

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford
Parish Review

MARCH 1956

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

It is easy to think of Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the other Church Festivals as annual commemorations of something that happened a long time ago, but which do not seem to have much significance for us in our modern world. To think like this is to miss the whole point. The great events which happened to Jesus, Who is God, happened once in the history of the world, but they happened for all time. He still comes to us on our Altars just as truly as He did to Mary in Bethlehem; He still chooses His friends, who still misunderstand Him; He is still betrayed by those who call themselves His followers; we still forsake Him when trouble arises or our personal comfort is at stake; He is still denied by Peters who are afraid to speak out for their Lord; He is still beaten-up by the sins of the flesh; He is still crowned with the thorns of our evil thoughts; people who sing His praises one day are still ready to shout "Crucify Him!" the next. There are still those who doubt His Resurrection, and still those who fall at His feet and cry, "My Lord and my God."

What the Church asks you to do is to contemplate this drama of God's dealing with Man, and to interpret it in terms of your own personal life in this present age.

You are asked to go with your Lord in Holy Week and on Good Friday—not to the pictures, or on holiday, or to sit comfortably by your televisions; but to go with Him to His Death. Not very pleasant, but still that is what a Christian should be prepared to do. "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Ask yourselves where you would be if the terrible tragedy happened today, and be honest with yourselves when you try to answer; for the tragedy is happening today and we are all taking our part in it. It is to help us to see where we are and what we are that the Church gives its people the opportunity of Lent, which is a testing time.

There will probably be many worshippers in Churches all over the country on Easter Day, and the Easter Alleluias will be shouted loud and long, but they will be hollow Alleluias (as hollow as the Hosannas on that first Palm Sunday) if they do not come from a sincere heart, and you cannot sincerely and devoutly keep Easter if you fail our Lord and Master on His Day of Suffering.

(I. O. Jay, Vicar of Purston-with-South Featherstone).

MARRIAGES IN LENT

The Bishop of Oxford, writing in the "Oxford Diocesan Magazine," has made some suggestions to the diocese about the celebration of marriages in Lent, a subject on which his advice had been sought by some of the clergy. As custom varied a good deal, he offers suggestions (and not directions) towards a more uniform policy.

Dr. Carpenter says: "We cannot refuse to marry people in Lent, and it must be recognized that there are sometimes good and respectable practical reasons in particular cases why the wedding should take place in that season. Financial inducements, relating to income tax, are responsible for some of the weddings in March or early

April, and there are sometimes other reasons, such as the availability of a house or the obligation to take up an appointment at a certain date.

"To most people who ask for a wedding in Lent, even if they are regular members of a congregation, it probably comes as a surprise to learn that it is an unsuitable request. They are not asking for something which they know beforehand to be unusual. We can hope for some understanding of the point when we are talking to faithful parishioners who normally do something to observe Lent; others are unlikely to see the point at all since Lent means nothing to them.

"There is no reason why the unsuitability of their proposal should not be pointed out to any couple proposing a Lent wedding, but if after discouragement they persist, I do not think any useful purpose or principle is served by insisting as is sometimes done that the ceremony must be reduced to its barest essentials. After all, apart from Holy Week, we observe Festivals of the Church which fall in Lent, and we do not banish music from our Lenten services. I should not myself deny music at a Lenten wedding if it were asked for.

"The ringing of bells perhaps falls into a different category; it would be no hardship to make a rule that bells are not rung for Lenten weddings. Having said this, I should, however, suggest that for the question we are considering, Holy Week stands apart. People are more generally aware of its meaning than they are of Lent. In Holy Week we keep no Festivals and all the services are directed to our Lord's Passion. If in the last resort a wedding must take place on any day in Holy Week, it seems to me reasonable to insist that the service shall be as simple and unadorned as possible."

THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE BISHOP

The enthronement of our new Bishop in his Cathedral took place on Saturday, February 11th. A deeply impressive Service was attended by nearly 3,000 people. Our Parochial Representatives were:—

Badsey:—Mrs. G. H. Stewart, Mrs. Savory, Mrs. A. W. Smith and Mr. M. H. Harvey.

Wickhamford:—Mr. and Mrs. E. Cooke, Mrs. Collett and Miss A. L. Cox.

Mrs. Chapman (Clergy Wives), Mr. G. H. Stewart (Ruridecanal Conference) and Mr. C. A. Binyon (Friends of The Cathedral) were also present.

A young African steward boy worked for a white man in the French territory of Gambia. Each weekday morning he would arrive at seven o'clock to start work. On Sunday mornings, however, he would go to church early, and would thus arrive at eight o'clock for his work instead. His master never went to church. Each Saturday, as he left the house, he would say, "Well, good night, sir. Eight o'clock tomorrow morning." One Saturday night, having taken his leave in the usual manner, the boy was called back by his master who asked him, "Why do you waste your time going to church? Why all this God business? All the time God, God. This is all the god I know." And he held up a whisky bottle. The boy was silent, so his master asked him, "Can you prove to me that there is a God?" "No, sir." "Can you convince me there is any point in saying prayers?" "No, sir." "Can you prove to me that there is any use in going to church?" "No, sir." "There you are. It's all nonsense." The boy said nothing and there was silence for a while. Then as he turned to go out of the door he said, "Well, good night, sir. Eight o'clock tomorrow morning."

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday March 4th (Lent III). Services as usual. At Evensong—Lenten Sermon (3):—"Human Sin."

Sunday March 11th (Lent IV). "Mothering Sunday" Service at 3 p.m. At Evensong—Lenten Sermon (4):—"Divine Intolerance."

Sunday March 18th (Passion Sunday). Services as usual. At Evensong—Lenten Sermon (5):—"The Great Question."

Wednesdays March 7th, 14th, 21st:—10 a.m., Holy Communion; 7 p.m., Lent Service.

Thursdays March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd:—4 p.m. Children's Lent Service.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday (March 25th).

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, Blessing and Distribution of Palms.

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Blessing and Distribution of Palms.

6.45 p.m. Evensong.

Monday March 26th, Tuesday March 27th, Wednesday March 28th, Thursday March 29th.

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

7.00 p.m. Evensong and Devotional Reading.

Good Friday (March 30th).

10.00 a.m. Children's Service.

2-3 p.m. "The Watch at the Cross," conducted by the Vicar of Cleeve Prior.

7.00 p.m. "A Seven Lesson Service of The Passion."

Easter Day (Sunday April 1st).

7.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist.

6.45 p.m. Evensong.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Friday March 9th, at 7.15 p.m. It will be preceded at 7 p.m. by the Vestry Meeting for the nomination and election of Churchwardens. All members of the Electoral Roll should regard it as a duty to attend. Reports on the work of the Parochial Church Council during the past year and of the condition of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church will be presented, in addition to the annual Financial Statement. The Parochial Church Council for the ensuing year will be elected, and representatives to the Ruridecanal Conference appointed.

Mothers' Union. Illness was the cause of several absentees on Jan. 24th, but there was a good attendance of Members and Mrs. McCormick's address on "The Christian Orchestra" was voted one of the best we have ever had. We hope very much she will pay us a return visit. Her husband has kindly promised to preach at the Joint Service—which is to be held at Badsey this year. The date is Wed. April 25th.

The Meeting on Feb. 14th coincided with the first real snowfall of the winter in our village. Under the circumstances the attendance was very good and those who braved the conditions thoroughly appreciated Mrs. Chapman's talk on Superstition.

Will Members please note:—

(1) Sunday March 11th, 3 p.m. "Mothering Sunday" Service. The Lessons will be read by Mrs. Betteridge (M.U.) and Anthony Powell (Sunday School).

(2) Tuesday March 13th, 2.30 p.m. Branch Meeting. Mrs. Gerald Forbes will speak on "Life in Canada." She is at present visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stewart. We shall be very glad to welcome her and her talk should be of great interest.

(3) Tuesday March 27th (Tuesday in Holy Week). 2.30 p.m. Branch Meeting.

Men's Fellowship. It was unfortunate that illness and bad weather affected the attendance on Jan. 24th, when another "Any Questions" Session was held. This again proved most interesting and profitable and we are very grateful to "the team" (Dr. Dickinson, Messrs. Owens, T. C. Sparrow and Podesta) for their part in it.

In spite of more wintry weather there was a very good muster for Mr. C. H. Gardiner's visit on Feb. 14th and, as always, we spent a delightful evening listening to his reminiscences interspersed with his inimitable tales and character sketches of local worthies.

The final Meeting of the session will be held on Tuesday March 13th when Mr. T. J. S. Baylis will speak on "Local History." He is, of course, an acknowledged expert and we are assured of a fitting wind-up to another very successful round of Meetings.

W.B.C.

WAR MEMORIAL

The following are kindly responsible for the Flowers during the Easter Festival:—

April 1st. Mrs. F. Barnard (In memory of H. I. and E.H.I.).

April 8th. Mrs. Turrill.

ROTA OF SIDESMEN ON DUTY

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

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

Sunday, Mar. 25th. 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, April 1st. 7 a.m. Churchwardens; 8 a.m. 11 a.m., 6.45 p.m.—As Sunday Mar. 4th.

COLLECTIONS FOR GENERAL FUND

Jan. 22nd, £7 13s. 6d.; Jan. 29, £7 5s. 4d.; Feb. 5th, £8 1s. 1d.; Feb. 12th, £8 8s. 8d. Total £31 8s. 7d.

Other Receipts

Freewill Offering Envelopes—Church Expenses £2 11s. 0d., Church Overseas 18s. 6d.—Total (Jan. 1st to Feb. 12th incl.) £3 9s. 6d. (No. 6, £1 12s. 6d.; No. 8, 9s.; No. 11, 8s.; Nos. 7, 16, 7s.; No. 10, 6s.).

The death of Mr. F. E. Jones has evoked most sincere sympathy for his wife and daughter and the other members of his family. His service to the village in many directions, including service on the County Council, the R.D.C. and the Parish Council, will be gratefully remembered. Many mourn the loss of a friend who was always courteous and willing to help and advise.

W.B.C.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sunday March 4th		
8 a.m.	R. Harvey	_____
11 a.m.	E. Salter	P. Hatcher
6.45 p.m.	A. Sears	H. Wheatley
Sunday March 11th.		
8 a.m.	A. Sears	_____
11 a.m.	E. Harker	B Caswell
6.45 p.m.	P. Hatcher	R. Hall
Sunday March 18th.		
8 a.m.	E. Harker	_____
6.45 p.m.	H. Wheatley	P. Hatcher
Sunday March 25th.		
8 a.m.	K. Mitchell	_____
11 a.m.	R. Salter	R. Hall
6.45 p.m.	E. Harker	A. Sears
Sunday April 1st.		
7 a.m.	H. Wheatley	_____
8 a.m.	N. Langstone	_____
11 a.m.	E. Salter	R. Harvey
6.45 p.m.	P. Hatcher	B. Caswell

Choir. Mr. G. H. Stewart most kindly entertained the Gentlemen of the Choir and their wives, the Ringers and Officials of the P.C.C. to Dinner at the Royal Oak on Sat. Jan. 21st. The Guests of Honour were Mr. T. H. Knight (Organist, Wickhamford Church) and Mr. C. H. Willis (Clerk, Wickhamford Church).

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday March 4th (Lent III). 9 a.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Sunday March 11th (Lent IV). 5.30 p.m. "Mothering Sunday" Service.

Sunday March 18th (Passion Sunday). 11 a.m. Matins; 11.40 a.m. Holy Communion; 5.30 p.m. Evensong.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday (Mar. 25th).

2.30 p.m. "This Holy Week" (A Service for Children).
5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Good Friday (Mar. 30th).

5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Easter Day (Sunday April 1st).

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (with Hymns).
5.30 p.m. Evensong.

Mothers' Union. Will Members please note:—

(1) **Sunday March 11th. "Mothering Sunday" Service at 5.30 p.m.**

(2) **Wednesday March 15th. Branch Meeting at 2.30 p.m.**

(3) **Joint Service in Badsey Church on Wednesday April 25th at 2.45 p.m.**

Sandys Monument. At the time of writing the A.P.C.M. is still in the future and, therefore, comment is withheld until the matter has been further discussed.

Collections for Church Expenses (Jan. 22nd to Feb. 12th incl.) **£8 11s. 3d.**

The late Mrs. Carter. By the death of Mrs. Carter, Wickhamford has lost one who had taken a prominent part in village affairs for the past 35 years. She was a founder/member of the Nursing Association and a founder/member and past president of the Badsey and Wickhamford W.I. She remained a member of the Wickhamford W.I. when the separate body was formed. As stated in the "Evesham Journal," it was due to her efforts that the first refuse collection system was started in Wickhamford and it was she who instituted a search of the parish award so that a number of footpaths could again be made available to the public. She was widely respected throughout the district. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. S. B. Carter.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Badsey W.I. Mrs. Harvey presided at the February Meeting. She expressed the sympathy of all Members with the President (Mrs. S. B. Carter) in her bereavement. She then introduced Mr. Larkin, who gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on the work of Secondary Modern Schools. He was warmly thanked by Mrs. A. Bell.

After Refreshments the Wickhamford W.I. Choir rendered an excellent selection of items and the Conductor (Mrs. T. H. Collett) sang two solos. Amid much applause, Mrs. Taylor thanked the Members of the Choir and their Accompanist (Mr. D. Peet) for a most enjoyable Social Half-hour.

The Monthly Parcel was won by Mrs. Mitchell. The Winners of the Competition for the Prettiest Christmas Card were Mrs. Cole (1st), Mrs. Chapman (2nd). The Sick Visitor for the month is Mrs. Edwards.

Wickhamford W.I. Mrs. Parry presided at the Monthly Meeting when Mrs. Gorin gave a very interesting demonstration on basket making and was thanked by Mrs. G. Fowkes. Refreshments were served and afterwards a Social Half-hour was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Parry won the Christmas Card Competition and Mrs. Hampton the Monthly Parcel. Miss A. Cox was in charge of the Handkerchief stall and Mrs. R. Thomas the Christmas Card stall.

British Legion (Women's Section). The Annual Dinner, held at the Royal Oak on Jan. 26th, was attended by 42 Members. Mrs. A. Syril welcomed the Guest of Honour (Mrs. G. H. Stewart) and the Members. Games and a Fancy Dress Parade followed. The winners of the latter were Mrs. I. Knight, Mrs. M. Hay, and Mrs. Cleaver and Mrs. Edwards. A presentation was made to Mrs. Warmington for her kindness to Members at the Monthly Meetings. Mrs. Sadler acted as Pianist.