

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

December, 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,

As this is the December number, you will no doubt expect a Christmas message. I am sorry to disappoint you, but I am writing in the middle of November, and I prefer to take things as they come. So you shall have an Advent message.

It is urgent that we should respond to the call of Advent to be on the alert, because the time is short. Ponder on these phrases from the Advent Epistles and Gospels: "the night is far spent, the day is at hand...", "...upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth", "...until the Lord come, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts", "the Lord is at hand."

Do these words mean anything to you at all? You have heard them before; they are the same every year; nothing unusual happens; the world goes on, Christmas comes, and we can forget the grim Advent warnings in the enjoyment of present delights; the preacher (to his own great relief) can put those sermon notes on the Last Things into deep freeze for another 12 months.

God is very patient: He doesn't give up warning us, never tires of saying the same thing to us although we long ago stopped listening to Him. Read 2 Peter 3, 3 to 11 (preferably in the New English Bible), and recognise in these words the world of 1961.

The trouble is that we never know which of these unheeded annual warnings is going to be the last that we shall hear. Only God knows.

It is not that people are unaware of the signs of the times. There is certainly a good deal of fearful looking after the things which are coming on the earth. It is the response we make to this awareness which is all-important. Some seek sweet forgetfulness in a dizzy round of self-indulgence: "Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die". Others get into a frenzied state of mass hysteria, crying ineffectively "Ban the Bomb" and carrying banners from one foreign embassy to another. (In the old days if you suffered from a phobia or frustration you took it to a psychoanalyst, or wrote to Auntie Ermytrude of the Daily Blather: now the right thing is to go to an embassy with it).

Either of these reactions is ostrich-like. St. Paul, hearing that the Thessalonian Christians were in a blue funk because someone had told them the Day of the Lord had actually come, wrote to them not to lose their heads. Because the Day of the Lord would come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night, the two things necessary were to keep awake and to get on with whatever jobs they had in hand. Prayer and work were the chief antidotes to panic. Let us use the same prescription. If we are con-

stant in prayer for the coming of the Lord, we have nothing to fear from the end of all things, or simply of our own earthly lives. "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." If, when the Lord comes, He finds us doing our duty in whatever state of life it has pleased Him to call us, we need not fear his reproach.

Protest marches, sit-downs and the like are no only ineffectual, they are harmful, both in obstructing the world's business and magnifying the monstrosities which hold men in the grip of fear. A writer in a Church newspaper recently castigated Convocation for discussing regulations concerning cremated remains when they ought, he said, to have been debating nuclear tests. Personally I would far sooner know that Convocation is dealing with matters for which it can effectively legislate than expending a lot of hot air on something it can do nothing about. I don't vote for clergymen to represent me in Convocation so that they can take part in interesting debates on general subjects; in the same way, I prefer my Member of Parliament to know some simple economics, and to be able to use his mind intelligently on such questions as old age pensions or the school leaving age, than to be emotionally eloquent on apartheid or euthanasia.

The best way, then, for Christians to help in freeing men from fear is to get on with their own business, whatever it may be, and encourage others to do the same. If we cannot influence the 'powers that be' by protests and petitions, we can at least strengthen them in righteous courses by our prayers: not praying that God will direct their wills into doing what we think is best, but praying our wills and theirs into conformity with God's will. We must take care not to pass judgement on statesmen and leaders, nor to impute insincere motives to others, knowing that God alone is Judge, that we are all in the same condemnation, and all in need of God's merciful forgiveness in Christ.

Men are most dangerous and homicidal when they are afraid. No one in his saner moments wants to unleash on the world a nuclear war. But fear always paralyses the faculty of reason. Anyone who puts his hand in God's Hand can serve Him without fear. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." Putting your hand into God's Hand: that sounds easy enough. But it's really very hard. You see, it is the hand of a Child. "A little child shall lead them". We can so easily get sentimental about that at Christmas time, and miss the point. Have you considered what faith in the God revealed in the manger really involves? Putting your hands into the Hand of a Child. Just think of it. If you were lost, and thoroughly scared, would you seek security in the hand of a child? It would mean saying goodbye to self-sufficiency and conceit. It would mean trusting to innocence rather than wordly wisdom. Is not that what the

world needs? And who else can bring the world to such a pride-shattering committal but the members of Christ's Church—not on their bottoms outside the Houses of Parliament, but on their knees in the 'House of Bread' (the meaning of the name Bethlehem) and with their hands and heads at their daily tasks.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES Church Services

DEC.

- 3 **Advent I.** As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
6 Wed. St. Nicolas, Bp. 10-0 H.C.
10 **Advent II.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
13 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
17 **Advent III.** St. Ignatius, Bp & M. As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
20 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
24 **Advent IV.** 8-0 H.C. 10-0 S. Sch. 11-0 Mattins (no H.C. to follow). 6-45 1st Evensong of Christmas (with carols).
11-30 Holy Communion (with hymns).
25 **CHRISTMAS DAY. 8-0 Holy Communion.**
11-0 Family Eucharist.
27 Wed. St John, Ap. & Evan. 10-0 H.C.
31 **Sun. after Christmas.** 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Children's Service.
11-0 Mattins. 6-45 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

JAN.

- 1 **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 10-0 H.C.

Please take note of some slight differences in the Christmas services this year, owing to Christmas Eve being a Sunday. The Feast of Christmas does not begin until Evensong on the Sunday, so Holy Communion that morning is for the 4th Sunday in Advent and is not a Christmas Communion. Floral decoration of the church will however be done on the Saturday, Dec. 23rd, beginning at 10-0. Gifts of flowers and evergreens will be welcome, and should be brought before that time.

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 Wednesday 20th and Saturday, 23rd December.

Any cash offerings (not in membership envelopes) at the Christmas Day services will be sent to the Church of England Children's Society.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., Dec. 5th, 7-15 p.m.

Servers for December. Dec. 3rd, 8-0 C. Harwood; 11-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 D. Barrand. 10th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 A. Hartwell (Server), P. Bott (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Betteridge. 17th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 6-45 A. Hartwell. 24th, 8-0 B. Caswell; 11-0 A. Hartwell; 6-45 C. Harwood; 11-30 P. Bott. 25th, 8-0 C. Freeman; 11-0 D. Barrand (Server), C. Harwood (Crucifer). 31st, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 P. Bott; 6-45 A. Hartwell.

Church Membership Scheme. The envelope scheme will begin on Sunday, 3rd December. One of our Church members has made a handsome oak box (like a small pillar box) which will stand just inside the church near the book table. The offerings, whether in envelopes or loose cash, should be placed in this box before a service, so that they may be brought up to the altar at the end of the service. The only collections will be at the offertory in Holy Communion, but members of the scheme may place their envelopes in the bag then if they wish. It is not too late for anyone who has not joined the scheme to do so if he wishes.

Carol Singing. In the last two years some householders have reported that they have been bothered by children

singing carols at the door and asking for money for the Church. The Vicar and P.C.C. wish it to be known that no children are authorised by the Church to collect money. It is in any case illegal for children to collect money in the streets unless accompanied by an adult, and a police permit is necessary for a charity collection. The only authorised carol parties from the Church would be the Church choir (including adults), and the bellringers, with the hand bells. That children should make use of Christian hymns and carols in order to beg money for themselves is a blasphemous practice which ought not to be encouraged.

The Bell Ringers. At the annual meeting of the Ringers last month, Mr. Douglas Bott was elected Ringing Master and Mr. Tony Brazier, Deputy Ringing Master. Thanks were expressed to the retiring Ringing Master, Mr. Harry Wheatley. The hand bells have now been repaired, and will be in use again this Christmas, particularly before and during the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve. New ringers will be very welcome to the band. It is a fine opportunity to learn an enthralling art and offer dedicated talent to the glory of God

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

- Dec. 4. Committee Meeting 2-30 p.m.
" 6. Corporate Communion 10 a.m.
" 12. Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: Miss B. Heaton, from India, on Overseas Work.
" 31. Corporate Communion 8 a.m. E.G.B.

Sunday School & St. James's Guild. We have been able, from the children's offerings in Sunday School, to send once again £12 for a scholarship for a Munda boy to attend St. Augustine's School, Manoharpur, Bihar. At Sunday School on Dec 10th Miss Barbara Heaton will tell us all about this school before her return to India shortly after Christmas. She will show us some interesting things. She will also talk to the Young People's Guild at their weekly meeting on the Monday.

Men's Fellowship. The speaker at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 7 p.m. will be Mr. R. W. Sidwell, known to many as a horticultural expert. His talk however will not be a technical one on his own subject. It will be on the story of market gardening in Badsey and district. We have already had a foretaste of the treat in store for us, in the interesting series of articles by Mr. Sidwell in the Evesham Journal on the history of market gardening in the Vale.

Youth Conference. A delegation of young people from Badsey attended the Youth Diocesan Conference on 28th October at Upton-on-Severn. The conference was opened with prayers by the Archdeacon of Worcester. We had two interesting talks on 'The Church and Young People Today' by the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth and by Wing-Commander H. W. Shepherd.

After tea we divided into groups and discussed various topics, and after the group leaders reported back, the conference was summed up by the County Youth Employment Officer, Mr. P. Walton. We closed with Evensong in Upton Parish Church after a very interesting afternoon.

M. J. Betteridge

Holy Baptism. Nov. 19. Colin Frederick Carter; Robert John Wilson.

Holy Matrimony. Nov. 11. Frederick Arthur David Blagg, of Evesham, and Gillian Ann Bennett, of Badsey.

Jottings. Heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Bennett on their 56th wedding anniversary, only a day after the happy occasion recorded above, their granddaughter Gillian's marriage. Congratulations also to David Caswell on his marriage to June Caddick, at South Littleton on the same day.

We welcome the following home from hospital, and wish them a successful convalescence: Mr. J. Keen, Mrs. F. Roberts, Mrs. Tom Perkins, Miss Emma Collett, Mrs. J. Ford. Your prayers are asked for these, and also for Messrs. R. Harker, B. Cockerton, G. Norledge, F. Reeves, H. G. Under-

hill, A. M. C. Lewis, K. Murray, Mrs. Vincent. Tracey Lippett and for the many chronically sick.

Mr. C. A. Binyon has retired from the Managing Board of Badsey Primary School after an absolutely wonderful record of 59 years. As a young man he sometimes had to fight hard for the welfare of the school, for many of the managers were appointed in those early days more with the idea of saving the ratepayers expenditure than of improving the educational facilities of the village. Generations of pupils owe far more to Mr. Binyon than they can ever know, for the high standard of schooling which they received.

Birthday Half-crowns. Mrs. E. G. Braby, Mary Braby, F.E.H., 5/-.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services.

DEC.

3, 10, 17 Suns. **Advent I, II, and III.** As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Suns.

24 **Advent IV.** 5-30 p.m. 1st Evensong of Christmas (with carols).

25 **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 9-15 Holy Communion (with hymns).

31 **Sun. after Christmas.** 5-30 p.m. Evensong and Carols.

CHURCH BAZAAR, Saturday, 2nd December. Memorial Hall. To be opened at 3 p.m. by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Dunkerley.

All your Christmas Shopping: Gifts, Cakes, Produce, Second-hand, Bottles, Side-Shows, Bran Tub and Teas.

£250 NEEDED FOR URGENT CHURCH REPAIRS.

Mothers' Union. At the meeting on Wednesday, 6th Dec. at 2-30, the speaker will be Mrs. Duker, our newly elected Diocesan President, and her subject "The Commandments". This will be an open meeting, so please bring friends with you.

The Branch will also meet on the following Wednesday, 13th, at 2-30, in order to make plans for the party in the New Year.

Teas will be served by Mrs. F. Smith and Mrs. Byron respectively.
E.G.B.

Sunday School. The children of Sandys Avenue have been 'at it' again. Led by Pamela Sturt, Hazel Whiting, Jennifer Whiting and Irene Thomas they have, by their own efforts, raised £1-2-0 for Sunday School funds. This money has now been handed back to the leaders to purchase gifts for a Bran Tub, to be presided over by older members of the School at the Church Bazaar on the 2nd December. This will be the children's offering to their Church.

By the very faithful almsgiving of the children, we are enabled to send a further donation to the U.M.C.A. of £4-10-0 contents of our missionary box TEMBO. This brings the Year's Offerings to £9-10-0.
A.L.C.

Holy Baptism. Oct. 29th Mark Roberts; Sally Ann Spragg; Beverley Jane Daffurn.

Just as we were going to press, we have heard the sad news of the death of Mrs. Pearce, who was ill in Evesham Hospital and seemed to be recovering. An obituary notice will appear in our next number.

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.