

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

February 1962

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 Pitchers Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear People,

The other day, when I had been visiting in one of the hospitals, the relatives of a patient were told by the ward sister that 'the preacher' had been to see him. How the sick must dread my visitations if the purpose is to deliver a sermon!

I only give this illustration to show how commonly a parson's main function is thought to be preaching. Strangely enough, nothing is said in the Ordering of Priests about preaching, though much is said about teaching. These are not the same thing. Preaching is a kind of proclamation, with the aim of conversion. Teaching is the imparting of instruction, chiefly for those already converted.

No clergyman would assume, as he entered the pulpit in church, that the congregation before him were all fully converted men and women. All the same, he knows that the majority of them are not complete strangers to the Christian message. It would be foolish and ineffectual to preach to that congregation, Sunday after Sunday, an exhortatory kind of sermon such as would be suited to a mixed bunch of hearers on Tower Hill or at Hyde Park Corner. Most, though not all, of his sermons in church need to be of the instructional kind.

But herein lies the difficulty. Modern congregations become restless after ten minutes of listening. Perhaps they feel they are in less need than their forefathers of instruction in the faith; perhaps they are not so tough. I will not presume to say which is the correct explanation. Perhaps the preachers are not so good as they used to be. Another factor is undoubtedly the influence of radio and television. We have become accustomed to having instruction imparted to us by means of all sorts of gimmicks and contrivances: interviews, dramatisations, quizzes, brains trusts, camera shots showing the speaker from different angles and in varying lights (or, if we get tired of looking at him, the camera will spotlight some of the faces in the audience). Anything except a straight talk from a speaker in a static position.

We do our best; but you just can't get much instruction across in a talk of ten minutes. A few Sundays before Christmas I committed the unpardonable sin of preaching for just over twenty minutes. I was trying to convey the significance of the great assembly then meeting at New Delhi. The theme seemed to warrant more than the usual sermonette. I was told afterwards that much more of that sort of thing would keep everyone away from church.

It would be helpful if members of the laity would sometimes comment to the preacher on points from the subject-matter of the sermon instead of showing so much concern for the timing of it. Perhaps this Lent we can arrange some meetings to discuss the Sunday sermons, and thus help each other to understand better the Word which is set forth. It is very difficult for a preacher to know what is in the minds of his hearers. Are they grasping his meaning? Is he supplying their real mental and spiritual needs, or giving them merely what he supposes they need? Does he know himself what he is talking about? If only they were more articulate they would perhaps help him to understand more clearly the message committed to him. If only they would tell him from time to time the sort of themes and questions they need to hear expounded, to aid them in their knowledge of God and in the conduct of their lives, he could help them more.

Preaching (and teaching) is very much a two-way process. There is a ministry of hearing as well as a ministry of speaking. For my part, before I start to think out my Sunday sermons, I spend fifteen minutes in prayer: for myself that I may be the mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit and not of my own opinions, and for you that you may be helped and benefited by what I shall say. Will you do your part by praying too? Pray for the preacher; pray for his hearers, starting with yourself. If there is this prayerful preparation on both sides, the Word of God is sure to have creative power in both preacher and congregation. It is God's Word not ours.

Churchyard Flowers. Last April I appealed in this magazine against the placing of artificial flowers on graves. I wrote then: "The whole purpose of having flowers and plants on graves is to symbolise the Christian belief in the resurrection; life through death. I am sure people will not wish to put artificial flowers there when they realise this point."

Perhaps many people did not see these words; perhaps some saw the point, but did not think belief in the resurrection mattered. About Christmas time, both churchyards came out in a lurid rash of sham flowers. Holly wreaths, for instance, had bogus flowers of various hues stuck in them. Apart from aesthetic considerations, what is the sense of these lifeless frauds? If they symbolise anything at all, it is deception and death. We really cannot have anything so pagan in a Christian churchyard. Once again I appeal to people not to put sham flowers in either Badsey or Wickhamford churchyards. Any found there in future, after Feb. 11th this year, will be removed.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

FEBRUARY

- 2, Fri **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** 10-0 H.C.
 4, **Epiphany V.** As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
 7, Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 11, **Epiphany VI.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
 14, Wed. **St. Valentine, Bp. & M.** 10-0 H.C.
 18, **Septuagesima.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
 21, Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 24, Sat. **St. Matthias, Apostle.**
 25, **Sexagesima.** As usual for 4th Sun. At Evensong
 Commissioning of new P.C.C.
 28, Wed. No H.C.

On Sunday morning, 25th, the Vicar will be away conducting a retreat for the Ordination College, but the usual services will be held. From Monday evening to Friday morning, Feb. 26th to March 2nd, the Vicar will be at one of the retreats arranged for the clergy by the Bishop. There will be no weekday services during that time.

Weekday mattins on Mons., Tues., and Fris., will be in future at 7-15 a.m. instead of 7-30.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., 6th Feb., 7-15 p.m., Parish Room.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING & SOCIAL.

Tuesday, 20th February, 7-30 p.m.

This year the meeting will not be held in the rather cramped quarters of the Parish Room, but in the Assembly Hall of Badsey Primary School. The business meeting will be as short as possible, and will be followed by a cup of tea and the showing of sound films. Before the meeting all who are on the Church Electoral Roll will have received nomination forms for the election of Parochial Church Councillors. It is important that nominations should be made, and that the forms should be returned to Mr. H. L. Hatcher or placed in the box which will be provided in the church, not later than Sunday, 18th Feb. In this parish we do not follow the undemocratic practice of re-electing the existing P.C.C. en bloc. Nominations cannot be accepted at the meeting itself. When nominating anyone for election, please make sure that he or she is willing to stand, and able to attend regularly the meetings of the Council. These are now monthly, on the first Tuesday. Councillors must be communicants of 21 and upwards who are themselves on the Electoral Roll.

On the Sunday after the annual meeting, 25th February, there will be a short service of commissioning of Parochial Church Councillors at Evensong.

Senior Residents' Party. As is well-known, this had to be postponed at short notice from January 6th, owing to the severe weather at that time and the illness of so many of our older residents. The party has now been arranged to take place in the Remembrance Hall on Saturday, 17th February beginning at 5-30 p.m.

Sunday School Party. The Vicar is very grateful to all who gave, in money or kind, towards the tea and other expenses, and to all who gave their time and help. It was a very happy afternoon, and we were fortunate in having such an expert magician as Mr. Baron Houston, with his capacity for producing live rabbits, doves, and even goldfish from the most unexpected places.

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

- Feb. 5 Committee Meeting, 2-30 p.m.
 „ 7 Corporate Communion, 10 a.m.
 „ 13 A.G.M. 2-30 p.m., followed by "Women's work in the Church"—Deaconess Hughes.
 „ 27 Branch Meeting, 7-15 p.m. "Elizabeth Fry"—Mrs. Hills.
 „ 28 Deanery Quiet Afternoon, 2-15—4 p.m., All Saints Evesham, conducted by the Rev. W. A. Trippass.
 E.G.B.

Men's Fellowship. At the January meeting Mr. Bernard Webster, joint editor of our excellent local paper, gave us a lively talk on the provincial press, and answered many searching questions. This month it is the turn of another of the great organs (moulders?) of public opinion—the B.B.C. On Tuesday, 13th February our speaker will be Mr. H. J. Dunkerley, Controller of Midland Region, B.B.C., and his subject will be "Broadcasting in the Nineteen-Sixties". This promises to be one of our most interesting meetings of the season. The meeting will begin at 7-15 p.m., and is in the Parish Room at the Vicarage.

Exhibition. As mentioned in our last issue, a Period Exhibition, mainly concerned with the Victorian era, is to be held in Badsey in the spring. It will take place at Seward House, on Saturday, 24th March, from 3 to 6 p.m. Admission 1/6, and a buffet tea available at modest prices. Proceeds will be given to Red Cross funds.

A number of interesting articles on loan have already been promised and the organisers will welcome more; in particular clothes, toys, ornaments, jewellery, or photographs and documents illustrative of local or national history of earlier times. Mrs. Brazier, Mrs. Brady, Miss Sladden or Mrs. Cooke (Wickhamford) will be glad to hear from anyone who can offer exhibits.

Holy Baptism

- Dec. 17 Mark Anthony Pritchard.
 Jan. 21 Julie Ann Curtis.

Holy Matrimony

- Dec. 30 Graham Theophilus Bazeley, of Hinton-on-the Green, and Sheila Bonehill, of Badsey.

Burials. R.I.P.

- Dec. 19 Cecil Frederick Gittos, aged 59.
 Jan. 10 Thomas Brotherton, aged 61.
 „ 10 Walter Ernest Knight, aged 43.
 „ 11 Kate Amelia Smith, aged 57.
 „ 13 Harriet Mildred Hatch, aged 83.
 „ 16 Albert Jesse Dobbins, aged 79.

This has been a sad time for many of our parishioners, and we assure all who have been bereaved of our heartfelt sympathy and prayers, that they may know the consolation and power of the Lord Jesus.

One who will be greatly missed at church and in the Mothers' Union is Mrs. Kit Smith, who was such an active worker in Church life, but who also glorified God in much weakness and suffering during the last few years. We are thankful that she has been released from pain to the fuller life in Christ which is beyond.

Jottings. We welcome Mr. Leslie Foster, of the Friends' Evangelistic Mission, who has come to Badsey as Missioner at the Friends' Meeting House. May God prosper his work in our village.

The sick list has become rather long at this time. We ask you to remember in your prayers all who are sick in hospital or at home, especially Winifred Roberts, Bertram Cockerton, John Collett, Emma Collett, Gerald Norledge, Percy Crump, Edgar Ellison, Raymond Crane, Thomas Cook, Lucy Knight, Edith Wheeler, Francis Shelley, Kathleen Franks, William Hatch, Ronald Harker, Herbert Underhill, John Keen, Francis Reeves, Francis Meadows, Eunice Turrill and Alice Ellen Crisp.

Servers for February. Feb. 4th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 A. Hartwell. 11th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 D. Barrand (Server), A. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Betteridge. 18th, 8-0 C. Freeman; 6-45 P. Bött. 25th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 A. Hartwell.

Communicants. Week beginning Dec. 17th, 26; 24th, 158; 31st, 20; Jan. 7th, 19; 14th, 43.

Birthday Half-Crown. Mr. T. W. J. Hardiman.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services.

Suns., Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. (Epiph. V, VI, Septuagesima, Sexagesima. As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Suns.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wed., 31st Jan., 7-30 p.m., in the Memorial Hall.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Wed. 14th Feb., in the Memorial Hall, at 7-30 p.m.

Do come along and show that you know the word **Church** means something more than a building where services are held. Play your part in choosing churchwardens and parochial church councillors. Bring your ideas and suggestions, questions and complaints. If you like, criticise the accounts, cross-examine the councillors, castigate the chairman. Or hand out bouquets all round. Only **Come**.

Mothers' Union. Deaconess Hughes will speak about Womens' work in the Church at the branch meeting on Wednesday, 7th Feb. at 2-30 p.m.

On 21st Feb., Mrs. McCalman from Bredon will be the speaker, and her subject "Fruits of the Holy Spirit" will be in preparation for Christian Family Year. Teas will be served by Mrs. Martin and Mrs. C. Sturt respectively.

Members are urged to be present at the Quiet Afternoon in All Saints Church, Evesham on Wednesday, 28th Feb., 2-15-4 p.m. E.G.B.

Sunday School Prize-giving. Postponed from that very wintry New Year's Eve, this took place on Jan. 14th. After prayers and Epiphany hymns, the prizes were presented to the children by Mr. J. E. Parry who warmly commended the fine record of attendance by the children throughout the

year. Both he and the Vicar congratulated the teachers on their work. The prizes are given annually through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. J. Drysdale.

Burial. R.I.P.

Jan. 10 Ethel Mildred Halford, aged 63.

Warm sympathy is extended to Mr. Harry Halford in his sad loss.

The previous week Mr. Frank Halford died at Avonside Hospital and was buried in the cemetery there after a service in the hospital chapel. He was very cheerful and patient in his long illness, and received strength through regularly receiving the Holy Communion.

May their souls rest in peace.

The Sick. We have all been so sorry that Mr. Donald Peet was taken ill just before Christmas and has been laid up for a few weeks. He is very calm and cheerfully resigned and we pray that he will soon be completely well again.

We welcome home Mr. J. Colley after a spell in hospital. At present Mrs. G. Read and Miss A. Major (of the Guest House) are ill in hospital, and we pray for their speedy recovery. At the time of going to press, we are very sorry to hear that Mr. Bill Johnson is in hospital again.

Women's Institute. At the January meeting the members were given a most interesting report by Mr. Barwell on the Lower Avon Navigation Trust, by which much good progress has been made. The speaker was thanked by Mrs. Folkes, who was also in charge of the competition, won by Miss M. Willis. The Sick Visitor is Mrs. Kitcher. The monthly parcel was won by Mrs. V. Cox. Tea Hostesses were Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Boston.

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.