

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford

Parish Review

AUGUST 1956

WHY WOMEN ARE CHURCHED

One aspect of parish life which intrigues a parish priest, is the varying attitude to childbirth and Churching. In certain parts of the country, girls rarely fail to arrange with the incumbent proper attendance at a Churching service. So great is the zeal of some to make this a post-natal priority that certain young mothers (or more likely the shadow of mother behind them!) would hesitate to cut a loaf of bread until this had been accomplished.

Others spurn anything so elaborate as a pre-arranged Prayer Book Churching service and merely, in secret as it were, carry out a sort of ritual "Crossing of the threshold" of the church for a few brief moments—even to the extent of asking a verger for the key to a locked church to enable this to be done! Yet other districts would spurn either custom as an out-dated habit: indeed probably wouldn't even understand what such customs were all about.

Presumably those who are so touchy about the idea of the "un-churched" mother of a newly-born baby playing her normal part in society—cooking, shopping, visiting other houses—infer that the girl concerned is in some way "untouchable" or "unclean." This is a throw-back to sheer primitive religion. Like the Jews of the Old Testament, primitive religions see something "ritually unclean" about childbirth: demanding ritual cleansing before a mother may be accepted back into normal society.

Christianity will have none of this, and sees childbirth and all that is involved in marriage and child-bearing, as one of God's most precious gifts and blessings. Therefore, the Church says that the least you can do after childbirth—even in these days still a thing involving pain and some danger—is to say "Thank you" to God, the Creator of all Life; and to do so without undue delay.

St. George's (Coventry) Review.

"THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS BEGGING" ! !

"It always seems to be a pity that so much time has to be given on these occasions to talking about money," writes the Bishop of Gloucester (Dr. W. M. Askwith) in the Diocesan Gazette in reference to the recent Diocesan Conference.

He adds "It has to be so, simply because, under the modern conditions of life, you cannot feed and clothe and shelter people or transport them from place to place without paying for it in money. And if we want to have clergy to preach the Gospel, and teach the Faith, and visit the people; or to have buildings to worship in and

to keep them weathertight; or to fulfil our responsibility to spread our Faith and care for those in need and sorrow or ignorance, it all involves being able to pay the butcher, and the baker, and the candlestick-maker—and all the people on whose work everything we do depends.

"The Church is not out for money at all, but it cannot nowadays do any of its work without it; and so, the money that some of us have to talk about much more often than we should like, and that the rest of us are asked to provide, really constitutes part of the response we have to make to our Lord's commands; it has a spiritual meaning, and our readiness to give it is to some extent a measure of the sincerity of our professions of allegiance to Christ.

"What is really needed is that the present constant begging for money should be made unnecessary by more regular, methodical giving, and an effort on the part of us all to compare what we spend on ourselves with what we give to God's Church."

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services.

The Services will be as usual during August.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered on Sunday Aug. 12th at 3.30 p.m.

THE CHURCH FETE

The 7.55 a.m. Weather Forecast on June 30th made us more than a little anxious but, as in previous years, the "clouds rolled away" and all was well. Certainly "all was well" describes the financial result—the net receipts (£366) being easily a record for a purely "Church Fête." We have cause to be grateful for many things and especially for the manner in which the splendid lead given by Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stewart (see the financial statement) was followed by our ever-faithful band of workers. A deep debt of gratitude is due to Mrs. A. C. Sears for her very generous help in many ways and for her most impressive words at the Opening Ceremony. They deserve to be long remembered. She was thanked, on our behalf, by the Churchwardens and presented with a bouquet by Wendy Hobbs. All concerned with so successful an effort are to be congratulated, and, as before, I would like to express my personal thanks to:—

All who sent gifts for the Stalls or for the Tea Room.

All who gave Prizes, sent Donations, or organised Competitions.

The Stall-holders.

The Tea Room Helpers.

The Organisers of the various Side-shows.

The "Character Reader."

The "Washers-Up" (Messrs. N. Langstone, E. Harker, and A. Grove).

The Gatekeepers.

The Auctioneer and his assistants.

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

The Programme Sellers (Mrs. Edwards again headed the list with 154 sold and Miss Pat Stewart was again "runner-up" with 110).

Mr., Mrs. and Misses Salter for the Lemonade Stall.

Mrs. Powell for judging the Apron Competition (Winners:—Mrs. Chapman and Miss Hazel Stewart) and Misses Hemming and Angela Chapman for judging the Cake Competition (Winners:—Mrs. W. C. Hall 1st, Susan Dickinson 2nd, Miss M. Allard 3rd. Very highly Comended, Miss Margaret Grove).

All others not mentioned above!

Men's Effort. Donations were received from Messrs. R. J. Burton, Walter Bell, C. A. Binyon, Arthur Keen, W. L. Williams (Evesham), N. H. Smith, E. Bell, G. A. O. Jones, A. W. Ballard, H. M. Bunbury, Bertram Jones, John Jones, H. Wyles, J. E. Knight, J. Gilbert Mills, Anon, E. Ballard, D. Peet, Arthur Bell, J. A. Marshall, A. W. Sparrow, A. G. Crisp, S. Brewer, M. H. Harvey, D. A. Jelfs, R. Bell, T. H. Roberts, C. H. Gardiner, G. A. Jones and J. Holding. To all these and to all who sent gifts for the Bottle Stall I offer my grateful thanks. The fact that we exceeded our target is proof of their generous giving.

Summary of Receipts

	£	s.	d.
Produce and Sweet Stalls (Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stewart)	101	8	6
(a) 4th and 5th Sunday Groups and M.U. Stalls	60	15	11
(b) Men's Effort	52	11	6
(c) Sideshows	37	3	11
1st Sunday Group Stall	28	15	6
3rd Sunday Group Stall	28	6	7
Donations	17	0	0
Programmes and Gate Money	16	15	1
2nd Sunday Group and Helpers (Tea Room)	10	1	6
Competition (per Mrs. A. C. Sears)	7	10	0
Bookstall	4	12	8
Lemonade Stall	1	10	0
	£366	11	2

Expenses—NIL

(a) Fancy Stall £10 10s. 7d.; Handkerchief Stall £9 3s. 0d.; Pound Stall £8 17s. 1d.; Iced Cake (per Mrs. S. J. and Mrs. H. E. Wheatley) £7 13s. 9d.; Mystery Parcels £7 19s. 0d.; per Mrs. Chapman £5 17s. 6d.; Cake Competition £4 3s. 6d.; per Miss Mary Smith £4 3s. 0d.; Apron Competition (inc. Prize Money returned) £2 8s. 6d.

N.B.—Included in these totals are donations from Mrs. W. G. Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. D. Binyon, Mrs. B. A. Sears, Mrs. K. Taylor, and Mrs. H. B. Lowrance.

(b) Donations £31 10s. 0d.; Bottle Stall £21 1s. 6d.

(c) Gents' Bowling £10 8s. 0d.; Treasure Hunt and Buttonholes £9 14s. 7d.; Ladies' Bowling £4 15s. 0d.; "Roll-a-Car" £3 2s. 0d.; Character Reader £2 18s. 0d.; Post Office £2 3s. 6d.; "Trap-a-Rat" £1 18s. 6d.; Pony and Donkey Rides £1 11s. 6d.; Dropping Coin 12s. 10d.

W.B.C.

THE CHURCH CLOCK

At the June Meeting of the Parochial Church Council a letter was read from Mr. C. A. Binyon stating that he did not now feel equal to looking after the maintenance and regulation of the Clock which he had done since 1903. He stated that Mr. H. L. Knight had kindly agreed to take over this work and would have the assistance of Mr. T. C. Sparrow. It was agreed to place on record a deep appreciation of Mr. Binyon's invaluable work during the past 53 years and to send letters of thanks to him and to Messrs. Knight and Sparrow.

The following extracts from a letter to Mr. Binyon from Mr. J. E. Howard Smith ("Smith of Derby" Clocks) will be of interest to many:—

"I do not want to let this occasion pass without offering our congratulations on your very long association with the clock and our thanks for your very considerable share in keeping it going so well. Fifty-three years is a considerable time and we are all quite sure you know every foible and trick that the clock has had. But perhaps it has no tricks and foibles!"

"May I say in all sincerity that your name will always be associated with this clock, and for as long as I can remember, whenever the name of Badsey has been mentioned, someone has been sure to say, 'Ah! that's Mr. Binyon's clock, isn't it?' There is fame for you from an unexpected quarter!"

... "We all send our best wishes for many more years of good health and activity in and around Badsey."

THE CHURCH PICTURE

The Picture "The Raising of the Widow's Son" by Otto Venius (1556-1634), the master of Rubens, is again hanging on the north wall after renovation by Mr. A. W. Lucas of the National Gallery. We hope to make some alteration in the lighting of the Church in order that the picture may be more clearly seen. The transport of the Picture to London and its return was a task for the expert and we are most grateful to Mr. J. A. Marshall for undertaking this work and carrying it through so successfully.

Mothers' Union. Favoured with beautiful weather, the Outing to Weston-super-Mare on June 21st was a very happy and successful occasion.

Sunday School. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Aug. 19th. On Sunday Aug. 26th Scholars will attend the 11 a.m. Service, instead of Sunday School at 10 a.m.

SERVERS AND CRUCIFERS ON DUTY

	Server	Crucifer
Sunday Aug. 5th.		
8 a.m.	D. Barrand	_____
11 a.m.	E. Salter	H. Wheatley
6.45 p.m.	B. Caswell	R. Hall

Sunday Aug. 12th.		
8 a.m.	R. Harvey	_____
11 a.m.	B. Caswell	A. Sears
6.45 p.m.	R. Hall	E. Harker

Sunday Aug. 19th.		
8 a.m.	B. Caswell	_____
6.45 p.m.	E. Harker	H. Wheatley

Sunday Aug. 26th.		
8 a.m.	A. Sears	_____
11 a.m.	E. Harker	R. Harvey
6.45 p.m.	H. Wheatley	A. Sears

Sunday Sept. 2nd.		
8 a.m.	H. Wheatley	_____
11 a.m.	R. Salter	R. Hall
6.45 p.m.	A. Sears	B. Caswell

SIDESMEN ON DUTY

Sunday Aug. 5th. 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 Aug. 12th. 8 a.m. Mr. A. L. Byrd; 11 a.m. Mr. T. W. Hardiman and Churchwardens; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. D. A. Jelfs, M. J. Barnard, and A. W. Smith.

Sunday Aug. 19th. 8 a.m. Mr. M. Brady; 6.45 p.m. Messrs. R. Hartwell, R. Knight and T. C. Sparrow.

Sunday Aug. 26th. 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 Sept. 2nd. As Sunday Aug. 5th.

WAR MEMORIAL

The following are kindly responsible for the Flowers:

Aug. 5th.	Mrs. C. Crane.
12th.	Mrs. W. E. Emms.
19th.	Miss Agg.
26th.	Mrs. A. W. Sparrow.
Sept. 2nd.	Mrs. G. W. Marshall.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH EXPENSES

June 24th, £7 18s. 7d.; July 1st, £7 7s. 9d.; July 8th, £7 7s. 3d.; July 15th (Evening) £7 9s. 0d. **Total £30 2s. 7d.**

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

July 1st. Janet Elizabeth Forbes.
July 15th. Carol Ann Addis; Jill Dawn Hodgkins.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

As usual during the month of August except that there will be no 11 a.m. Service on Sunday August 19th.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

It is difficult to know what to say with regard to the Patronal Festival and Gift Day (Sunday June 24th). The confusion regarding the 9 a.m. Service was inexplicable in view of the clear wording of the Circular Letter. Some compensation was afforded by the fact that there was a very good congregation at Evensong when the Choir—to whom we owe so much—gave us an inspiring lead. The financial result of Gift Day? Frankly, it was disappointing—only 35 Envelopes returned out of the 105 distributed. It was hoped that the urgency of the work on the roof would call forth a specially generous response from all who use our Church, but it didn't! It would seem that this further expense will fall on the shoulders of the "faithful few"—faithful in their attendance at Church, generous in their response to every appeal. Their gifts, added to what had already been received towards the cost of roof spraying, mean that we have £70 in hand for this work. Our hope is, that since, as it would seem the damage was not so extensive as was feared, the bill, when presented, will shew a reduction on the original estimate. But, in any case, more money will be needed and the members of the Parochial Church Council will have to decide between (a) another "Special Effort" and (b) a raid on the Fabric Fund. The Bishop of Gloucester's remarks (see elsewhere in this issue) are indeed revelant to this matter.

We do not yet know when work on the Sandys Monument will be started.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. Chapman.

Choir. Members and friends had a most enjoyable Outing to Gloucester, Berkeley Castle and The Wildfowl Trust (Slimbridge) on July 4th. The return journey was via Dursley, Stroud and Painswick. Mrs. Collett was kindly responsible for the arrangements.

Sunday School. The annual gift from the kind friend who insists on remaining anonymous is gratefully acknowledged. The Annual Outing will be to Stratford-upon-Avon on Wednesday August 15th. Details will be announced later.

Collections for Church Expenses (June 24th to July 15th incl.) £9 18s. 9d. **Gift Envelopes** (to July 16th) £40 15s. 0d.