

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear People,

During the first fortnight of September I shall be away with Mrs. Braby and the children on holiday. On Sundays, August 31st and September 7th the usual services will be held, my place being taken by the Rev. W. A. Bevis, Assistant Priest of St. Andrew's, Kingsbury, Middlesex. Mr. Bevis will reside with his wife and family at the Vicarage, but there will be no weekday services, as they will be enjoying a holiday in our lovely countryside. Mr. Bevis was a hard-working layman in my last parish who received a call to be ordained, and gave up a good job in response to that call.

Confirmation Classes. The Bishop of Worcester will administer the rite of Confirmation in Badsey Church on the evening of Wednesday, 15th April, 1959. Preparation classes will be starting about the end of October. I shall be glad to receive names of intending candidates from both Badsey and Wickhamford as early as possible. The same rule will be kept as under my predecessor: no-one will be presented for Confirmation who has not been attending church every Sunday (unless away or ill) for the six months before the Confirmation, as well as regularly attending the classes. It is important that this should be understood now, to avoid misunderstandings and disappointments later.

An Important Work. I am hoping to start a Guild of Prayer for the two parishes. Members will be asked to pray regularly for the work of the Church in Badsey and Wickhamford. They will receive a monthly intercession paper giving special objects and needs for petition and thanksgiving, and the names of the sick for whom their prayers are desired. There will also be a special prayer each month for all members to use. The annual subscription will be 1/- to cover costs of paper and duplicating.

There are some kinds of service in the Church which can only be performed by those who have the necessary gifts and training. Here is a work in which any Christian disciple can be taking part - whatever his age or condition. The sick or infirm need never say they are useless, so long as they can pray. A very important work it is too, much more effective than many busy activities. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Wonderful things happen in a parish where there is a faithful body of praying people. And it helps a lot when you know you are one of a fellowship using the same prayers and lifting up the same persons and needs before the throne of God.

I shall be very glad to hear that you want to join.

Birthday Presents. I read recently an account from a visitor to Ghana of a Sunday morning service in one of the churches of our Communion there. He wrote: "After the service, as it was the First

Sunday, they gave a free will offering over and above their regular collection. The Archdeacon called upon all those whose birthdays were on Sunday and Monday, and they came up and put their offerings in an alms-dish. This was then replaced by one for the Tuesday birthday group, and they did the same. Finally there was a category for those who did not know when their birthday was! Meanwhile amounts for each 'team' were being counted in the vestry, and the result was eventually announced. On that day about £23 was contributed"

What a splendid idea that is! Our birthdays are generally marked by our receiving presents, not by giving them. But, come to think of it, your birthday is the anniversary of the greatest present you ever received - the gift of life itself. Should you not mark the day by making a small token of your gratitude to the Giver of life?

I am not suggesting it should be done exactly in the way just described. But why not give or send a half-crown for the work of your parish church, at the time of your birthday, and the birthdays of your young children (in their names)? Again, you could give 2/6 each (5/- the pair) in thanksgiving for your wedding anniversary. A special anniversary (21st birthday, silver or golden wedding) could be marked by a larger gift (say 21/-, 25/-, 50/- as the case may be). All these Birthday Half-Crowns and other offerings will be duly acknowledged by name each month in the Parish Review. One thing I would ask you: if you are handing your half-crown to me or one of the church officials at church, please put it in an envelope with the name of the person whose birthday or other anniversary is being commemorated. I am apt to get in a muddle over loose bits of cash that are handed to me!

Looking Ahead. In October the organisations will be meeting again, for full and lively autumn programmes. As time goes on, there may be some new activities as well, in which you will be asked to play your part. I feel that in these very early days of my ministry here, it is a time for quiet observation and prayer (in which I ask you all to join me) rather than for launching forth immediately into all sorts of schemes, which might not turn out in the end to be for the good of the parishes. I also want to do a lot more visiting before I get too much involved in other activities. Only a fraction of you have yet had a call from me.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

From time to time I am asked some very sensible questions about the services and other matters. When there is space in the Review, it seems a good idea to publish these and the answers I have given.

Question. Why do you leave out the words 'militant here in earth' after saying 'Let us pray for

the whole state of Christ's Church'?

Answer. In the 1st. English Prayer Book the additional words do not appear. They were added in the revision of 1552 when the commemoration of saints and prayers for the departed were cut out of the prayer for the Church. In 1662, when the present Prayer Book was compiled, the commendation of the faithful departed was restored to the prayer itself, but the revisers omitted to remove the words 'militant here in earth' from the bidding. Thus the bidding with the added words does not make sense, for in the prayer that follows we pray not only for the Church here on earth but for the whole Church, including the souls in Paradise. The 1928 Prayer Book recognised the illogicality of the bidding, and removed the last four words.

Question. Why are the Psalms usually selected from some other day of the month than the particular date it happens to be?

Answer. The 1928 Prayer Book gives a list of Psalms appointed for each Sunday of the year. Our Sunday Psalms are nearly always selected from these. The Psalms appointed for the day of the month are said in full on weekdays. A generation or so ago most churches sang all the psalms for the day on Sundays. I have no doubt you did so here in Canon Allsebrook's time. Mid 20th century congregations are not so tough as their predecessors. Short, snappy services are the order of the day.

P.B.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd, Wednesday. No service.
- 7th, **Trinity XIV.** As usual for 1st Sunday. 11 a.m. Family Service.
- 10th, Wednesday. No service.
- 14th, **Trinity XV.** Holy Cross Day. As usual for 2nd Sunday
- 17th, Wednesday. Ember Day. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 21st, **Trinity XVI.** **St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.** As usual for 3rd Sunday.
- 24th, Wednesday. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 28th, **Trinity XVII. HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Children's Service. 11 a.m. Mattins. 11-45 a.m. Holy Communion. 6-45 Evensong and Sermon.
- 29th, Monday. **St. Michael and All Angels.** 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- P.C.C. Meeting,** Tuesday, September 16th, at 7-30 p.m.

Harvest Festival.

Sunday services given above. Gifts of fruit flowers, vegetables, etc., should be brought to the church before 10 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 27th. Helpers to decorate the church will be welcome at 10 a.m. The gifts will later be distributed between the sick of the parish and Evesham General and Avonside Hospitals. Helpers to sort out the goods and clear the church will be welcome on Monday morning (Michaelmas Day) after Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

There is to be a Harvest Home Social in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, Sept. 27th beginning at 7-30 p.m. Tickets (1/6, children 9d) will be on sale later this month, and at the door on the day.

Servers at Holy Communion

Sept. 7th, E. Harker; 14th, 8 a.m. H. Wheatley; 11 a.m. R. Salter; 21st, B. Caswell; 28th, D. Barrand.

Other Services: Sept 7th, 11 a.m. H. Wheatley, 6-45 p.m. P. Salter; 14th, 11 a.m. Crucifer: B. Caswell, 6-45 p.m. H. Wheatley; 21st, 6-45 p.m. G. Brooks; 28th, 11 a.m. P. Salter, 6-45 p.m. B. Caswell.

War Memorial Flower Rota

Sept. 7th, Mrs. C. Stewart; 14th, Mrs. A. W. Ballard; 21st, Mrs. M. Brady.

Collections.

July 20th, £10-1-8; 25th, (St. James' Day), 17-9; 27th, £10-7-7; Aug. 3rd, £8-17-10; 10th, £8-17-2; 17th, £9-3-7.

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

July 20th. Robert Frank Walker; Diane Patricia Pritchard; Beverley Jane Vann; Loraine Mary Dunkley; Ann Wheatley

Aug. 17th. Jeanne Elizabeth Marshall; Michael Geoffrey Patrick Meadows; Sally Ann Byrd.

Holy Matrimony

July 26th. Gunther Ditmar Jirak and Mary Gillian Holley, both of Badsey.

Aug. 9th. Brian Chilver, of Bolton, and Patricia Daisy Dyke, of Badsey

It was heard with regret that Mrs. N. Velvick, a former Badsey resident and member of the Mother's Union, had passed away. Mrs. R. Sparrow attended her funeral at Bengeworth.

We are glad to welcome home from hospital Mrs. F. H. Sandford after an operation, Mrs. E. Webb of Aldington. Mr. K. Hunt, and Mrs. Frances Stewart.

Mother's Union Meetings will recommence on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd at 2-30 p.m. Although this is still a busy time for some people, I hope as many members as possible will come along to this opening meeting. E.G.B.

Men's Fellowship. Meetings start again on October 14th. Look out for further announcements.

The recent annual appeal on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Research Campaign for Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford resulted in a cheque for £43-10-0 being sent to Headquarters. A letter has been received, asking for 'very sincere and most grateful thanks to be conveyed to all collectors and donors alike, for their continued support for so worthy and vital a cause'. I.M.B.

British Legion. A fete, the first post-war venture of its kind, organised by the Branch and the Women's Section, proved to be an outstanding success. It was held on the Recreation Ground on Saturday afternoon, the 9th August, and the official opening was performed by the Rt. Hon. General Lord Ismay, who was accompanied by Lady Ismay.

After a morning of cloud and rain the weather cleared by mid-day, and the afternoon was warm and sunny. Among the many attractions were bowling for gents and ladies, treasure hunt, bottle stall, sweet stall, gift stall, and numerous draws for various prizes. The fancy dress for adults and children created much interest, as also did the sports which followed later. The dancing by the Campden Dancers was much enjoyed. A social and dance to conclude the day's activities, was held in the Remembrance Hall. To all who helped in any way we record our grateful thanks and appreciation

On Saturday, 16th August the Branch entertained delegates and visitors at a County Quarterly Meeting in the Remembrance Hall, at which the speaker was Capt. R. W. Smith-Stewart, National Poppy Day Organiser. About ninety delegates and visitors attended the meeting, and refreshments were provided for all by the Womens' Section.

P. H. Sparrow, Hon. Sec.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Services as usual on Sundays, Sept. 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th.
Harvest Festival on Sun., Oct. 5th. Harvest Social, Oct. 8th

Gift Day, Sat. Oct. 11th. You will each be receiving a letter about this later. In the meantime I ask you all to pray for God's blessing on our Gift Day. Here is a prayer that you can use:—

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they who have freely received of thy bounty, may of thy bounty freely give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wednesday, September 24th, at 7-30 p.m.

Mother's Union

Meetings will recommence on Wednesday, October 1st, at 2-30 p.m. Mrs. Champion will be coming to talk to us as Presiding Member for the last time. Please make every effort to be present and bring a non-member with you. E.G.B.

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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.