

**Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford
Parish Review**

JULY, 1956.

The Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley, in his address at his Enthronement, said: "I have come among you at a moment of acute tension in the life of our nation."

He went on: "That many people cannot see that it is a moment of decision does not in any way invalidate the truth of this statement.

"We are living in a moment of acute danger. The peace of the world is precarious. Racialism, nationalism, class-hatred may lead us over the precipice into the total destruction of mankind.

"For the first time in history we are more clearly aware than ever before of the possibility of a cataclysmic finale, but that is not the only danger confronting us.

"It is all too possible for nations and peoples to end, not with a bang, but a whimper when their character has diminished, their sense of vision departed, and the tide of their greatness has run away into the shallows.

"We have reached the turning of the ways for Britain," declared the Bishop. "We can either go forward or backward; forward, through the discovery of a new moral seriousness, into mature Christian leadership in the affairs of the world, or backward, through increasing laziness and apathy, sectional distrust, individual self-seeking and escape from responsibility, to the place where we became a fourth-rate Power of quarrelsome, querulous self-seekers whose only object in life is to be cosy and cushy.

"That road spells death. Life and greatness, or death through littleness? Which is it to be?"

He had no time, he said, for those "dreary cynics" who tried to pour scorn upon Britain's past.

Much of our history had been very glorious, and many of our achievements are of lasting value to the world.

What of the present?

There were "ugly scars" appearing . . .

"The desire to let the other chap do the job and take the blame. The belief that we don't have to earn a living but that the nation owes us a living.

"If our character deteriorates along these lines, we are finished as a nation.

"We are drifting to-day like a ship becalmed. We seem to have lost out way; to have lost heart somehow. Just because we've lost a few possessions, just because we've lost some of our wealth, why should we sit around oozing self-pity and turning against one another?

"We have descended from our imperial heights into the valley of mediocrity, trailing clouds of glory in the murky muddiness of personal self-seeking.

"We cannot remain in that valley, for if we do we shall perish. We must climb out to other visions, other heights.

"What of the future?

"The key to the answer of that question is to be found, as always, in the living Christ and in our response in this day and age to His eternal challenge."

"We need a new vision, a new sense of vocation, a new belief in ourselves. Above all, a new belief in Christ."

In the diocese, he said, we needed prayer, care, dare.

"If every churchman really prayed for thirty minutes every day—wrestling with God on behalf of his church and nation—there would come a mighty spiritual awakening in this land within a year.

"Some church congregations seem to care more than others. They give one a sense of welcome. They appear to want the outside, to notice the stranger, to befriend the lonely.

"Others seem to be composed of a number of individualistic icicles, each in his own pet seat—and woe betide anybody else who sits in it.

"And to dare: we need to be bolder, more lovingly aggressive, less content with the little.

"Our present task in the diocese is to love the multitudes into the fellowship of the Church and to ensure that the fellowship is warm, welcoming, and worthwhile when they get there.

"If you can believe that the Church is a society of people who believe in God and seek to obey Him, then do not be a disinterested spectator of the life of that society but a living part of it.

"Your ultimate final decision is between yourself and God, before whom we must all eventually answer.

"The future of our country is at stake—the future of the world is in jeopardy—the future of your immortal soul is in the balance.

"To drift is to drift into decay. To watch is to watch the sands of time running away. To leave it to others may well be to leave it undone."

People who, like myself, oppose easy divorce, are dismissed as heartless, or ignorant of the misery which divorce is supposed to remedy.

I resent this charge. If I oppose easy divorce, it is because I am convinced that it creates more misery than it relieves.

By robbing the marriage vow of its binding force, it encourages ridiculous marriages, based more on passing infatuation than on solemn conviction.

It sets the inclination straying in a sea of futile restlessness. Wondering ceaselessly whether they might not be happier with someone else, people cease trying to get on with the partner they have. Faults and transgressions are no longer to be forgotten or forgiven, but to be stored up for possible use.

By attaching monstrous importance to isolated acts of infidelity or the like, divorce wrecks homes. Between the romantic ardour of youth and the serene contentment of old age, most marriages go through a difficult time. Divorce torpedoes hundreds which could easily have weathered the storm.

Worst of all, divorce strikes at the whole framework of duty and obligation on which civilised society rests.

An oath is an oath. It may be inconvenient; it may cause hardship or even misery; it remains an oath. Every time an oath is dissolved (for however good a reason), honour is cheapened, mutual trust undermined.

Depend upon it, the reformers will not rest until mankind is back in the jungle, until inclination has dethroned obligation, until we are all prowling restlessly.

unsure of ourselves, unsure of each other, in universal misery

(From an article in "The Daily Telegraph").

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

LOOKING FORWARD

Church Services. As usual during the month of July.

N.B. (1) The Rev. Wilson Baker has kindly promised to be responsible for the Services on Sunday, July 8th.

(2) Wed. July 25th (St. James). 10 a.m. Holy Communion).

(3) Sun. July 29th. Exhibitors and Helpers at the Badsey Flower Show are invited to attend Evensong.

Church Cleaning. Date to be announced later.

Choir Outing to Porthcawl. Sat. July 21st.

LOOKING BACK

Sat. May 12th. The Quarterly Meeting of the Southern branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association was held at Badsey. There were ringers and visitors from Badsey, Bretforton, Littleton, Cleeve Prior, Bidford-on-Avon, Evesham, Hampton, Birmingham, Lichfield and Gloucester.

Ringing started at 3 p.m. with a break at 4.30 for a Service conducted by the Rev. W. B. Chapman, Vicar of Badsey. This was followed by tea at The Laurels, Badsey (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Brazier), served by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Brazier, Mrs. W. C. Hall, Mrs. H. E. Wheatley and Mrs. Tony Brazier.

The Quarterly Meeting followed. Several new members were elected and Mr. C. A. Binyon was elected an honorary member in recognition of his past services. Ringing was then resumed until 8.30 p.m.

("Gloucestershire Echo").

Sat. May 19th. Following the Quarterly Meeting, the Quarterly Peal was rung at Badsey Church. This consisted of 6,000 Plain Bob Major, composed and conducted by R. R. Savory, and was completed in 3 hours and 30 minutes. The ringers were placed as follows: R. C. Hall, treble; C. B. Longmore, 2; G. J. Hemming, 3; G. C. Hemming, 4; H. E. J. Wheatley, 5; A. J. Brazier, 6; W. J. Newman, 7; R. R. Savory, tenor.

This is the greatest number of changes ever rung on the bells and by all the band.

Whit Sunday (May 20th). A most beautifully decorated Church and good congregations throughout the day. Generous gifts resulted in a record collection for the Sunday School Fund. Grateful thanks to all who sent Flowers and to those who arranged them.

Thursday, May 24th. Funeral of Miss Elizabeth McDonald. Mr. C. A. Binyon writes:

"The death of Miss McDonald revived old memories of the days when she acted as housekeeper and cared for the family at the School House. Those of us who remember her, will recall her great friendliness, her sympathy, and ready help so freely given to those who needed it. We extend our deepest sympathy to the members of her family."

Wednesday May 30th. Members of the Badsey and Wickhamford Branches attended the M.U. Festival Service in the Cathedral. The Bishop preached on "Three Beautiful Things" (Ecclesiasticus 25, verse 1)—"the concord of brethren, the friendship of neighbours, a woman and her husband that walk together in agreement."

Sunday June 3rd. The Vicar preached at Badsey and Wickhamford on "The Aim and Object of a Sunday School." Text—"A pure influence . . . entering into holy souls . . . maketh them friends of God and prophets." (Wisdom 7).

June 4th to June 9th. Conversations with the Diocesan Secretary and the Valuation Officer regarding the Rates on the Vicarage reveal the fact that whereas the Benefice Income of Badsey is practically the same as in 1939, that of Wickhamford has DECREASED by over £30!

Badsey was awarded 67 out of 80 Marks in the 1955 "Tidy Village Competition." The Churchyard was awarded 9 out of 10 Marks.

N.B. At the time of writing the M.U. Outing and the Church Fete are still in the future.

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday July 1st. 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 July 8th. 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 July 15th. 8 a.m. Mr. M. Brady; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and T. C. Sparrow.

Sunday July 22nd. 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 July 29th. 8 a.m. Mr. T. W. Hardiman; 11 a.m. Mr. J. Major and Churchwarden; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. A. L. Byrd, D. A. Jelfs and G. H. Stewart.

Sunday Aug. 5th. As Sunday July 1st.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sunday July 1st.		
8 a.m.	A. Sears	_____
11 a.m.	E. Salter	R. Harvey
6.45 p.m.	R. Hall	E. Harker
Sunday July 8th.		
8 a.m.	H. Wheatley	_____
11 a.m.	R. Hall	E. Harker
6.45 p.m.	B. Caswell	H. Wheatley
Sunday July 15th.		
8 a.m.	E. Harker	_____
6.45 p.m.	H. Wheatley	R. Hall
Sunday July 22nd.		
8 a.m.	N. Langstone	_____
11 a.m.	H. Wheatley	R. Harvey
6.45 p.m.	A. Sears	B. Caswell
Sunday July 29th.		
8 a.m.	R. Hall	_____
11 a.m.	R. Harvey	B. Caswell
6.45 p.m.	E. Harker	A. Sears
Sunday Aug. 5th.		
8 a.m.	D. Barrand	_____
11 a.m.	R. Salter	H. Wheatley
6.45 a.m.	B. Caswell	R. Hall

WAR MEMORIAL

The following are kindly responsible for the Flowers: July 1st, Mrs. Betteridge; July 8th, Mrs. Brazier; July 15th, Mrs. Ingram; July 22nd, Mrs. R. Hartwell; July 29th, Mrs. G. H. Stewart; Aug. 5th, Mrs. C. Crane.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

May 27th, £7 14s. 6d.; June 3rd, £7 16s. 1d.; June 10th, £7 15s. 0d. **Total £23 5s. 7d.**

Other Receipts

Sunday School Fund (May 20th), £18 0s. 8d.; **S.P.C.K.** (June 17th—Evening) £6.

Freewill Offering Envelopes (April and May)—General Fund, £3 2s. 4d.; Church Overseas, £1 0s. 8d.—**Total £4 3s. 0d.** (No. 6, £2; Nos. 8, 10, 11, 9s.; Nos. 7, 16, 8s.).

PARISH REGISTERS**Baptisms**

May 20th. Philip John Hartwell; Lynne Mary Edwards; Stephen Derek Knight.
June 17th. Amanda Cook; Linda Ann Charlwood; Margaret Eleanor Williams.

Marriages

June 9th. Gordon Thomas Ernest Perks, Birmingham, and Maywen Beryl Tutton, Blackminster.

Burials

May 24th. Elizabeth McDonald, aged 80 years.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services. As usual during the month of July, except that there will be no 9 a.m. Celebration on Sunday July 1st.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The past month has been one of varied experiences. Firstly, Whit Sunday with the Church beautifully decorated. The Flowers were removed after the Services as we were under the impression that the work of spraying the Roof Timbers would begin on the following Wednesday. Actually a start was not made until Monday May 28th. This enabled us to have Evensong in Church (not in the Parish Room, as advertised) on Trinity Sunday, when there was a much better congregation than there was on Whit Sunday! The following Sunday (June 3rd) found us in the Parish Room for Evensong and this proved quite a success, a feature of the Service being the singing, which demonstrated the justice of the claim that the Parish Room is "very good for sound."

Back to Church on Sunday June 10th—a Church partly dismantled in the expectation that the repair of the Sandys Monument would begin any day. Now a letter has been received from the contractors stating that no definite date can be given! I am afraid, therefore, the period of unsettlement must continue.

At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on June 13th appreciation was expressed of the work of Mrs. Figgitt in the cleaning of the Church and of those who had decorated the Church on Easter Day and Whit Sunday. Mrs. Collet stated that the Choir Outing would be on Wed. July 4th.

The Collection on Whit Sunday was £4 12s. 1d. A further £1 4s. 0d. has been received, making a total of £5 16s. 1d. for the Sunday School Fund.

Collections for Church Expenses on May 27th, June 3rd, 10th and 17th amounted to £8 17s. 5d.

At the time of writing Gift Day is still in the future. Please refer to the Badsey and Aldington Notes for other items of interest.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

W. B. CHAPMAN.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Badsey W.I. Mrs. S. B. Carter presided at the June Meeting. After business there was an "Any Questions" session when the panel (Mrs. Bunbury, Mrs. Eeuwens, Mr. L. Poulter and Dr. Dickinson) dealt most ably with a number of varied and interesting subjects. Mr. J. Major was Question Master. Thanks were expressed by Mrs. Carter, who presented the ladies with buttonholes. Mrs. Harvey gave a comprehensive and entertaining report on the A.G.M., and Mrs. Taylor announced the marks received (67 out of 80) in the "Tidy Village Competition." Refreshments were served by Mrs. A. Reed and helpers. Mrs. Shelley volunteered to continue as Sick Visitor for another month. Mrs. Carter invited the Members as her guests to an Evening Drive in July. Mrs. A. C. Sears, accompanied by Mr. D. Peet, sang a group of songs, which were greatly enjoyed. They were thanked by Mrs. G. W. Marshall. The Winners of the Competition for the Prettiest Jug were Mrs. Carter (1), Mrs. Chapman (2).