

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My Dear People,

As the darkest month approaches, the Christian Year bursts upon us with the Advent message to awake. We are to put off the works of darkness, so that we may be ready, as children of light, to receive Our Lord when He comes. It is unfortunate that this very season is the time of year when we have to bustle and busy ourselves about material things more than at any other. "Come, Lord Jesus, come!" was the fervent prayer of the early Church. "But when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" If he comes now, as well He may, what faith will He find—in this Christian country, in these parishes? He will find people's minds greatly concerned with preparations for 'Xmas'. I wonder what the Lord Christ thinks of some of our 'preparations'.

With what sort of preparations will you be occupied, and for what will you be preparing? You pray, every day no doubt, 'Thy Kingdom come'. Is the sincerity of this prayer borne out in your life and the things that you care about? Ask yourself during Advent, 'Do I really want Christ and His Kingdom to come—immediately?'

"Behold I stand at the door and knock". In Advent we prepare for the Feast of Christ's Nativity, to thank God for His first Coming in human flesh. We prepare for His second Coming in judgement on the clouds of heaven. We prepare for His lowly entrance into our hearts in the Christmas Communion. You have many other things to prepare before Christmas, of course, particularly if you are a housewife. But do not let them keep out the Lord and Maker of all. Why not drop into the church sometimes during this busy season, just to be with Him, quiet and expectant? Wouldn't it be dreadful if once again there was no room for Him in the inn—the busy inn of **your** life?

What can I give Him? Here is a good rule to make for yourself. For every hour I spend in material preparations for Christmas, I will give five minutes extra to prayer. And here is another. We give presents to one another at Christmas as tokens of our affection. What are you going to give to the dear Lord whose Birthday it is? Why not add one shilling to the cost of the most expensive present you have bought, and make the total your gift to Christ for His little ones, on the day when for us men and our salvation He came down from heaven? You will have to add that shilling, or more, because you cannot very well give to Christ no more than you are giving to an earthly friend. After all, whose birthday is it?

If you are coming to the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, you will want to prepare by spending the evening quietly and avoid drinks and smokes. If you cannot easily do that, it is much

better to come to your Communion on Christmas morning, after a night's sleep.

Do remember to bring the children to church on Christmas Day. At Badsey we shall have a short family service at 11 a.m. (you can leave the turkey in the oven to roast slowly!), and at Wickhamford the children can be brought to the Family Communion at 9-15. A child's Christmas cannot be the real thing, if the Christ-Child is left out of His own Birthday celebrations.

Mrs. Braby joins me in wishing all of you a very happy Christmas. May the Child of Bethlehem bless your homes.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES
Church Services

- 2nd, Tuesday. **St. Andrew Apostle.** (transf. from 30th November) 6-30 and 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7th, **Advent II.** Services as usual for 1st Sunday. 11 a.m. Family Service.
- 10th, Wednesday. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 14th, **Advent III.** As usual for 2nd Sunday.
- 17th, Wednesday. St. Ignatius, Bp. & M. Ember Day. 10 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 21st, **Advent IV.** As usual for 3rd Sunday.
- 24th, Wednesday. **Christmas Eve. 11-30 p.m. 1st Communion of Christmas.**
- 25th Thursday. **CHRISTMAS DAY. 8 and 11-45 a.m. Holy Communion. 11 a.m. Family Service.** (See Vicar's Letter).
- 28th, **Christmas I. (Innocent's Day.)** 8 a.m. H.C. 10 a.m. Children's Service. 11 a.m. Mattins (no 11-40 H.C.) **6-45 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.**
- 1st, Thursday. **Circumcision of Christ.** 10 a.m. H.C.

The collections at the Christmas services will be for the Church of England Children's Society.

For all who seek 'the benefit of absolution, together with spiritual counsel and advice' before their Christmas Communion, the Vicar will be in church at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 22nd and Wednesday, December 24th.

The Vicar will gladly take Holy Communion to the homes of those who through sickness or infirmity are unable to get to church. If you are not already on his regular list for Communion at home, please let him know.

P.C.C. Next meeting Monday, 1st December 7 p.m. No adult confirmation class that evening.

Collections.

Oct 26th, £8-14-1. Nov. 1st (All Saints Day) £1-0-9. 2nd, £6-17-3. 9th. (Earl Haig Fund) £18-12-0. 16th, £11-11-0

Birthday Half-crowns

Isabelle Gresty, Mrs. A. M. Harwood, David Gresty, Mary Smith, Mrs. Braby, Mary Braby.

Wedding Anniversaries (5/-)

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Perkins.

Donation. Anonymous £1.

Parish Registers
Holy Baptism

Nov. 16th. Susan Jelfs, Wendy Elizabeth Stewart, Gavin Sidney St. John Idiens, Joy Elaine Bennett, Paul Gavin Franklin.

Since our last issue we have to record regretfully the death of Mrs. V. D. Powell, after a painful illness borne with true Christian fortitude. Cremation took place at Cheltenham on All Saints' Day, and as it was at the same time as a service of Holy Communion at St. James's Church, it was indeed fortunate that the Rev. W. B. Chapman, who knows the family so well, was able to officiate in place of the Vicar. To her son Anthony and to her parents Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, we extend our warm sympathy.

Your prayers are asked for the sick. Mrs. Dore has returned home from hospital, and is making a remarkable recovery. Others whom we welcome home are Mr. R. Gregory, Mrs. Hobbs, and (shortly we hope) Mrs. F. E. Haines who has made a good recovery from her operation. Mrs. Deighton is still in hospital, and Mr. W. C. Hall and Mr. A. Harwood are ill at home.

War Memorial Flower Rota

As the poppy wreaths are now hung from the hooks below the War Memorial and not from the flower vases, the latter may be used for memorial flowers between the 3rd week in November and the beginning of Lent. We do not wish to disturb the existing rota for the other months, but if anyone would like to provide flowers for the memorial vases on any anniversary during the period mentioned above, will they please put their names down on the new list in the church porch.

Mother's Union. The programme for the month is as follows:—

December 1st, Committee Meeting 2-30 p.m.

December 2nd, Corporate Communion 10 a.m.

December 9th, Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m.
"Lambeth Report on the Family".

Please note the Corporate Communion will be on Tuesday, 2nd December as it is St. Andrew's Day (transf.)

The collections throughout the village for the Moral Welfare amounted to £19-3-6, a splendid result. This was presented to the Bishop at a service in the Cathedral. E.G.B.

Men's Fellowship. The December meeting will be on Tuesday the 9th, when Mr. Pallrey, of the Worcester City Fire Brigade, will show us films and give us a talk on the Fire Service. The meeting is held in the Parish Room at the Vicarage at 7 p.m.

Sunday School. It is a sad loss to the Sunday School that Mr. M. G. Savory, on doctor's orders, has had to give up as Superintendent. The Vicar, the teachers and the children miss him very much, and we hope that after a period of rest he may be able to return to the Sunday School work which he loves so much.

Our thanks are also due for the work of Mr. Anthony Powell, who has given up Sunday School teaching.

Teachers of both sexes are urgently needed, also someone to play the hymns on the organ.

On Advent Sunday some pupils will be moving up from one department to another. Each child moving from Infants to Juniors or from Juniors to Seniors, if his attendance has been satisfactory, will be presented with a book.

Badsey Scouts. There is urgent need of a Scoutmaster or some person to take over as such. There are, I am sure, plenty of Old Scouts in Badsey who on seeing this would come forward to help in this work. Please get in touch with me, W. Hatch, Hon. Sec. 11, Horsebridge Avenue.

60 PLUS

This is to be the name of the Club for older residents in Badsey, which will have its opening meeting at the Remembrance Hall on Wednesday, 10th December, at 2-30 p.m. As you will gather from the title, anyone over the age of 60 will be eligible to join. There is no ceiling on the age limit! A group of ladies from the Church have volunteered to make tea and look after the welfare of the Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Harvey. They will welcome additional helpers. A meeting of representatives from village organisations is to be held on November 25th to arrange a Christmas party, and to discuss the future of the Club.

We are most grateful to all who helped to run the Jumble Sale in October to raise funds for launching the Club, and to those who gave goods for sale. The proceeds were £17-18-4, and in addition there has been an anonymous donation of £5. Gifts of suitable equipment for the Club will be most welcome, e.g. packs of playing cards, picture magazines, draughts, chess and dominoes, a darts board. Please inform Mrs. Harvey, School House, if you are prepared to supply any of these articles or anything else that would be useful. P.B.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

December 7th, 14th, 21st. **Sundays in Advent.** Services as usual.

25th, Thursday. **CHRISTMAS DAY. 9-15 a.m. Holy Communion** (with hymns). Alms for Church of England Children's Society.

28th, Sunday. **Innocents Day.** 5-30 p.m. Evensong with Carols.

Communion of Sick. (See Badsey Notes).

Christmas Draw and Film. Instead of the Jumble Sale on Dec. 3rd, there will be a Draw in the Memorial Hall on the 17th at 7 p.m. in aid of church funds, this will be followed by a showing of the film of the Lambeth Conference.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wednesday, 10th December Memorial Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday School. On Sunday, January 4th there will be a short Christmas service in church, followed by the Sunday School Prize Giving in the Memorial Hall.

Mothers' Union. The meeting on 3rd December will be an admission service in the church at 2-30 p.m., followed by tea in the Village Hall, served by Mrs. Walters. On the 17th Dec., when we shall have a reading, tea will be served by Mrs. Taylor. E.G.B.

The Choir. Mr. J. E Knight, that well-beloved personality, has resigned from his place in the choir after many years' faithful service. We hope to see him in the congregation as often as he is able to come up to Wickhamford.

The Sick. Mrs. Andrews is out of danger and convalescent. We are glad to see Mr. Johnson back at church. Mrs. Ruth Daffurn has had to undergo an operation, and is now on the road to recovery.

Women's Institute. On 13th November we had our 7th birthday and A.G.M. Mrs. Garvey was elected President in place of Mrs. Parry who resigned. Reports were given on the Half-Yearly Council Meeting, the Group Meeting at Fladbury, and the Produce Guild Exhibition at Worcester.

Mrs. Robinson gave a brief talk on her work as V.C.O. A letter was read on safety in the home and the need for fire-guards. J.C.L.

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By joining this Society you can add to your Sick Pay and, at the same time, build up a cash sum for Retirement. There are now more than 450 Members in the Badsey Lodges.

Why not consult the Local Secretary?

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