

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford

Parish Review

DECEMBER 1955

Christmas

(1) If we strip away for a moment the romance and decoration of the Christmas story we stand aghast at the awe-inspiring humility of God's beginning of His task of redemption. The things which look romantic on a Christmas Card or which sound pretty by association with delightful carols, were in fact most devastatingly humble. For a pregnant woman to hunt desperately for a room when her time drew near would hardly be our choice for God's entry into the world on human terms. Yet, so it was. That is how He came, right in at the human level. God's Son was born into a world of misery and strife, of suffering and sin.

(J. B. PHILLIPS).

(2) Because in tender majesty
Thou cam'st to earth nor stayed till we
Poor sinners stumbled up to Thee,
I thank my God.

Because the Saviour of us all
Lay with the cattle in their stall,
Because the Great comes to the small,
I thank my God.

Because upon a Mother's breast
The Lord of Life was laid to rest,
And was of Babes the loveliest,
I thank my God.

Because the Eternal Infinite
Was once a naked little mite,
Because, O Love, of Christmas night,
I thank my God.

(G. A. STUDDERT-KENNEDY).

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays Dec. 4th, 11th. Services as usual.

Sunday Dec. 18th. 8 a.m. Holy Communion; 6.45 p.m.
"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."

Christmas Eve (Sat. Dec. 24th.). 11.30 p.m. First Com-
munion of Christmas. Alms for Church of England
Children's Society.

Christmas Day (Sun. Dec. 25th):—
8 a.m. Holy Communion.
11 a.m. Short Service followed by Sunday School Prize
Giving.
11.45 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.45 p.m. Evensong.

Sunday, Jan. 1st. Services as usual.

Church of England Children's Society. The splendid sum of £23 16s. 2d. has been realised through the Collecting Boxes this year. The Society expresses grateful thanks to the boxholders, the Secretary (Mrs. Bonehill) and her helpers.

Mothers' Union. At the Meeting on October 25th, the Vicar gave his first talk on Church History and was relieved to find his audience did not find it as "hard going" as he had feared.

There was a very good attendance on Nov. 8th and the Rev. Eric Skues's account of his experiences as a Missionary in China was listened to with deep attention, as were his concluding remarks on the position of the Church in China at the present time. It made us all feel how vitally important is "the work of the Church Overseas" (a phrase often used, the significance of which, however, is alas! only grasped by a small proportion of Churchpeople). The address was greatly enhanced by the fascinating exhibition of Chinese articles.

On Tuesday, Dec. 13th, the Vicar will give his second talk on Church History and arrangements will be made for the New Year Party. There will be no Meeting on Tuesday Dec. 27th.

We are very grateful to Mrs. G. H. Stewart and Mrs. Hobbs for gifts of Electric Kettles to enable Members of the Sanctuary Guild to obtain a supply of hot water for use in the Cleaning of the Church.

The "Bring and Buy" Stall on October 25th for the "People's Offering" realised £4 12s. 9d. This amount was made up to £6 out of Branch Funds.

The news of the death of Mrs. Bailey was received with deep regret by the Members of our Branch and of the Wickhamford Branch. She did wonderful work for the Mothers' Union as Presiding Member and was beloved throughout the Diocese.

Mesdames Holley, G. H. Knight, R. Hartwell and G. W. Marshall accompanied Mrs. Chapman to the Service in Bretforton Church on November 17th to mark the Jubilee of the Bretforton Branch. The Service was followed by a most enjoyable Social Gathering.

Men's Fellowship. Nearly forty Members on Oct. 25th enjoyed Mr. Paler's forceful and racy account of his experiences in the Police Force. After refreshments the Speaker stood up to a barrage of questions and certainly proved he "knew the answers." We are very glad to know he is coming to reside in Badsey and hopes to attend our Meetings. We look forward to hearing more of his experiences.

We topped the forty mark on Nov. 8th and had another excellent talk—from Mr. W. E. Jones (Deputy County Analyst). He described most lucidly the comprehensive work of his department and we gained a great deal of valuable information. The many questions put to him were dealt with very ably and "closing time" came all too soon.

On Tuesday Dec. 13th, Mr. Peter Keesey, who has travelled widely, has promised to speak on some of his journeys abroad and shew coloured films. One who has seen these films insists that they should not be missed. What about a real effort to reach the fifty mark at this Meeting?

The only sad feature of our Meetings so far has been the absence of our Secretary. All of us hope that the rest ordered by his doctors will result in a complete recovery. His unflagging interest in the Fellowship has been shewn by the fact that he has gone on making all the arrangements for our Meetings even though confined to the house. We have all been conscious of the gap in our assembly. May it soon be filled.

W.B.C.

Sunday School. Mr. J. E. Knight has kindly consented to present the Prizes at the 11 a.m. Service on Christmas Day. I hope there will be a full attendance of Parents and of all interested in the work of our School.

The New Year Party will be held as in previous years. We shall be grateful for the usual generous gifts—in cash or in kind.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Teachers for all they have done during the past twelve months.

W.B.C.

St. James's Guild of Change Ringers. The Annual Meeting was held on Nov. 2nd at The Laurels, following enjoyable ringing in the Tower. The Vicar presided. Members present were: Messrs. T. Brazier, G. A. King, E. Mitchell, C. Longmore, H. Wheatley, R. C. Hall, and a new member D. Gresty.

After the reading of the Minutes of the 1954 Meeting, the following elections took place: Mr. T. Brazier (Ringing Master), Mr. G. A. King (Deputy Ringing Master), Mr. E. Mitchell (Tower Keeper) and Mr. R. C. Hall (Secretary and Treasurer).

Mr. G. A. King proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. T. Brazier for his services as Ringing Master during the past year. This was seconded by the Vicar. Mr. King then spoke of the progress made by the younger ringers who have rung a peal of Plain Bob Minor and a peal of Plain Bob Minor and Spliced Oxford Bob.

After refreshments, it was decided to ring the annual Peal on Dec. 24th. Practices were arranged for Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Following the reading of the Treasurer's report, there was a general discussion on the Annual Outing and various other subjects.

The Meeting closed with an expression of thanks to Mr. T. Brazier for his hospitality.

New Members (Male or Female) would be heartily welcomed.

In reply to a query, "Who is the Patron Saint of Bellingers"? the following letters were sent to the "Church Times":—

Sir,—In answer to the query re the Patron Saint of Bellingers, I understand it is the great St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 959—988. When reading the letter of enquiry from Mr. D. H. Allport, I thought of the charming chapel in Tewkesbury Abbey, dedicated to this saint, where a design of silver bells is the main theme of the altar frontal.

After St. Dunstan went to live at Glastonbury, the "cradle of Christianity in England," he became very skilled in the art of metal work, and gave it much time and attention.

In her book of saints, "Stars Appearing" (published last year), Sibyl Harton has this to say: "Dunstan ruled that all monasteries were to use the English custom of ringing bells, especially prolonging them on great festivals . . . and he himself, with his great collaborator, Bishop Ethelwold, cast two bells for Abingdon monastery."

BERNARD JACKSON.

Tewkesbury House, Merriott,
Crewkerne, Somerset.

Sir,—I understand St. Ethelwold, to whom our parish church is dedicated, is closely associated with this side of Church affairs. In a window here he is depicted in cope and mitre surrounded by bells.

S. K. VICK.

Shotton, Chester.

The choice seems to lie between St. Dunstan and St. Ethelwold.

R. C. HALL.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

Oct. 23rd £7 14s. 0d.; Oct. 30th £9 14s. 1d.; Nov. 13th £8 8s. 3d.; Nov. 20th (Evening) £7 12s. 0d. **Total £33 8s. 4d.**

Other Receipts

Earl Haig's Fund (Nov. 6th) £19 9s. 0d.; Church of England Children's Society Boxes (per Mrs. Bonehill) £23 16s. 2d. Freewill Offering Envelopes—Church Expenses £3 1s. 10d., Church Overseas 18s. 8d.—Total £4 0s. 6d. (No. 6, £2 7s. 6d.; Nos. 10, 11, 16, 6s.; Nos. 7, 8, 12, 5s.).

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms.

Oct. 23rd. Susan Jane Richardson.
Wendy Jane Salter.

Marriages

Oct. 29th. Alfred George Yeo, Aylesford (Kent), and Barbara Frances Roberts, Badsey.
Oct. 29th. Peter Sydney Stephens, Broadway, and Gillian Christine New, Badsey.
Nov. 16th. James Lawrence, Cullen (Banffshire), and Margaret Enid Grindle, Badsey.

Burials

Nov. 7th. George Lloyd, aged 69 years.

ROTA OF SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday, Dec. 4th. 8 a.m. Mr. G. H. Stewart; 11 a.m. Messrs. D. Peet and G. A. O. Jones; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. J. T. Batchelor, N. Cleaver and M. Brady.

Sunday, Dec. 11th. 8 a.m. Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m. Messrs. T. W. Hardiman and Churchwarden; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. D. A. Jelfs, M. J. Barnard and A. W. Smith.

Sunday, Dec. 18th. 8 a.m. Mr. M. Brady; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and T. C. Sparrow.

Christmas Eve. 11.30 p.m. Churchwardens.

Christmas Day. 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 R. J. Taylor.

Sunday, Jan. 1st. As Sunday Dec. 4th.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sunday Dec. 4th.		
8 a.m.	D. Barrand	_____
11 a.m.	E. Salter	P. Hatcher
6.45 p.m.	E. Harker	R. Hall
Sunday Dec. 11th.		
8 a.m.	P. Hatcher	_____
11 a.m.	B. Caswell	A. Sears
6.45 p.m.	R. Hall	H. Wheatley
Sunday Dec. 18th.		
8 a.m.	R. Hall	_____
6.45 p.m.	P. Hatcher	B. Caswell
Christmas Eve		
11.30 p.m.	H. Wheatley	R. Harvey
Christmas Day.		
8 a.m.	B. Caswell	_____
11 a.m.	P. Hatcher	H. Wheatley
6.45 p.m.	E. Harker	A. Sears
Sunday Jan. 1st.		
8 a.m.	A. Sears	_____
11 a.m.	R. Salter	R. Hall
6.45 p.m.	B. Caswell	E. Harker

Parish Review. The Review has again just "paid its way," and the price (3s. 6d. per annum) will remain unchanged during 1956. It would greatly assist our faithful distributors if subscriptions were paid in January.

The advertisements play an important part in enabling us to balance our budget. I hope you will patronise those who help us by advertising year after year.

W.B.C.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays Dec. 4th, 11th. Services as usual.

Sunday Dec. 18th, 11 a.m. Matins; 11.40 a.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Christmas Day (Sun. Dec. 25th).

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (with Hymns). Alms for Church of England Children's Society.

5.30 p.m. Evensong and Carols.

Sunday Jan. 1st. 9.0 a.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Sunday School. The Prize Giving will be held in the Parish Room and Memorial Hall on Sunday Dec. 11th at 3 p.m. Mrs. J. E. Parry has kindly promised to present the Prizes. Parents and friends of the Sunday School are warmly invited. Their presence would be a source of encouragement to the Teachers—Misses A. L. Cox, Hancock and M. Willis—to whose faithful service we owe so much.

W.B.C.

Choir. The Organist and Members of the Choir are to be heartily congratulated on their rendering of the Anthem "What are these?" at Evensong on Remembrance Sunday. Carols will be sung at Evensong on Christmas Day.

Mothers' Union. There will be a Branch Meeting on Wed. Dec. 7th but not on Wed. Dec. 21st. Grateful thanks are due to all who have been responsible for kindly providing Tea.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Church Expenses (Oct. 23rd, 30th, Nov. 13th, 20th) **£10 4s. 8d. Earl Haig's Fund** (Nov. 6th) **£10 0s. 9d.**

REPORTS ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Badsey W.I. Mrs. S. B. Carter presided at the November Meeting when about 70 Members were present.

Mrs. A. W. Sparrow reported on the Group Meeting at Pebworth, and Mrs. J. Major on the Half Yearly Council Meeting at Worcester. Mrs. Littlewood was appointed Sick Visitor for the month.

Some delightful Travel Films were shewn by Mr. Jenkins, on behalf of Black and White Garages. He was thanked by Mrs. Edwards.

Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. W. Major and Miss Taplin had charge of a Christmas Bring and Buy Stall, which realised about £8.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. C. Stewart and helpers. The Monthly Competition was won by Mrs. Harman.

Nominations were handed in for the new Committee.

M. H. MAJOR.

Wickhamford W.I. The Annual General Meeting was held on November 10th when the chair was taken by the President (Mrs. E. Cooke). Mrs. Parry (Secretary) presented the Annual Report and spoke of the various activities of the past year. The Financial Statement was read by the Treasurer (Mrs. G. Hancock) who reported a good balance in hand. The President then thanked all members for their share in making it a successful year and the officers and committee for their work. During the counting of the votes for the new Committee, Miss Helen Mills spoke on her work as a V.C.O. She was thanked by Mrs. Cooke. The following Committee was elected: Mrs. Parry (President), Mrs. Shannon-Garvey (Secretary), Mrs. R. Folkes (Treasurer), Mrs. Cooke (V.P.), Mrs. Dean (V.P.), Mrs. Byron, Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Arthurs, Mrs. C. Cox and Miss A. Cox. The Tellers and Auditor were thanked by Miss A. Cox. Mrs. Read thanked the retiring Committee. Mrs. Boston was elected for the ensuing month as Sick Visitor. Mrs. Byron was the winner of the monthly competition. The Social Half-Hour was organised by Mrs. Shannon-Garvey and Mrs. Folkes. Tea Hostesses were Mesdames Sheaf, Haines, Harman, Taylor, Malins, Boston and Miss Willis.

WICKHAMFORD MEMORIAL HALL

A Christmas Fair will be held in the Parish Room and Memorial Hall on Sat. Dec. 10th.

Stalls (Christmas Gifts, Toys, Produce, Cakes, etc.), Christmas Tree, Competitions (for Dressed Fowl, Christmas Cake, etc.), and numerous other festive attractions.

Proceeds in aid of the Fabric Fund and the maintenance of the decoration of the Hall.

Please come along and support this effort for your Village Hall.

A.C.W.

[Editor's Note. Gifts in money or in kind for the Church Stall at the above Fair will be gratefully received.]

British Red Cross (Badsey Detachment). I am glad to report that all the candidates for the Infant and Child Welfare Examination were successful.

I. M. BRADY.

British Legion (Women's Section). The Annual General Meeting took place on Wed. Oct. 26th, the President (Mrs. M. G. Savory) being in the Chair. The Secretary (Mrs. A. Sybil) reported a membership of 45 with 9 unpaid Members. Monthly Meetings had been well attended and donations had been given to several deserving causes. The Treasurer (Mrs. Littlewood) reported a satisfactory balance.

The following Elections took place:—

Officers: Mrs. Savory (President), Mrs. A. Sybil (Chairman), Mrs. B. Lake (Treasurer), Mrs. Littlewood (Secretary), **Committee:** Miss L. Hartwell, Mesdames Brooks, Page, Pedrick, F. Cleaver, C. Harwood, H. Brotherton and G. Tucker. **Standard Bearer:** Mrs. Littlewood. **Escorts:** Mrs. M. Hay and Mrs. B. Lake. **Wreath Bearer:** Mrs. Hurman.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Brotherton and her helpers.

B. HURMAN.