

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

December, 1960.

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 at 11.40 a.m. 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).

WEEK-DAY 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.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

SUNDAY SERVICES :

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

11 a.m.—Family Service (Third Sunday)

11.40 a.m.—Holy Communion (Third Sunday)

5-30 p.m.—Evensong

WEEK-DAY 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.

THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear People,

Shall we think seriously about Christmas? I do not mean that something has got to be done immediately about that present for Aunt Eliza. I mean: What is Christmas? Is it the Birthday of the Prince of Peace, or is it the Feast of Mammon? If you see a newspaper caption: "Good News About Christmas", it is not likely to mean the Good News that God has visited His people, but that turkeys will be cheaper or there will be more sultanas for the pudding.

The twentieth century has produced its own version of the angelic message at Bethlehem: "Glory to man at his lowest, on earth greed, good business for all".

The trouble with the modern Christmas (Xmas in secular jargon) is that you have had it before it comes. By the time Christ's Nativity dawns, we have become wearied and jaded by this whole Xmas business. There are twelve days of Christmas (December 25th to Jan. 6th), but the world has already kept up twelve weeks of it. Even Father Christmas seems behind the times on Christmas Eve. Who wants the good Santa Claus then, when the bearded buffoon of the bargain basement has been handing out parcels for so many weeks past? As to Christmas carols, which in the old days were never sung before Christmas Eve, they now come into their own some time before even the Advent hymns are being sung. It would not matter so much if they really were carols, but they are generally Christmas hymns. The freshness and joy of singing on Christmas Day, "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning" is staled by having heard it bawled and screeched for several weeks before. Right up to December 24th the Church expresses her longing in such hymns as "O come, O come, Emmanuel" and "Come, thou long-expected Jesus". Then at last Christians burst out in welcome greeting with their Christmas hymns: "Christ is born in Bethlehem".

There is no real evil in regarding Christmas as a time for merrymaking, and for giving presents to our friends. This is all part of our heathen past, which the missionaries who first came to our land took over, and "baptised into Christ". They found that the Anglo-Saxons had a midwinter feast, called Yule, when the folk would warm themselves at the blazing hearth in the chieftan's hall, and regale themselves with food and drink, to fortify themselves against the rigours of the northern winter. This is a good custom to keep up, said the missionaries, but in future you are doing it in honour of Christ's Birthday, instead of to these grisly old gods Woden and Thor. So they let them keep up the old English Yule; but now it was known as Christ-Mass, and English folk liked to be merry at this time and show goodwill to each other, not just because it was the coldest and darkest part of the year, but in thankfulness for God's Gift of Christ as the world's Light.

There is no harm then in making preparations beforehand for a family feast. But we must keep things in a right proportion. There is another kind of preparation which needs doing as well. Are we getting our homes and our hearts ready for Him, that He may enter in and be born in us?

There was a great deal of excitement and busy preparation in the homes of Bethlehem, that winter when so many people were expected to arrive for the Government census. Lots of preparation; but all to no purpose. For when the Lord of Glory came, there was no room for Him; no, not even in the inn.

Advent (which means "the Coming") is the season given to Christian folk as a time of watchful preparedness and quiet expectation, "for the Son of man cometh in such an hour as ye think not", as He came of old to Bethlehem.

Advent is the time for some vigorous sweeping and scrubbing in the inn of the soul. When Christmas comes, don't let there be any rooms unfit for Him to enter.

How many of the multitudes who "prepare" for Christmas come to greet the Christ on Christmas Day? And of those who do, how many have troubled to prepare their hearts? "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that Bread, and drink of that Cup".

If you are coming to the Midnight Eucharist, you will want to prepare by spending the evening as quietly as possible, not filling your body and mind with other things, like the busy inn at Bethlehem which had no room for Him. If it is not easy for you to spend the evening of Christmas Eve in that way, it is much better to come for your Communion on Christmas morning, after a night's sleep.

Remember to bring the children with you to church on Christmas Day. A child's Christmas cannot be the real thing, if the Christ-Child is left out of His own Birthday celebrations. If you can tell God with a good conscience that getting the dinner ready is more important than your devotion to Him, then put the dinner first. But remember that in doing so, you will be infecting your children with your own false sense of values. (Look up St. Luke 10, verses 38 to 42).

This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so in addition to the morning services we shall have a short Evensong at both churches, Wickhamford 5-30, Badsey 6-30.

Mrs. Braby joins me in wishing you all a happy Christmas. May the Christ-Child bless your homes.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

DEC.

- 4 **Advent II.** St. Clement of Alexandria, Dr. Services as usual for 1st. Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
- 7 Wed. 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 11 **Advent III.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 14 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 18 **Advent IV.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
- 21 Wed. **St. Thomas, Apostle.** 10-0 H.C.
- 24 **Sat. Christmas Eve.** 11-30 p.m. **1st Communion of Christmas.**
- 25 **SUN. CHRISTMAS DAY.** 8-0 and 11-45 **Holy Communion.** 11 a.m. **Family Service.** 6-30 p.m. **Evensong (no sermon).**
- 28 Wed. **Innocents Day.** 10-0 H.C.

JAN.

- 1 **SUN. Circumcision of Christ.** 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Family Service. 6-45 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

For all who seek "the benefit of absolution, together with spiritual counsel and advice" before their Christmas Communion, the Vicar will begin church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st, and Saturday, 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.

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

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Dec. 6th, at 7-15 p.m.

Bishop's meeting with all Parochial Church Councillors, Thurs., Dec. 15th, Evesham Town Hall, 7-0 p.m.

Servers for December. Dec. 4th, 8-0 H. Wheatley; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 D. Barrand. 11th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 D. Barrand (Server), H. Wheatley (Crucifer); 6-45 P. Bott. 18th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 C. Harwood Christmas Eve & Day, 11-30 p.m. B. Caswell; 8-0 a.m. P. Bott; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-30 H. Wheatley. Jan. 1st, 8-0 C. Freeman; 11-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 D. Barrand.

SOCIAL EVENING WITH FILMS

Friday, 16th December, 8-0 p.m. in the Remembrance Hall

Admission free. A collection will be taken for Church Funds. Cafeteria refreshments. A good evening's entertainment has been planned. Do not miss it. All your friends will be there.

Mothers' Union. There will be only one branch meeting this month - on Dec. 13th at 2-30 p.m., when the speaker will be Mrs. Fern, who will describe her work as Editor of the M.U. Journal inset.

The Committee will meet on Mon., Dec. 5th, at 2-30 p.m., and Corporate Communion will be on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, at 10 a.m. E.G.B.

Men's Fellowship. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 13th December, in the Parish Room at the Vicarage. Mr. P. W. Boon of Evesham, will give a talk on "Firearms". The meeting should be a lively one!

Senior Residents' Party. To be held on Saturday, 7th January. Organisations have been asked to contribute and individual donations will be welcome. All contributions should be sent as early as possible to Mr. G. H. Stewart, hon. treasurer.

Jottings. Congratulations to Mr. W. Griffin of Aldington who celebrates his 91st birthday on 10th December, to Mrs. M. A. Barnard, our oldest inhabitant, whose 92nd it will be on the 23rd, and to Miss Nellie Crisp, who celebrates her 90th on the 31st.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bott on the birth of another son.

We are all sorry that Mr. C. A. Binyon, in Avonside Hospital, is not so well; he is always glad to receive visits from his old friends.

We welcome home from hospital the following parishioners, and wish them all a successful convalescence: Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Deighton, Miss Emma Collett, Mr. W. Sears, Mr. R. Harker, Mrs. Sheward, Miss S. Baylis. We pray for the recovery of those in hospital at the time of writing: Mrs. G. Crane, Senior, Mr. G. Hartwell, Mr. W. Blunsom, Mrs. A. Dore, Miss Hanks.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 20th. Sally Elizabeth Bindoff; Neil Thould.

Communicants

Week beginning October 23rd, 46; 30th, 31; Nov. 6th, 32; 13th, 34.

Collections

Oct. 23rd, £10-6-6; 30th, £7-19-6; Nov. 6th, £6-9-1; 13th (Earl Haig Fund) £16-1-4; 20th, £6-7-3.

Birthday Half Crowns

Mrs. E. G. Braby, Mary Braby, Mary Smith.

Wedding Anniversary 5/-: Rev. & Mrs. P. Braby.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Sundays, Dec. 4, 11, 18 (Advent II, III, IV.) Services as for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays.

CHRISTMAS DAY 9-15 a.m. Holy Communion (with hymns). 5-30 p.m. **Evensong.**

Jan. 1st. **Circumcision of Christ.** 9-0 a.m. Holy Communion. 5-30 p.m. **Evensong & Carols.**

Communion of the Sick. See Badsey Notes.

Mothers' Union. The only meeting this month will be on Wed. Dec. 7th at 2-30 p.m. when the Rev. I. M. Hulburd, Vicar of Bretforton, will give the talk. Tea will be provided by Mrs. F. Smith. E.G.B.

DECEMBER FAIR

To be held in the Memorial Hall in aid of Hall funds on Saturday, Dec. 10th. Opening by the Mayor of Evesham at 3-0 p.m.

It is hoped that all Wickhamford people will rally round, to help towards repairs and decorations urgently needed to our excellent village hall. You will be certain of enjoying a very pleasant afternoon.

The church stall will consist of cakes, pastries, etc., and you are asked to help to stock it. So get on your aprons, girls, and out with the rolling-pins. Please hand your contributions to Mrs. Cooke or Mrs. Parry, or bring them to the Hall on December 10th.

A word also to the men. No - we are not asking anyone to risk their lives on your cooking. Bottles are to be your line. Please help to supply the bottle stall. Mr. E. W. Sturt is in charge of this and will gladly receive your contributions.

Holy Baptism

Oct. 30th. Julia Fay Kenyon.

Personal Notes. At the time of going to press, we are very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Luther Waters after a very short stay in hospital. We extend to Mrs. Waters and the family our warmest sympathy and assurance of our prayers.

Mrs. Haines is in hospital, whither she had to go back after a premature return to her home, and we wish her a complete and speedy recovery. Poor Mr. Bill Johnson has been in the wars again, first with phlebitis, and now with haemorrhoids. He takes it all in good part. Your prayers are also asked for Mrs. Ted Roberts, who is bravely conquering her infirmities, and for Mr. Tom Collett, who is

under the specialist again. Mrs. Tommy Knight has not been so well lately, and Mr. Roy Harman's recovery after the operation to his wrist has had many set-backs.

Women's Institute. On November 10th, the Annual Meeting, the Secretary, Mrs. Litterick, presented the Annual Report, and the Treasurer, Mrs. Garvey, the very encouraging financial statement. Mrs. Parry, the retiring President, thanked members for their loyal and willing support. Members voted for the new committee & Mrs. Garvey was elected President. Mrs. Litterick gave an interesting report on the Half-Yearly Council Meeting. Mrs. Merry, the visiting V.C.O., spoke of the great future of the W.I. and was thanked by Mrs. Collett.

Many members took part in the Cake Competition which was judged by Mrs. Bozzard.

Sick Visitor : Mrs. Southern.

Monthly Parcel : Mrs. Garvey.

Tea Hostesses : Mrs. Halford, Mrs. Boston, Mrs. Sutton and Miss Willis.

Gifts were collected for the mentally sick.

Mrs. Harvey and Miss Smith were thanked for their assistance in acting as tellers in the election of committee and president. E.M.P.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham

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CIRENCESTER BENEFIT SOCIETY

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.