the Churchwardens and presented with a bouquet by Cynthia Bell. She was accompanied by Mr. Cooke and we were glad to welcome Mr. T. C. Sheaf

(People's Warden) and Mrs. Sheaf together with other friends from Wickhamford. I would express my personal thanks to all who worked so hard and all who sent gifts. A very happy and friendly atmosphere prevailed and we shall have nothing but happy memories of our 1953 Fête. Help came from so many quarters that I can but follow the example of previous years and enumerate the various "classes" of those concerned:—

All who sent gifts for the Stalls or for the Tea Room, and all who gave Prizes or sent Donations.

The Stall-holders (Members of the Mothers' Union, The Sanctuary Guild, The Men's Fellowship, The Sunday School Teachers and Scholars).

The Tea Room Helpers.

The Organisers of the numerous Sideshows.

Mr. Bertram Jones ("Music on the Lawn").

Mr., Mrs., and Misses Salter (Lemonade Stall).

The "Character Reader."

The Gatekeepers.

The Auctioneer and his assistants.

Those responsible for the erection and removal of Stalls, etc.

The Programme Sellers (Mrs. Edwards again headed the "Championship Table" with 112 sold! Pat Stewart was "runner-up" with 48).

All others not mentioned above!

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS

	£	s.	d.
Programmes and Gate Money	12	18	9
Donations	7	0	0
Produce Stall	20	4	0
1st Sunday Group Stall	59	3	0
3rd Sunday Group Stall	28	5	0
(a) 4th and 5th Sunday Groups and M.U. Stall	52	3	7
Men's Fellowship Stall	30	0	0
Auction Sale	13	5	6
Tea Room	8	10	0
Books and Jumble Stall	2	3	7
Lemonade	1	10	0
(b) Sideshows	26	4	5
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	252	7	10

EXPENSES = NIL

(a) Handkerchiefs £4 13s. 5d.; Mystery Parcels £5 9s. 1d.; Buttonholes 7s.; per Mrs. Crane £3 7s.; per Mrs. S. J. Wheatley £6 5s.; per Miss Mary Smith £4 14s. 4d.; per Mrs. Smith £5 18s. 6d.; Fancy Stall £15 11s. 2d.; Pound Stall £4 13s. 1d.; Herbaceous Plants £1 5s. (b) Gents' Bowling £9 4s.; Ladies' Bowling £4 10s. 6d.; Pony and Donkey Rides £2 17s. 9d.; Race Horses £3 17s.; "Patterns" 3s. 11d.; "Dropping the Coin" 8s. 9d.; Children's Skittles 3s. 6d.; per Mrs. A. Bell £1 10s. 3d.; "Throwing Plates" 17s. 6d.; Treasure Hunt £1 15s.; "Post Office" 16s. 3d.

ANNUAL OUTINGS

Choir (July 4th). Another beautiful summer day which added greatly to our enjoyment, though this year's choice (Rhyl) appealed more to the younger members than to their elders! Our thanks are due to all who contributed towards the cost, and to Mr. A. G. Crisp who made all the arrangements with his usual efficiency. We were very pleased to have Mr. Henry King with us. W.B.C.

Mothers' Union and Sanctuary Guild (July 9th). The weather was not too kind to us, there being heavy showers at Matlock and Chatsworth. Nevertheless, I believe the Outing was thoroughly enjoyed--as

generally happens when people set out in the right spirit. We were very glad to have Wickhamford M.U. Members joining with us. I should like to acknowledge the splendid work of our members in connection with the Church Fête.

Mothers' Union Meetings re-start, as usual, on the second Tuesday in October.

A.M.C.

Men's Fellowship.

On July 11th, twenty-seven members took the day off in order to partake in an outing to Oxford and Abingdon. The journey to Oxford was taken by train which allowed some 2½ hours before lunch to look round the town and appreciate the magnificent architecture of many of the Colleges. The main focus was on Christ Church, in the precincts of which an hour was all too short. The quadrangle, cathedral and the historic dining hall were among the main points of interest, the latter being expressly appreciated on account of the painted portraits of many students who, in later years, became great men in the history and politics of the country. We were welcomed by the Bishop of Dorchester who chatted with us some little time.

The grounds and lawns of several colleges, especially those of St. John's, will not easily be forgotten. Mr. King was our able guide during this part of the day.

After lunch a trip was taken by motor launch down river to Abingdon. The negotiating of three locks en route provided spells of added interest. A good tea awaited us and it was not until well on the return journey that the sun had to admit defeat by light rain which came too late in the day to mar our enjoyment.

Sincere thanks are due to Mr. M. Jennings who organised, without a hitch, the travelling and catering arrangements.

Sincere thanks are also extended to all members, who by their kind thoughts and generosity enabled the Fellowship Stall, at the Church Fête, to realise the splendid sum of £30. A grand effort.

M.G.S.

[Editor's Note. And thanks to Mr. Savory, our indefatigable Secretary, for all he did both for the Stall at the Church Fête and in connection with the above Outing.]

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Aug. 2nd.—8 a.m., Mr. M. G. Savory; 11 a.m., Messrs. G. Jones and D. Peet; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. J. T. Batchelor, R. R. Savory and F. Cleaver.

Sunday, Aug. 9th.—8 a.m., Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m., Messrs. J. E. F. Voss and M. G. Savory; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. M. Barnard, P. Case and D. A. Jelfs.

Sunday, Aug. 16th.—8 a.m., Mr. M. Brady; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. H. Floyd, R. Hartwell and R. Knight.

Sunday, Aug. 23rd.—8 a.m., Mr. J. Major; 11 a.m., Messrs. P. H. Sparrow and M. Brady; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. M. G. Savory, A. W. Sparrow and A. Worthington.

Sunday, Aug. 30th.—8 a.m., Mr. T. W. Hardiman; 11 a.m., Messrs. D. Agg and J. Major; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. A. L. Byrd, C. Stewart and D. A. Jelfs.

Sunday, Sept. 6th.—As Sunday, Aug. 2nd.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

June 28th, £4 17s. 10d.; July 5th, £6 16s. 3d.; July 12th, £7 12s. 2d.—**Total £19 6s. 3d.**

OTHER RECEIPTS

Freewill Offering Envelopes—Church Expenses £2 11s. 3d.; Church Overseas 9s. 9d.—**Total £3 1s. 0d.** (No. 3, 10s.; No. 4, 3s. 6d.; No. 6, 15s.; No. 7, 4s.; No. 8, 9s.; No. 10, 3s.; No. 12, 7s.; No. 16, 2s.; No. 17, 4s. 9d.; No. 19, 1s. 9d.; No. 25, 1s.).

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

July 12th. Christine Gard.

Marriages

July 4th. Dennis Charles Heath, Coventry, and Elizabeth Mary Smith, Badsey.

WAR MEMORIAL

The following are kindly responsible for the Flowers:—

Aug. 2nd—Mrs. C. Crane.
9th Mrs. W. E. Emms.
16th Miss Agg.
23rd Mrs. A. W. Sparrow.
30th Mrs. G. Marshall.
Sept. 6th Mrs. C. Stewart.

Church Services.

The services will be as usual during the month of August.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Gift Day — Sunday, Sept. 27th.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Bunbury for so kindly embroidering the set of green book-markers.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services. The Services will be as usual during the month of August.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Gift Day — Sunday, October 4th.

M.U. Outing—See Badsey and Aldington Notes.

Cleaning of the Church. The following are kindly responsible during the next two months:—

1st Sunday (Aug.) Mrs. G. Halford and Mrs. E. Roberts; (Sept.) Mrs. R. Pethard and Mrs. Boston.

2nd Sunday (Aug. and Sept.) Mrs. F. Southern, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Griffiths.

3rd Sunday (Aug.) Miss A. L. Cox and Mrs. Hancock; (Sept.) Mrs. Arkell and Mrs. Poulter.

4th Sunday (Aug. and Sept.) Mrs. Cooke and Miss Lawley.

5th Sunday (Aug.) Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Sheaf and Mrs. Sheppard.

Anyone who is unable to help on the date indicated is asked to inform the leader of her group.

Next Meeting of the Sanctuary Guild—Wed., Sept. 9th at 7 p.m.

Churchyard Extension. The members of the Parochial Church Council met on July 8th and again on July 10th to discuss this matter. It was unanimously agreed that the cost of laying out the ground, so kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Batty and Mrs. Sandys-Lumsdaine, was too great to be defrayed entirely out of Church Funds, and that financial support from the whole of the village was necessary if the proposed scheme was to be carried out. It was agreed that a Parish Meeting should be called on Wed., Aug. 5th, at 7 p.m. Notices of this Meeting are now being distributed.

Sunday School. It is hoped to have the Annual Outing on Wed., August 12th, to Bourton-on-the-Water. Contributions towards the cost will be most gratefully received.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

July 5th Christopher Ronald Haile.
Rosemary Ann Brotherton.

Collections for Church Expenses (June 28th, July 5th, 12th.) £6 3s. 6d.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Badsey W.I. The W.I. annual garden party was held on the lawn at "Piasgwyn" (by kind permission of Mrs. B. A. Sears) on Wednesday, July 8th. The lawn, illuminated with coloured electric lights and arc lights by Mr. Dillworth, gave a perfect setting. Square dancing under the direction of Mr. Page, of Offenham, was demonstrated by teams from Badsey and Norton Women's Institutes and Mr. D. Peet was the accompanist. Mrs. S. B. Carter (president) thanked Mr. Page, Mr. Peet and the dancers. Mrs. M. G. Savory reported on the annual general meeting and Miss Tizard on the branch outing to Windsor and London.

A competition for a tin of tongue, given by Mrs. B. A. Sears in aid of a bursary for Denman College, was won by Mrs. M. Jennings. Mrs. S. J. Wheatley was appointed sick visitor. Mrs. Jerrard, a visitor from Tasmania, gave an interesting address on the activities of the Country Women's Association (the equivalent of the Women's Institute in this country) in Tasmania, and was thanked by Mrs. Carter. A quiz, organised by Mr. M. G. Savory, between teams from Badsey and Norton Institutes, was won by Badsey. Mrs. Daphne Bell was in attendance as character reader, and a bottle stall was run by Mrs. A. W. Sparrow and Mrs. Ralph Bell.

Mrs. Carter presented Mrs. Sears with a box of chocolates in appreciation of her kindness in allowing the garden party to be held on her lawn. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing. Mrs. W. Sadler being at the piano. Mrs. Edwards and helpers were in charge of refreshments.

I. M. EVANS

Wickhamford W.I. At the July meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming twenty-six foreign students, who are touring the Midlands, under the auspices of the British Council.

The talk by Mr. Voss on "Sound and its effect" was most interesting and instructive and we are very grateful to him for it—not least for his recording of "Jerusalem" and of a gathering of W.I. Members before feeding time!

Miss A. L. Cox was in charge of the Green Salad Competition. It was judged by Miss Greenhall and Mrs. Hopkins was 1st and Mrs. F. Dean 2nd.

Mrs. S. B. Carter read Mrs. Savory's report on the A.G.M. Mrs. Garvey reported on her work as Sick Visitor and Mrs. L. Poulter was appointed as Sick Visitor for the next two months, with the assistance of Mrs. Carter.

Mrs. Garvey gave a demonstration on crystallizing flowers. The tea hostesses were Mesdames F. Dean, Read, Phillips, Bent, Collett and Miss B. Willis.

The schedules for the September Produce Show are now ready. If any members have not had one, I shall be pleased to supply them.

There will be no Meeting in August. At the September Meeting there will be a Plant Stall.

T. B. SHANNON-GARVEY