

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

December, 1959

Price 4/- per annum

Vicar : Rev. P. BRABY, M.A.

Tel. Badsey 343

## CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BADSEY.

### SUNDAY SERVICES :

8 a.m.—Holy Communion (also after Evensong on the Fourth Sunday)

11 a.m.—Sung Eucharist (Second Sunday and Festivals)

Matins (First, Fourth and Fifth Sundays)

6-45 p.m.—Evensong

Holy Baptism—Third Sunday, 3 p.m. (Parents must see the Vicar personally at least seven days before).

### WEEKDAY SERVICES. According to Notice.

Churchwardens : ... Mr. G. A. Jones. Tel. Badsey 333  
Mr. G. H. Stewart. Tel. Badsey 219

Secretary P.C.C. : ... Mr. H. L. Hatcher.

Treasurer P.C.C. : ... Mr. M. H. Harvey. Tel. Badsey 325

Clerk : ... Mr. E. Mitchell, 68 Synehurst.

Deputy Churchwarden : Mr. G. A. King. Tel. Badsey 301

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

### SUNDAY SERVICES :

9 a.m.—First Sunday : Holy Communion (9-15 a.m. Festivals)

11 a.m.—Matins (Third Sunday)

11-40 a.m.—Holy Communion (Third Sunday)

5-30 p.m.—Evensong

### WEEKDAY SERVICES. According to notice.

Churchwardens : ... Mr. E. Cooke. Tel. Badsey 237  
Mr. J. E. Parry. Tel. Badsey 244

Secretary P.C.C. : ... Mrs. E. Cooke.

Treasurer P.C.C. : ... Mrs. T. H. Collett.

Clerk : ... Mr. C. H. Willis, 3 Sandys Avenue.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear People,

Xmas or Christmas. Does it matter ?

It used not to matter a scrap. To past generations X or Xt was a recognised way of abbreviating the name 'Christ' when writing in note form. (I use it in my own sermon notes). Instructed Xians knew what they were doing when they wrote Xmas. They would have thought it very rude however to send a printed greeting to a friend : "A merry Xmas". It would be like wishing them "A happy B'day". Yet today many people even pronounce the Festival of Christ's Nativity as "Ex-mas".

But does it matter ?

It does. Leaving Christ's Name out of Christmas is a symptom of the growing paganism of English people. 'Xmas' has become a symbol of the secular, commercialised beano which is all that Christmas means to most people now. No doubt you have heard the story of the person in the stationer's shop, who seeing a certain kind of greeting card displayed, remarked "Good heavens, they're bringing religion into Christmas now !"

All Christians have a duty to help in bringing Christ back into Christmas.

How is it to be done ? There are several ways.

1. For you it must always be Christmas. Never Xmas.

2. Send your friends really Christian Christmas cards. This is the best way of reminding people what Christmas is about—not just your friends (who may not need reminding), but the people who will see the cards displayed in their homes. It is very difficult to get 'religious' Christmas cards in the average local stationer's. What few they have are usually tasteless and cost the earth. The church publishers like S.P.C.K. and Mowbray's have beautiful cards at 2d or 3d each as well as more expensive ones. Unfortunately you cannot get them easily without a journey to Worcester or Oxford. For that reason I have bought a large stock of such cards, which we have already had on sale at M.U. meetings, and will be available at church after Sunday services.

3. Remembering the poor stable at Bethlehem, and the boundless love which is shed from it, let Christmas be a real opportunity for you to reflect some of that love in sacrificial giving. Do not just think of it as a time to buy expensive presents for people who don't really need them. It is Christ's Birthday, not theirs. We can give to Christ Himself, as He has told us, by serving the needs of His suffering brothers and sisters. Badsey people, you will be asked this Christmas to play your part in the World Refugee Year. (See notice below). Wickhamford people, you did this at

Harvest ; at Christmas you will make your annual gift to the Church of England Children's Society. In either case, bring Christ into Christmas by making your chief, and most costly, offering to Him.

4. Do not spoil the wonderful season of Advent by complete absorption in the business of 'Xmas' preparations. I make no apology for being a bit curt with people who start reminding me somewhere about October that "Christmas will soon be here", as if there were nothing else to do or think about in the meantime. A children's hymn on the Christian year begins with the line

"Advent tells us Christ is near",

and that surely is the message of Advent which makes it for Christians a season of joyful yet dread expectancy. It tells us, not that Christmas is near, but that Christ is near. Are we ready for Him, our Lord and Judge ? Shall we be able to look Him in the face ?

The sermons on the four Sunday evenings in Advent at both churches will be on the Four Last Things : Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven.

5. In the festivities, do not miss the Feast. Do not disappoint your Host, who is God Himself, by staying outside, having surfeited yourself with the attractively displayed but quite worthless husks from Mammon's table. Join your fellow-Christians in worship on the day of Christ's Mass. Make sure that you bring the children to church. Christ's Birthday with Christ left out ! That is unthinkable for any Christian child. "Oh, but there are Christmas services on TV and sound radio." Indeed there are—for invalids, and for people who are not committed Christians. If you come into either of these categories, the radio services will suffice for you. For able-bodied servants of our King, the invitation is not "O sit round and adore Him", but "O **come**, all ye faithful".

So, having made sure that Christ is going to be in the heart of **your** Christmas, you will know the deep peace and blessed joy (which Mrs. Braby joins me in wishing you all) of

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

### Church Services

#### December

- 2, Wed. 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 6, **Advent II.** St. Nicolas, Bp. As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
- 9, Wed. 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 13, **Advent III.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 16, Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 20, **Advent IV.** As usual for 3rd Sun.
- 21, Mon. **St. Thomas, Apostle.** 7-0 H.C.
- 24, Thurs. **Christmas Eve.** 11-30 p.m. 1st Communion of Christmas.

25, Fri. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 8-0 and 11-45 a.m. Holy Communion. 11-0 a.m. Family Service.

27, Christmas I. St. John, Ap. and Evan. 8-0 H.C. No Sun. Sch. 11-0 Mattins and Sermon. 6-45 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

#### January

1, Fri. **Circumcision of Christ.** 10-0 a.m. H.C.

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, 21st, and Thursday, 24th December.

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, please let him know.

**P.C.C. Meeting.** Tues., Dec. 1st, at 7-0 p.m., Parish Room.

**Refugee Appeal.** The Christmas collections will be for the Inter-Church Aid & Refugee Service. This will be Badsey's contribution to the World Refugee Year. The Vicar will gladly receive contributions from any who will be away at Christmas or unable to be in church. Badsey has a good record for assisting refugees in the past. In 1658 we gave £1-6-5 for the relief of Protestant refugees from Poland and Bohemia, in 1670 and 1680 £1-8-5 and £1-10-2 for the redemption of Turkish captives and captives in Africa, and in 1686 for French Huguenot refugees £1-8-0. For values in present-day money, multiply by at least 20, and remember that the total population of Badsey and Aldington was then about 270. In 1956 we gave £33-12-6 for Hungarian refugees. That was an appeal to meet an immediate need. This time we are asked to do something towards the problem on a worldwide scale, concerned not only with the many displaced persons still in Europe, but the Palestinian Arabs and the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong.

Not only was the Son of God born in a stable. The Holy Family became refugees soon after His Birth. You have the inestimable privilege of ministering to Him in the persons of His distressed brothers and sisters today.

**Jottings.** We were all sorry to hear of Mr. G. A. King's sudden illness, and are thankful that he is getting better. Mrs. Webb, mother of Mrs. Bunbury of Aldington, has been taken ill while staying with her granddaughter in Manchester; we are glad to hear she is a little better. She will be 90 in January. Miss Nellie Crisp (another who is nearing 90) is laid up after a nasty fall. Congratulations to our oldest inhabitant, Mrs. M. A. Barnard, who celebrates her 91st birthday on 23rd Dec. Mr. Harry Field of Aldington is having treatment at Qu. Elizabeth Hospital. Mr. William Keen, of Mill Lane, expects to come home soon from Evesham Hospital. Mrs. Morris (Auntie Pat to many), always so bright and active, had to take to her bed on doctor's orders but is much better, though still confined to her house. Mr. Tony Lewis is now about on crutches. It is a treat to see his mother looking so much better. Freddie Taylor is home at last, after many months in hospital, but little Robert Bindoff is ill again. Remember the sick in your prayers.

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

Wed., Dec. 2. Corporate Communion 10 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 7. Committee Meeting 2-30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 8. Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker : Mrs. Taylor, of Gt. Comberton.

Will members note that there is only one branch meeting this month. A Bring & Buy Sale will follow the talk.

E.G.B.

**Men's Fellowship.** The speaker who had been booked for Dec. 8 is unable to come, but we hope to have a surprise speaker in his place, so do not stay away. Whatever happens, it will be an entertaining evening. Tuesday, Dec. 8, Parish Room, 7-0 p.m.

**Young Communicants' Guild.** Next meeting Wed., Dec. 16, Parish Room, 7-30 p.m.

**Sixty Plus Club.** Meetings Weds., Dec. 9 & 23, Village Hall, 2-30 p.m. On the 23rd there will be carol-singing.

**Senior Residents' Party.** As this was a great success last year, it has been decided to make it an annual event. The date has been fixed for January 16th. Notices have been sent to all village organisations, asking each to send a representative to a meeting in the Parish Room on Mon., January 4th, to state how much they will contribute, and to make final arrangements.

**Guild of Ringers.** The A.G.M. was held at the Laurels on 9th November. The Vicar, in the chair, thanked the ringers for their helpful co-operation in the past year, especially Mr. Colin Longmore in his work as Ringing Master. Mr. Longmore was congratulated by the members on his successful first year in that office, particularly in his training of younger members and probationers. He was re-elected as Ringing Master, Mr. Douglas Bott as Deputy Ringing Master and Hon. Sec., and Mr. Edgar Mitchell as Tower Keeper.

#### Servers for December

Dec. 6th, 8-0, P. Bott ; 11-0, D. Barrand ; 6-45, R. Taylor ; 13th, 8-0, R. Harvey ; 11-0, T. Hatcher (Server), B. Caswell (Crucifer) ; 6-45, C. Freeman. 20th, 8-0, C. Harwood ; 6-45, T. Hatcher. Christmas, 11-30 p.m. H. Wheatley ; 8-0, D. Barrand ; 11-0 C. Freeman. 27th, 8-0, M. Betteridge ; 11-0, T. Hatcher ; 6-45 H. Wheatley.

#### Holy Baptism

Nov. 15th—Kim Taylor ; Susan Margaret Pratley ; David Neil Taylor ; Angela June Smith ; David James Carter.

#### Burials. R.I.P.

Oct. 28th—Reginald William Collett, aged 53.

Nov. 7th—John William Harris, aged 74.

#### Communicants

Week beginning Oct. 18th, 42 ; 25th, 52 ; Nov. 1st, 47 ; 8th, 37 ; 15th, 23.

#### Collections

Oct. 18th, £9-16-3 ; 25th, £6-4-0 ; Nov. 1st, £9-2-3 ; 8th, (Earl Haig's Fund) £18-0-0 ; 15th, £4-17-11.

#### Birthday Half-crowns

Mrs. E. G. Braby, Mary Braby, Isabelle Gresty, Miss E. Sladden, Miss J. Sladden, Mary Smith.

**Wedding Anniversary 5/-.** Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Perkins.

#### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

##### Church Services

Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays in Advent. Services as usual.

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

27th, Christmas I. St. John the Evangelist. 5-30 p.m. Evening-song with Carols.

**Communion of the Sick.** See Badsey Notes.

**Sunday School Prize-Giving,** Sunday, Dec. 13th, Memorial Hall, 3 p.m.

## SOCIAL EVENING, Wed., Dec. 9th

This will be held in the Memorial Hall, beginning at 7-30 p.m. There will be a sale of goods for Church Funds: a gift stall and a cake and provision stall. Contributions to the stalls are invited, and should be given to Mrs. Parry or any member of the P.C.C. Refreshments will be available, and films will be shown by Mr. F P. Stratton of Charlton.

**Mother's Union.** The branch meetings are on Dec. 2nd and 16th, when teas will be served by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Byron respectively. E G.B.

### Collections

Oct 18th, £3-15-0; 25th, £3-0-0; Nov. 1st, £2-19-11; 8th, (Earl Haig's Fund) £7-13-4; 15th, £4-14-0.

### Birthday Half-crowns

Mrs. Carter, Mrs. G. Halford, Timothy Harrison, Mr. W. J. Hodges.

**Jottings.** Congratulations to all concerned that Wickhamford has won 1st prize in the competition for the best kept village hall in the county.

At the time of writing, we hear that Mrs. Pilkington has had the serious operation which she has been awaiting for some time. We all join in praying for her successful recovery

and that the operation will result in considerable relief and renewed health. We are sorry that Mrs. Edmunds, of the Guest House, is ill in Evesham Hospital. Alderman J. W. Mason, head of the oldest Wickhamford family still residing in the parish, has been slowly but cheerfully returning to health in Evesham Hospital, and hopes to be home soon. We are glad that Mr. W. A. Johnson and Mr. Fred Taylor are home from hospital, and that little William Daffurn is getting better. Mr. James Moisey, wonderfully resilient, is making a good recovery.

### Women's Institute.

At the Annual Meeting the President, Mrs. Shannon-Garvey thanked all members for their support. The Secretary Mrs. Litterick, gave her report, and the Treasurer, Mrs. Foulkes, showed the very encouraging financial position.

Members voted for the new committee and Mrs. Parry was elected President.

Mrs. Tangye gave an inspiring talk on the work of the W.I. and the many great improvements for which the organisation has been responsible. She was thanked by Mrs. Collett.

Mr. Grindle, assisted by Mr. Stanton, showed films of the Brussels Exhibition and described his enjoyable visit to it.

Miss Jill Southern was welcomed as a new member.

E.M.P.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

## THE FLOWER BASKET

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IT PAYS TO JOIN THE

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**Open to Men, Women and Children** (no medical examination under age 45 if in good health)

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?** Mrs. H. Jennings, "Auburn Villa" Willersey Road, Badsey.

Tel. 295

**Notice to Members:—Monthly Lodges:** Second Wednesday in month, "Auburn Villa" 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.