

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford

Parish Review

NOVEMBER 1954

MARRIAGES IN CHURCH

Despite the increasing secularization of modern life and the lax view of marriage prevailing in some quarters, a wedding in Church is still preferred by the majority of people. Marriage in a register office is frowned upon by many people who would not describe themselves as religious, and a wedding ceremony in church is still the fashion. For this we may be both glad and sorry. Glad that the blessing of the Church should be valued and because the coming to church is usually a sign that people look upon marriage as more than a legal contract. Sorry because fashion and convention impel some couples to desire a wedding in church when their whole attitude to religion and to Christian marriage should suggest marriage in a register office.

Of course, one wishes that all couples were married in church, and this because they sincerely believe in Christian marriage and regard a religious ceremony as essential. But one cannot pretend that all who choose to be married in church do so for purely religious reasons. In some cases the church is chosen because it lends itself to a social splash in a manner which would be impossible in a register office. Those of us who are well accustomed to officiating at weddings can usually sense the atmosphere. Even if we do not know the couple it is soon evident if they are Church people. It is surprising how weddings differ. We have known two weddings follow each other within an hour. The one was markedly and primarily a religious rite, the other somehow failed to create the right atmosphere, yet at each the same clergyman officiated and used exactly the same form of service.

Expensive outward display is sometimes out of all proportion to the support given to the church either before or after the ceremony. Some of those who wish to be married in church show little or no interest in their parish church at other times; they make it merely a convenience. Indeed, had it been dependent upon the attendance and support of such people the church would have been compelled to close its doors. And we have noticed that it is those who have least connection with the church who are frequently the most clamant in their demands and most fussy in their requests when arranging a wedding in church.

We repeat that we should like every couple to be married with a religious ceremony, but only when they regard a wedding in church as primarily a religious rite. To use the church only or chiefly because it is socially customary and because it lends itself better to a fashion display is grossly to abuse a great privilege, and to carry away a blessing which the Church intends for its loyal sons and daughters and for those who are regular worshippers. What is properly required of those who seek to be married in church is well illustrated by the rubric at the end of the Marriage Service. It runs: "It is convenient that the new-married persons should receive the Holy Communion at the time of their Marriage, or at the first opportunity after their Marriage."

(THE PARISH MAGAZINE HANDBOOK—
By permission)

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

Leading London stores have already started their Christmas displays, with Father Christmas as the central figure. The managerial excuse for this absurd anticipation of Christmas is that, unless the display begins now, all the crowds cannot be fitted in before December 25. The hollowness of this pretext has been exposed by the National Chamber of Trade. This conference passed a resolution recently expressing strong disapproval of this practice. It is a purely materialistic desire to get more money into their pockets which is leading some traders to perpetrate this silly and shameful corruption of the calendar. It is time that a protest was made against the damage that this does to the spiritual and traditional meaning of Christmas, and the National Chamber of Trade is to be congratulated on making it. One speaker very sensibly pointed out that, if the big stores go on like this, they will certainly kill the goose which lays the golden eggs. From a purely business point of view they would do no good by having Christmas all the year round. The commercialization of Christianity is always horrible. It is also foolish—even from the worldling's own pathetic point of view.

("Church Times"—by permission.)

QUOTATIONS

"Not Herod, not Caiaphas, not Pilate, not Judas even contrived to fasten upon Jesus the reproach of insipidity; that final indignity was left for pious hands to inflict. To make of His story something that could neither startle, nor shock, nor terrify, nor excite, nor inspire a living soul, is to crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame."

(Dorothy L. Sayers.)

"This is a world in which Christ was crucified—that is one permanent aspect of the truth about it. Yet this is the world in which Christ rose from the dead—that is the Christian answer to despair about it."

(Bishop of Southwell.)

"Fear knocked at the door. Faith opened it—there was no one there."

The few

Who are seen in their accustomed pew
Throughout the year, whatever the weather.
That they may worship God together,
These, like a fire of glowing coals,
Strike warmth into each other's souls,
And though they be but two or three,
They keep the Church for you and me.

(John Betjeman.)

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Sunday, Nov. 7th (Remembrance Sunday) 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 11 a.m. Matins. The members of the British Legion will parade. The members of the Congregation are asked to be in their places not later than 10.50 a.m.; 6.45 p.m. Evensong. The Collections throughout the day will be for Earl Haig's Fund (Poppy Day Appeal).

Sunday, November 14th. Services as usual. Preacher at 6.45 p.m.:—Rev. E. H. Moseley (Church of England Children's Society).

Sunday, Nov. 21st. Services as usual.

Sunday, Nov. 28th (Advent Sunday). Collections for the Church Overseas. Holders of Missionary Boxes are asked to bring them to Church on this day. Intercessions at all Services—8 a.m., 11 a.m., 6.45 p.m.—for the work of the Church Overseas.

P.C.C. Next Meeting, Monday Nov. 1st, in the Parish Room at 7 p.m.

Mothers' Union. There was a very good attendance at the Meeting on Oct. 12th, when the Rev. F. C. Champion gave one of his interesting Nature Talks, his subject being "Trees."

On Tuesday Nov. 9th, the Vicar will speak on "Things we do in Church." There will be a Bring and Buy Stall, the proceeds being devoted to the "People's Offering" for Moral Welfare Work in the Diocese.

Tuesday Nov. 23rd will be a very special occasion as we are being honoured by a visit from Sir Raymond Priestley. He gave a memorable talk to the Men's Fellowship in February last on Antarctic Exploration and of his personal experiences with Sir Ernest Shackleton and Capt. Scott. He is paying a return visit to Badsey at the urgent request of our Members.

"Black and White" are providing another Film Show on Tuesday Dec. 14th, the programme including a film of the Royal Visit to New Zealand.

These "forthcoming attractions" should ensure well-attended Meetings.

A.M.C.

Men's Fellowship. We made an excellent start to a new session on Tuesday Oct. 12th when over forty Members listened with rapt attention to Mr. Engledow's talk on "A Gamekeeper's Life." Of special interest and importance was his reference to myxomatosis. His strong condemnation of the deliberate spreading of this loathsome disease was based on arguments which seemed unanswerable, and his reasoned conclusion that we should ultimately lose rather than gain through the spread of the disease needs to be pondered very seriously. He covered a great deal of ground in the course of his talk, and the many questions asked by Members showed what interest had been aroused. He was thanked by Mr. N. H. Smith.

The Speaker on Tuesday Nov. 9th will be Mr. Hancock and his subject, "Our Milk Supply—Past and Present." This should prove both interesting and instructive, and it is hoped that our regular high attendance will continue.

ROTA OF SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday Nov. 7th.—8 a.m., Mr. G. H. Stewart; 11 a.m., Messrs. G. Jones and D. Peet; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. J. T. Batchelor, F. Cleaver and M. Brady.

Sunday, Nov. 14th.—8 a.m., Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m., Mr. T. W. Hardiman and Churchwarden; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. M. Barnard, P. Case and D. A. Jelfs.

Sunday, Nov. 21st.—8 a.m., Mr. M. Brady; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and Churchwarden.

Sunday, Nov. 28th.—8 a.m., Mr. J. Major; 11 a.m., Mr. P. H. Sparrow and Churchwarden; 6.45 p.m., Messrs. C. Stewart, A. W. Sparrow and A. Worthington.

Sunday, Dec. 5th.—As Sunday Nov. 7th.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sunday Nov. 7th.		
8 a.m.	D. Rouse	
11 a.m.	P. Hatcher	H. Wheatley
6.45 p.m.	R. Hall	D. Barrand
Sunday Nov. 14th.		
8 a.m.	R. Hall	
11 a.m.	H. Wheatley	P. Hatcher
6.45 p.m.	P. Hatcher	R. Hall
Sunday Nov. 21st.		
8 a.m.	H. Wheatley	
6.45 p.m.	R. Hall	A. Sears
Sunday Nov. 28th.		
8 a.m.	K. Mitchell	
11 a.m.	A. Sears	D. Barrand
6.45 p.m.	P. Hatcher	H. Wheatley
Sunday Dec. 5th.		
8 a.m.	A. Sears	
11 a.m.	E. Salter	R. Hall
6.45 p.m.	H. Wheatley	P. Hatcher

Harvest Thanksgiving and Gift Day. Our faithful band of Decorators again did splendidly and their work rightly gained unanimous approval. We are most grateful to them and to all who sent gifts. Nor must we forget those who came on the Monday morning to prepare the gifts for the Hospital and Mrs. Cockerton and Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Smith who kindly conveyed the gifts to Evesham Hospital. All the Services were well attended, the Communicants totalling 103. When we compare this with the numbers in 1946 and 1947—16 and 24 respectively—it is evident that progress has been made towards making the Eucharist the central Service, as indeed it should be, on this day. The amount (£73) contributed through the Collections and Gift Envelopes was a record. This again is another piece of evidence testifying to the generosity of our Churchpeople, following the great success of the Church Fête.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES.

Oct. 3rd, £7 7s. 9d.; Oct. 10th, £8 0s. 6d.; Oct. 17th (Evening), £7 8s. 6d. **Total £22 16s. 9d.**

OTHER RECEIPTS

Church Overseas Fund (Sept. 19th) **£6 1s. 6d.**; **Gift Day** (Sept. 26th) **£73 2s. 0d.** (Church Collections £11 1s. 3d., Envelopes £62 0s. 9d.); **Church Box** (Sept. Qr.) **£2 13s. 11d.**; **Freewill Offering Envelopes** (Church Expenses £2 4s. 5d., Church Overseas 10s. 1d.) **£2 14s. 6d.** (No. 4, 5s. 6d.; No. 6, £1; No. 7, 3s. 6d.; No. 8, 4s.; No. 10, 4s.; No. 11, 4s.; No. 12, 4s. 6d.; No. 16, 4s.; No. 17, 5s.)

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sept. 19th.—Elizabeth Anne Cleaver; Mark Andrew Norledge.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Sunday, Nov. 7th (Remembrance Sunday). 6.30 p.m. (instead of 5.30 p.m.) Evensong. Collection for Earl Haig's Fund (Poppy Day Appeal).

Sunday Nov. 14th. 5.30 p.m. Evensong. Preacher:—Rev. E. H. Moseley (Church of England Children's Society.)

Sunday Nov. 21st. 11 a.m. Matins; 11.40 a.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Sunday Nov. 28th (Advent Sunday). 5.30 p.m. Evensong. Collection for the Church Overseas.

Mothers' Union. Teas this month will be provided by Mrs. E. Roberts (Nov. 3rd), Mrs. Figgitt (Nov. 10th), Mrs. Hancock (Nov. 17th) and Mrs. Newbury (Nov. 24th). Teas during October were provided by Mesdames Pearce, Sturt, Walters and Hodges.

"Christmas Sale" In the Parish Room and Memorial Hall, Wednesday Dec. 8th. Opened at 3 p.m. by Mrs. Horsfield. Proceeds for Church Funds.

We have already received promises from various faithful workers to organise Stalls—Cake, Pound, Fancy, Produce, Bran Tub, etc.—and the Members of the Mothers' Union will again be responsible for Teas in addition to their Stall. Gifts for these Stalls will be most gratefully received. Please help to make this another successful effort.

Collections for Church Expenses (Sept. 19th, 26th, Oct. 10th, 17th) £9 10s. 6d.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sept. 22nd.—Neil Franklin Jones.

Oct. 3rd.—Raymond David Mitchell.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Gift Day. Grateful thanks are due to (1) All who sent gifts. (2) Those who decorated the Church so beautifully. (3) Mr. T. C. Sheaf for conveying the gifts to Avonside Hospital. The number of Communicants was disappointing but the Church was full for Evensong. The members of the Choir are to be congratulated on their rendering of the Anthem, "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works."

Gift Day Receipts amounted to £43 13s. 0d. (Church Collections £5 16s. 6d., Gift Envelopes £37 16s. 6d.). This shows how very generously once again Church-people responded.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

British Red Cross Society (Badsey Detachment). At the Battle of Britain Sunday Service in Worcester Cathedral and in the March Past, the Detachment was represented by Mrs. Brady (Commandant) and Miss Parnell (Quartermaster).

Mrs. Brady also attended the Blood Transfusion Service Session at Evesham Town Hall on Sunday, Oct. 9th. More Blood Donors from Badsey and Wickhamford are urgently needed.

The winner of the Competition for an Iced Cake at the Bazaar, in aid of County Funds, held at the Shire-hall, Worcester on Saturday Oct. 2nd, was Mrs. Brotheridge (Cleeve Prior).

Badsey W.I. Mrs. S. B. Carter presided at the October Meeting. The Monthly Letter was read and Mrs. Pedrick was chosen as delegate to the half-yearly Council Meeting at Worcester.

Mrs. Harvey reported on the Outing to Oxford on Monday Oct. 11th, and thanks were expressed to Mrs. J. Major for making all arrangements.

Mr. Turpin (Hoover Ltd.) gave an interesting talk on Carpets and their care. He was thanked by Mrs. D. Richardson.

During the Social Half-Hour the Wickhamford W.I. Choir, conducted by Mrs. T. H. Collett, entertained Members with a programme of songs. Mr. Peet was accompanist. They were thanked by Mrs. A. Reed.

A Competition for Autumn Leaves and Berries was won by Mrs. A. W. Sparrow.

The Monthly Competition was won by Miss D. Daf-furn. Mrs. L. Shelley will act as Sick Visitor during the next month.

Refreshments were served by Misses Tizard and Addis, Mesdames S. J. Wheatley, A. W. Smith, K. Taylor and Whitford.

I. M. EVANS.

Wickhamford W.I. Mrs. E. Cooke presided at the October Meeting when Captain Keesley gave a very interesting film show on his visits to U.S.A. and Switzerland. Miss B. Hancock proposed a vote of thanks.

Mrs. T. H. Collett gave her Sick Visitor's report and Miss A. Cox was elected for the ensuing month.

Mrs. R. Folkes reported that the Jumble Sale organised by the W.I. in aid of the Children's Playing Field raised £30.

A report was given by Mrs. T. Garvey on the Produce Guild Show held in September which raised £2 13s.

The Competition for the best cold sweet was judged by Mrs. Keesley and won by Mrs. H. Pilkington.

Tea hostesses were Mesdames Dean, C. Willis, T. Green, Hopkins, and the Misses E. and A. Burrows.

D. DAFFURN.

"Poppy Day" Collection
Saturday, November 6th

Please give generously