

July 1958

## THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear People,

By the time this is published we shall have welcomed to the Vale of Evesham a few of the Anglican Bishops assembling in this country for the Lambeth Conference. The Conference itself will take place during the month of July, beginning with big inaugural services in Canterbury Cathedral (July 3rd) and St. Paul's Cathedral (July 6th).

What is this Lambeth Conference?

Ask a friend who is not a churchgoer or is not in the habit of reading church magazines. He or she will probably tell you it is something to do with that Makarios man in Cyprus. You can reply that, with all respect to the reverend prelate, in this instance he is nothing but a red herring. Archbishop Makarios has not been asked to take part in the Conference. As Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in Cyprus he is simply one of the representatives of non-Anglican Churches who are invited to be present at the formal opening. The personal aspect does not enter into it.

However, even red herrings have their uses.

This one has at least brought the Lambeth Conference into the headlines.

Whether or not the general public becomes Lambeth-conscious, all Church folk should be upholding our Fathers-in-God in their prayers. Nearly 350 Bishops from all parts of the worldwide Anglican Communion will meet to take counsel together. The first Lambeth Conference was in 1867, just before the oldest of the present Badsey inhabitants were born. The most recent was held ten years ago.

We must not expect that the Conference of 1958, any more than its predecessors, will make revolutionary pronouncements or earth-shaking changes. Its resolutions do not legally bind anyone, even the delegates. For the Anglican Communion is in many respects similar to the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is a fellowship of sister Churches, "independent in their self-government, growing up freely on their own soil and in their own environment as integral parts of the Church Universal" (Report of 1930 Conference). But the Anglican Communion embraces a far wider sphere, even territorially, than the Commonwealth: besides the Churches in the British Isles, the Colonies and the Dominions, there are others, such as the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., in China, in Korea, and in Japan, and the Anglican Archbishopric in Jerusalem.

The Lambeth Conference is a sort of family reunion, in the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace. But the host is not regarded as a sovereign or pope. He is a primate (first among equals). He presides over the Conference, but has no jurisdiction over any province except that of

Canterbury. The tone and success of a Lambeth Conference depends more upon the personality of its president than upon the authority residing in his office. The present Archbishop is a man of outstanding gifts and a most genial host, who has already presided successfully over one Lambeth Conference. But he will need all the support our prayers can give.

Most of the work of the Conference is done in its five Committees rather than in full session. The subjects to be considered by the 1958 Conference are as follows:—

- (1) The Holy Bible: its authority and message.
- (2) Church Unity, including the consideration of schemes for reunion proposed for Ceylon and North India.
- (3) Progress in the Anglican Communion including (a) the contemporary missionary appeal and means of advance; (b) principles of revision of the Book of Common Prayer, including the Church Calendar and the recognition of local saints and servants of God; (c) ministries and man-power.
- (4) The reconciling of conflicts between and within nations.
- (5) The family in modern society.

At the end of each Conference, the Bishops sum up their conclusions in an Encyclical Letter, which is published to the world. The decisions of the Lambeth Conference, though not legally binding on anybody, have great moral weight and spiritual authority. Who can doubt that after so much prayer, study and common counsel, the deliberations of the Church's consecrated leaders are inspired by the Holy Spirit? The Bishops can say with confidence, like the Apostles and Elders of the Church when they issued their decree after the Council of Jerusalem recorded in Acts XV, "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us."

Before the 1948 Conference our late Bishop, Dr. Cash, wrote, "Each Lambeth Conference is not an end in itself, it is a stage in a process". When Archbishop Longley summoned the first Conference in 1867, at the request of the Provincial Synod of the Church of Canada, only 76 bishops were present. The problems before them were quite different in their setting from those of 1958. Each of the eight Conferences since then has marked a stage in the progress of the Anglican Communion towards greater cohesion and understanding of its mission in the world.

Each Lambeth Conference stimulates the pulses of the whole Anglican Communion. Perhaps in the Providence of God a really great awakening is designed to follow Lambeth 1958. Who knows? If we follow the apostolic precept to "pray without ceasing", history will be made, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts".

Your sincere friend and Vicar,  
PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### JULY

2nd, Wednesday. Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.

6th, **Trinity V.** As usual for 1st. Sunday. 11 a.m. Cubs' Parade and Family Service.

9th, Wednesday. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.

13th, **Trinity VI.** As usual for 2nd Sunday.

16th, Wednesday. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.

20th, **Trinity VII.** As usual for 3rd Sunday.

22nd, Tuesday. **St. Mary Magdalen.** 10 a.m. Holy Communion

25th, Friday. **ST. JAMES, APOSTLE AND MARTYR. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** 7 and 10 a.m. Holy Communion.

27th, **Trinity VIII. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** As usual for 4th Sunday. Festal Te Deum after Evensong.

#### JULY EVENTS

**Choir Outing, July 5th.** This year the Choir will go to the seaside at Porthcawl. Members of the congregation may like to show their appreciation of the work of the choir by donations towards this treat, which may be handed to the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens, or placed in the bowl on the table in church on the preceding Sundays.

**Monday, July 7th, P.C.C. Meeting,** in the Parish Room, 8-0 p.m.

#### Patronal Festival and Badsey Flower Show.

You will see from the list of Church Services that there will be two celebrations of Holy Communion on St. James's Day, Friday, 25th, as well as the 8 o'clock celebration on the Sunday in the Octave. You will want to show your love for Our Lord and His Church, by coming to give thanks for our Patron Saint who laid down his life for his Master, and for all God's bountiful blessings to us in this lovely place, and to dedicate yourself anew to His service.

The Flower Show will be held on the Recreation Ground on Saturday, July 26th, with all the usual attractions. There is an ancient connection between the Village Show and the Feast of its Patron Saint. Like my predecessor, I cordially invite all members of the Committee, helpers and exhibitors, to Evensong in the Parish Church, on Sunday, July 27th. P.B.

**Mothers' Union.** Forty-three members from Badsey, Wickhamford and Bretforton attended the annual service at Worcester. The Bishop of Southampton gave the address.

After the service a quick tour of the shops was made, and an excellent and welcome tea was taken at the Willow Cafe, Pershore, on the return journey.

Please note: Corporate Communion, Wednesday, July 2nd, at 10 a.m., and Friday, 25th, (St. James's Day). E.G.B.

The annual cleaning of the church will take place on Wednesday, 2nd July, after the 10 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion.

Many helpers are needed for this important task so please do your best to come.

#### Servers at Holy Communion

July 6th, B. Caswell; 13th, 8 a.m. E. Harker; 11 a.m. R. Salter; 20th, N. Langstone; 25th, (St. James's Day) 7 a.m. H. Wheatley; 27th, D. Barrand.

#### War Memorial Flower Rota

July 6th, Mrs. N. E. Cook; 13th, Mrs. G. Knight; 20th, Mrs. Ingram; 27th, Mrs. G. H. Stewart.

#### Collections.

May 25th, Sunday School Fund, £12-2-6; June 1st, Ordination Candidates, £9-2-3; General Fund, £8-19-4; 15th Missions, £6-11-6.

#### Parish Registers Holy Baptism

June 15th—Susan Ann Maberley.

#### Burials

May 23rd—Arthur Leslie Byrd, aged 55.

June 13th—William John Westbury, of Aldington, aged 83.

The sudden illness of Leslie Byrd, followed soon afterwards by his death, deprived us in the Church Militant of a loyal Christian worker and good friend. We rejoice that like other faithful servants of Christ he has gone to his rest in certain hope of the Resurrection. One of the last things he did was to rehearse the part, for the Deanery Pageant, of St Peter running to the Empty Tomb on the first Easter morning. Rather appropriate for a man of such restless energy. May he, like the Apostle, know the joy of finding the Risen Lord.

His fine work as a head teacher, and his contribution to the cultural life of the district, have been recorded in the local press. He was a man of wide talent and noble taste. At St. James's church we miss his reverent and thoughtful reading of the lessons on the 3rd Sunday. He was a sidesman, secretary of the Bible Reading Fellowship branch, and for some years a Parochial Church Councillor.

Mrs. Byrd and Angela have our warmest sympathy and prayers.

We extend also our sympathy to Mrs. Westbury and family, to Mrs. H. Evans who has lost her mother, and to Mrs. R. Caswell who has lost her father.

We thank God for the recovery of Miss I. Cleveley and of Mrs. K. M. Knight, and pray that Mr. P. Rose, who is in hospital, may soon be restored to his home.

We are glad to welcome P.C. and Mrs. Franklin and their family to Badsey, and hope their lot among us will be a happy one. P.C. and Mrs. Richardson have left behind them many friends here, and we wish them happiness in their new life at Malvern Link.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services

Services as usual on Sundays, June 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

The Choir Outing will take place in August.

At the P.C.C. Meeting last month it was decided to hold the Harvest Thanksgiving Services on Sunday, 5th October. There will be a Harvest Home Supper on Wednesday, 8th October, and a Church Gift Day on Saturday the 11th. The Vicar will be in church at certain times of the day to receive the gifts. From now on, keep praying for the Gift Day, that God's people in Wickhamford may make a worthy response to all His goodness.

P.B.

### Parish Registers Holy Baptism

May 25th—Stephen George Robbins.

**Women's Institute.** On June 12th Mrs. Major gave an account of her visit to the A.G.M. in London, and of the resolutions passed. Mrs.

Pilkington reported on the Produce Guild members outing to Westonbirt Arboretum.

There was a Bring and Buy Stall.

Mrs. Folkes organized a Quiz Competition.

Coloured holiday photographs were shown by Mr. and Mrs. Litterick.

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**Why not consult the Local Secretary?**

**Notice to Members :—Monthly Lodges :** Second Wednesday in month, Wheatsheaf Inn 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.