

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

September, 1961

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, 35 Pitches Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear People,

In this holiday season perhaps a few more notes about the history of Badsey and Wickhamford will not come amiss. The last were in the issue of November 1960. Here are some random jottings from my note-books.

My predecessors did not always have an easy time of it when they first came to take up residence. John Samon of Evesham, appointed Vicar in 1620, found that a certain Mrs. Izzard, wife of a Badsey farmer, had taken possession of the Vicarage (only a small cottage in those days), using force and refusing to be turned out. Sir Thomas Bygge, J.P. had her arrested and committed to Worcester Castle gaol for a breach of the peace.

Mr. William Millington, appointed Vicar after the Restoration of King Charles II, found that a parishioner, John Pigeon the Elder, had taken possession of the churchyard. The churchwardens, one of whom was Thomas Dark, presented John Pigeon in the Bishop's Court. The Pigeon family were not going to take this sort of thing lying down. Next year Thomas Pigeon was churchwarden. With his co-warden he presented Dinah Dark for having a bastard child. As to Thomas Dark, he seems to be the person (it is a very torn manuscript) presented at the same time for detaining the Parish Clerk's wages.

William Millington was a good parish priest according to the churchwardens' reports to the Bishop, but when his successor Charles Nixon came in 1677 he found the Vicarage in a bad state of disrepair through Millington's neglect.

One of churchwardens in 1623 (we do not know which) had quite an exciting time. He was arrested at the White Hart and imprisoned, presumably for some ecclesiastical offence (for he charges up to the church accounts his expenses in connection with this, including various sums paid to the gaoler). In those days churchwardens could be punished for all sorts of negligences, like failing to present Popish Recusants at Quarter Sessions.

Badsey and Wickhamford (like several other parishes in the Vale of Evesham) did not come under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Such parishes were known as peculiars. The churchwardens did not therefore have to attend the Archdeacon's Visitation. They did however have to make presentments at the Bishop's Visitation, usually every three years or so. Many of these presentments have survived for the later period after 1660, but the earlier ones were destroyed in the Commonwealth.

As well as presenting offenders (for anything from adultery to failing to pay church dues or chopping down trees in the churchyard) they had to report on the state of repair of the church and its books, and whether the people were coming to church and the parson doing his job properly. A few extracts will give an idea of their manifold duties :

"We present Robert Yeomans the servant of Thomas Willson of Badsey for not coming to church to divine service and sermons but once then mocking ye usages of ye surplesse being asked what was ye text of ye discourse scoft only and paying no dues to ye minister neither oblations nor wooll of sheep".

"Our church is well repaired the windows are hole And we have all things belonging thereto according as the enquiries aforesaid. Our churchyard is fenced part with Rayles and part otherways as it ever hath been accustomed. Our Minister... maketh use of the book of Com. Prayer as he ought to do at Morning and Evening Prayer. And for Administering the Sacraments burying the Dead and Churching of Women our Minister doth give warnings before the Sacrament and doth read the Exhortation. Our Minister hath fallen timber and hath workmen about itt to repair the dwelling house."

"Nothing presentable but ye Clarkes book wanting. Item we present Mary Palmer being an excommunicated pson having a child unbaptized for ye span of half a year or more last past, And we present Mary wife of John Bannister, for refusing to retourne God thanks for her safe delivery from childbirth she being delivered before Lady Day last year, also we present John Bugden and his wife for not coming to church."

"We present William Cotterell of Aldington for refuseing to pay towards the Charges of Casting the Bell and other Charges of the Church legally leyed on him according to other Neighbourhs which have all payed to our content. Item Our great Bell being Defective wee have taken him to ye Bellfounders house there to be repaired but it is not yet Done."

"Ye Churchwardens of Badsey have repayed ye Church that no pigeons can come in and likewise bought a Common Prayer Book for ye Clark."

After about 1730 these returns became simply a matter of form, with the bald statement: 'Nothing presentable'. After 1790 they ceased altogether. Apart from the attempt to impose through them a rigorous moral discipline (distasteful to us today), they were very useful in keeping parishes up to the mark in matters like church repair and decency in worship. When the Rev. T. H. Hunt came here in 1852, he blocked up the chancel door at Wickhamford, because the men on entering the church used to throw their coats and hats on to the Holy Table. The old stone font had been upturned and was being used as a seat in the chancel. At Badsey he found that the bellringers had knocked a rough doorway into the base of the tower, so that the barrels of cider could be more easily trundled into the belly for the celebrations to which every bridegroom had to treat them, after they had rung for his wedding.

Our churchwardens have to go to the Arch-deacon's visitation now. I wonder how a modern archdeacon would react to such goings on!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES Church Services

SEPTEMBER

3rd. **Trinity XIV.** As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.

6th, Wed. No H.C.

10th. **Trinity XV.** As usual for 2nd Sun. Sunday School re-assemblies, 10-0

13th, Wed. St. Cyprian, Bp. & M. 10-0 H.C.

17th. **Trinity XVI.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.

20th, Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.

21st, Thurs. **St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist.**

24th. **Trinity XVII.** As usual for 4th Sun.

27th, Wed. No H.C.

29th, Fri. **St. Michael & All Angels.** 10-0 H.C.

OCTOBER

1st. **Trinity XVIII. HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 8-0 H.C.
11-0 Children's Harvest Gift Service. 6-45 Evensong,
Preacher: Rev. C. F. Pollard.

Sunday School. All classes re-assemble Sun., Sept. 10th, 10 a.m. Parents will be receiving an invitation to the talk by Miss Harcombe on Children's Prayers on Sept. 26th. (See M.U. Notes).

P.C.C. Meeting. Mon., Sept. 11th, 8-0 p.m., Parish Room.

Campaign Visitors' 1st Meeting. Wed., Sept. 27th, 7-30 p.m., Parish Room.

Harvest Festival. As you will see above, the Harvest Thanksgiving services this year will be held on the first Sunday in October instead of the last in September. This has several advantages, one being that the Family Service can be a Harvest Gift Service for the children, at which they bring up their own offerings of fruit, flowers, etc.

The adults' gifts of fruit, eggs, vegetables, flowers, etc. should be brought to the church on the Saturday, 30th September, before 10 a.m., at which time helpers will be welcome to decorate the church. After the Festival the gifts will be distributed between the sick of the parish and Avonside Hospital. We shall be glad of helpers on Monday morning Oct. 2nd, from 9-30, to sort out the goods, arrange baskets, and clear the church.

St. James's Church Membership Scheme. Towards the end of September, every household in Badsey and Aldington will receive an attractive booklet about St. James's Church, with a letter from the Vicar inviting members of the Church of England to take an active part in the worship, life, and witness of their parish church. In the booklet there will be an outline of the Church Membership Scheme, to be inaugurated on Promise Day, Saturday, 28th October. The booklet, and the scheme itself, have been very carefully drawn up by the Parochial Church Council. During October a team of Church visitors will call on Church of England members in their homes, to explain the details of the scheme and to suggest ways in which people can offer their time and talents as well as money in the service of the Church.

The first opportunity of offering time and service to God in this venture will be through joining the team of visitors. For these there will be a series of training and briefing meetings on the evenings of Sept. 27, Oct. 4, and Oct. 9. Ask God whether He is calling you to join your fellow-worshippers (all just as scared as you are!) in this piece of service. You can visit as one of a pair, or on your own, just as you wish.

Don't try to make excuses to God if He says He wants you. No one is specially fitted for this kind of thing, but God gives grace sufficient for the task. He does not call those who are fit, but He fits those whom He calls. Unless, then, you are quite sure that God does not want you, declare your response to His call by filling in one of the slips you will find in the church pews during the next few Sundays, and hand it to the Vicar.

Servers for September. Sept. 3rd, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 P. Bott; 6-45 C. Harwood. 10th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 H. Wheatley (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Hartwell. 17th, 8-0 C. Freeman; 6-45 M. Betteridge. 24th, 8-0 P. Bott; 11-0 A. Hartwell; 6-45 C. Harwood.

War Memorial Flowers. Sept. 3rd, Mrs. P. Hall; 10th, Mrs. C. Stewart; 17th, Mrs. Ballard; 24th, Mrs. Brady; Oct. 1st, Mrs. Syril.

Moral Welfare People's Offering. As there will be no house-to-house collection this year, a **jumble sale** will be held in the Parish Room on **Friday, 22nd Sept., at 6 p.m.** in aid of this work. Goods for the sale should be left in the Parish Room. Please be generous so as to achieve a successful result. E.G.B.

Mothers' Union. The first branch meeting of the new session will be on Tuesday, 12th Sept., at 2-30 p.m., when there will be a bring-and-buy sale in aid of the Moral Welfare.

On Tuesday, 26th Sept., at 7-15 p.m., we shall welcome as our speaker Miss J. Harcombe, the Diocesan Adviser on Religious Education, who will talk about Children's Prayers. This will be an open meeting, so please make it known and bring any who are interested in this important subject.

Committee members, note there will be a meeting on Monday, 11th Sept., at 2-30 p.m. E.G.B.

Holy Matrimony

July 30th—Patrick Leon Hatcher, of Badsey, and Patricia Ellen Bell, of Aldington.

Aug. 16th—Samuel Alexander Richardson Thompson and Rhoda Eleanor Brailsford, both of Badsey.

Burial. R.I.P.

Aug. 11th—Ellen Kate Sadler, aged 73.

Aug. 14th—William Thomas Sandford, aged 82.

Our warm sympathy goes out to Mr. Ernest Sadler and his family in their loss, and also to the family of Mr. William Sandford, for many years a widower and lately in failing health.

The death of Mrs. E. Sadler came at a time when the clouds seemed to have lifted from her depressive state, and she was happily baking cakes at the moment of her fatal stroke, from which she did not recover consciousness. It is good to think that she enjoyed a short time of improved health before the end. She was a devoted wife and mother, and in her illness derived great comfort from receiving Holy Communion at home. We can be thankful that she has passed to Paradise where there is no more sighing or sorrow.

Ethel Narcisse Sladden R.I.P. An obituary notice was published in our August number, but the Editor has since received the following appreciation, which he is glad to print:—

On behalf of members of the Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Nursing Association and past members of the British Red Cross Society, Badsey Detachment Worcester 12 in particular, sincere sympathy is extended to members of her family upon the death of Miss E. N. Sladden.

We recall with gratitude our association with her, and her great enthusiasm and interest in the nursing profession in general, her kindly disposition to all members, and the very many happy times spent at Seward House for lectures in first aid and home nursing, examinations and social occasions.

Her long association with the British Red Cross Society goes back to the first World War, when she became a V.A.D. at Abbey Manor. Afterwards, when the local Detach-

ment was formed, she was appointed Commandant. Members under her supervision became fully trained and ready for emergencies and the Second World War, doing duty at both the local hospitals and at first aid posts.

Later on, ill health forced her to retire from active participation, but she continued her interest in the B.R.C.S. In appreciation of her long association with the Society, the honour of life membership was conferred upon her by the County Authorities. I.M.B.

Jottings. The Vicar recently received a communication from a commercial company addressed to the Incumbent, St. Jasper Church. The villain in Victorian melodrama was often called Sir Jasper, but we did not know he had been canonised. Some while ago the Vicar received another letter addressed to the Minister, (St. John's) Baptist Church Wickhamford.

Congratulations on the birth of a son to Patrick and Judy Sparrow, and on the birth of a second son to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Betteridge. Best wishes also to Valerie Lewis on her marriage to Mr. Bryan Faulkner, and to Wendy Hurman on her marriage to Mr. Robert Thomson.

Mrs. A. Crane has joined the vigorous band of Badsey octogenarians.

Among sick patients, Mr. Frank Reeves has been ill again. Mr. Jim Knight is seriously ill in Evesham Hospital with a tumour on the brain. Mrs. Douglas Jelfs has successfully undergone an operation, so has Mrs. Bigglestone. Mr. Gerald Forbes, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stewart, had to have an emergency operation, but seems to be steadily improving. At the time of going to press, we have just heard that Mr. A. Crane and Mrs. George Hartwell are in hospital. Your prayers are asked for all these sick parishioners.

Communicants. Week beginning July 23rd, 56; 30th, 41; Aug. 6th, 32.

Collections. July 23rd, £2-3-9; 30th, £11-10-4; Aug. 6th, £7-9-8; 13th, £7-3-4.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services.

Suns., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 (Trinity XIV, XV, XVI, XVII). As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Suns. 10th, 3-0 Holy Baptism.

Sun., Oct. 1st (Trinity XVIII). **HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 9-0 Holy Communion (with hymns). 3 p.m. Children's Harvest Gift Service. 5-30 p.m. Evensong, Preacher: Rev. C. F. Pollard.

Gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables, eggs, preserves, etc. should be brought to the church before 10 a.m. on Saturday, 30th Sept.

The Harvest Supper and Social will be held on Monday, Oct. 2, in the Memorial Hall, 7-30 p.m. During the evening the remainder of the produce (after distribution to the sick) will be auctioned for church funds.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wed., Sept. 20, 7-30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

Mothers' Union. The first meeting of the new season will be on Wednesday, 20th Sept., at 2-30 p.m., when there will be a Bring and Buy Sale. Tea will be served by Mrs. Roberts. E.G.B'

Burial. R.I.P. Aug. 1. Elizabeth Annie Spragg, aged 79.

Holy Matrimony. Aug. 12. Alan John Gerring, of Ashstead, Surrey, and Lynette Elizabeth Boston, Wickhamford.

Birthday Half-crown. Mrs. Nott.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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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.