

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JULY 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,

Every five years the Bishop summons his **clergy** to a **Convention**, where they can meet together with him, and hear lectures by specialists on various aspects of their work. There is to be such a Convention this year, at Keble College, Oxford, from July 9th to 13th. So I must need be away from the parishes at that time.

Christian Family Year. An important meeting is to be held in the Public Hall, Evesham, on Thursday, 19th July, at 7-30 p.m. All Parochial Church Councillors are invited, but it is also an open meeting for any others who are interested. The Archdeacon of Worcester will be in the chair, and the speakers will be Mrs. Dukes, Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, and the Rev. A. Webb, Vicar of Holy Innocents, Kidderminster (and formerly known to us as Vicar of Cleeve Prior).

Bishop's Pilgrimage. Every year the Bishop makes a pilgrimage on foot through some rural area of his Diocese. This year he has chosen the villages round Evesham. He will be coming to Badsey and Wickhamford on August 27th—28th. He will celebrate Holy Communion in Badsey Church on the Monday morning and at Wickhamford on Tuesday morning (times to be announced later). While here he will talk to people at their work and visit some of the sick and elderly in their homes.

Ordination of Deaconess. Miss P. Wright is to be ordained deaconess by the Bishop in Badsey Church on Thursday, 18th October (St. Luke's Day). This will be a great day of dedication for members of the Church in both parishes.

Confirmation. This has been arranged for Passion Sunday, 31st March, 1963, in the morning. The Confirmation will be followed immediately by Holy Communion. I should like to have names of intending candidates as soon as possible. As stated in my May letter, preparation begins now, with regular attendance at church every Sunday. It is no good anyone hoping to be presented for Confirmation unless they are going to show that they are really in earnest. Where they are under 16, the attendance of the parents is also a necessary condition.

A Hundred and Ten Years Ago. This account of a service in Wickhamford Church in the summer of 1852 may be of interest to all our readers. It is from Noakes, "The Rambler in Worcestershire", published 1854.

"When I entered the church, which was nearly half an hour before the service commenced, the seats were quite full, except some monstrous large pews on the south side, the only occupant of which scowled on me so when I looked round for sitting

room that I was fain to retire, and at last found a resting-place in the laps of two labourers, sitting on a plain bench behind a partition six feet high, forming the boundary of the aforesaid pews, which most effectually shut out from us the view of the rest of the church. More comers continued to pour in, till the pews were also crowded, and in a place less sacred it would have afforded some amusement to note how delighted the rustics were who, by coming early, and being secure in the enjoyment of their own seats, watched the disappointed movements of those who came late and looked round imploringly for an inch of room. Behind us was a ladder, reaching up into the tower, and a number of boys took up their position on the rounds, till the sermon putting them to sleep, they would probably most of them have broken their necks had it not been for the vigilance of the clerk, who kept himself awake by every now and then advancing to the west end and brandishing his cane towards the sleeping beauties of the ladder. I thought this was such a case of church repletion as I had no where witnessed in the county, and began to think of writing to the secretary of the Incorporated Society for pecuniary aid in the enlargement of the building, or to the clergyman and churchwardens to induce them to remove the immense monuments in the chancel, which are some twelve or thirteen feet by five feet wide, when I discovered the secret of the large attendance - it was a valedictory sermon by the late incumbent, it being his last Sunday among the people of Badsey and Wickhamford, and the churchgoers of both places had assembled together to take their leave of the reverend gentleman. An old Scotch wife, once parting with her priest, assured him that 'he baith cam' and went wi' the guid will o' the parish'; but although this might have been deemed an equivocal compliment, I must assure the Rev. Mr. Boggis that I do not mean it as applying the anecdote to his case, as he seems to have left behind him a savour of good works, and to have conciliated the esteem of his congregations; yet much remains for his successor to accomplish in both parishes, and that, too, with a firm but gentle hand."

Notes on the Above. The departing minister was not in fact the incumbent, but the last of the line of curates who performed the duties of the Rev. Charles Phillott, absentee vicar for 43 years. He had died in November 1851. Thomas Henry Hunt was instituted in April 1852, but did not take up his duties till two months later, as he was awaiting a dispensation to hold Wickhamford in plurality with Badsey. Edmund Boggis had been curate since 1848, and took his last services probably on Sunday, 13th June, 1852. At that time the morning and afternoon services alternated between Badsey and Wickhamford. The clerk was William Barnard, tailor and schoolmaster, appointed as parish clerk and sexton to both parishes in 1842.

A year before his departure Mr. Boggis had to make a return for Wickhamford Church in the national census of religious worship. Either he was ill-informed about Wickhamford, or like many clergymen he wanted to show his contempt for form-filling by putting down whatever came into his head and leaving it at that. He stated that the church was dedicated to St. Peter and was in the parish of Badsey. The uselessness of such a record for statisticians or historians is illustrated by the wildly exaggerated figures Mr. Boggis gave for seating and church attendance. There were 266 sittings in Wickhamford Church, he said, and the usual attendance for Sunday afternoon service was given as 200! The total population of the parish, according to the national census the same year, was 129. As to seating, we reckon nowadays to be able to accommodate 80 as a maximum. In Badsey Church, Boggis stated there were 170 sittings, and he estimated the number of persons attending on a Sunday as 150 in the morning and 300 in the afternoon (this was before the enlargement of the church). Surely mid-Victorian churchgoing was not quite as enthusiastic as that! We know there was much overcrowding in the homes of the people. We cannot believe they voluntarily packed themselves like sardines on a Sunday.

All the same, it would be grand to see again what Mr. Noakes saw – people frantically looking round for a seat. We do not think they would be met with scowls.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

JULY

- 1 **Trinity II.** As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
- 4 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 8 **Trinity III.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 11 Wed. No H.C.
- 15 **Trinity IV.** St. Swithun, Bp. As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
- 18 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 22 **Trinity V. St. Mary Magdalen.** As usual for 4th Sun.
- 25 Wed. **ST. JAMES, APOSTLE. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** 6-30 & 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 29 **Trinity VI. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** As usual for 5th Sun.

Other Events

- 3 8-0 p.m. P.C.C. Meeting.
- 18 2nd in series of P.C.C. social receptions at Vicarage.
- 19 Christian Family Year meeting in Evesham.
- 21 Choir Outing to Southsea.
- 24 M.U. Outing to Coventry.
- 28 Badsey Flower Show.

Servers for July. 1st, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 A. Hartwell; 6-45 P. Bott. 8th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 C. Harwood (Server), A. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 15th, 8-0 P. Bott; 6-45 A. Hartwell. 22nd, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 M. Betteridge. 29th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 11-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 A. Hartwell.

War Memorial Flowers. July 1st, Mrs. N. Cook; 8th, Mrs. G. Knight; 22nd, Mrs. Ingram; 29th, Mrs. G. H. Stewart.

Mothers' Union. The Annual Outing with Wickhamford members takes place on Tuesday, 24th July, when we shall visit Coventry Cathedral. It is regretted that non-members cannot join us owing to the great demand from members, and the coach is now fully booked. The arrangements are as follows:—

Coach leaves the Sandys Arms at 1 p.m. and will pick up members at the Wheatsheaf, the Pike and the Oak. The evening meal has been booked at Quinton for 7 p.m.

Corporate Communion on Wednesday, 4th July, at 10 a.m., and Sunday, 29th, at 8 a.m. E.G.B.

Deanery Youth Council Activities. On Sunday, 13th May, around forty young people went on a pilgrimage to Kington and Dormston. Starting from Rous Lench, we walked along footpaths and minor roads to Kington, arriving for tea which was served by some members of the Kington Branch. After an enjoyable tea, we then continued our walk to the village of Dormston, where we arrived in time for Evensong in the Parish Church. After Evensong we returned to Evesham by coach, having had a most enjoyable afternoon and evening.

The next event was the Diocesan Youth Rally, which took place on Saturday, 16th June at Worcester. We were picked up by a coach going through the villages and taken to Worcester Cathedral, where we attended a Youth Service at which the Rev. P. Cheesman gave the address. Following the service we all proceeded to the Worcester Grammar School for Girls, where we had tea, followed by interesting talks from a Trade Unionist, a Guide Commissioner, a Surgeon and an M.P., who spoke of the effect of their faith on their different vocations. Then we had an hour's entertainment by one of the Worcester youth groups which was most amusing and we all enjoyed it very much. Afterwards we danced to the music of Mr. Blackman's Dance Band.

Cynthia Bell.

Holy Baptism

June 17 Timothy David Hodgkins; Timothy Knight.

Holy Matrimony

June 2 Anthony James Wilford Huxley, of Bengeworth, and Janet Evans, of Badsey.

Burial. R.I.P.

June 13 Reginald Charles Bunce, aged 71.

Our warmest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bunce in her loss. Reginald Bunce was a charming and delightful man who came with his wife to Badsey soon after the war, having retired from business in Chelsea. In his illness he displayed a cheerful patience which perhaps was not so surprising from so keen a fisherman, but nonetheless admirable.

The Sick. Your prayers are asked for Mr. Albert Brewer, who is in Cheltenham Hospital. Mrs. Sheila Rock (nee Chamberlain) has had an operation in Ronkswood Hospital and is hoping to return home soon. We are glad she is making good progress, and pray for a happy delivery of the baby expected in the autumn. Mrs. Tommy Knight has had a nasty fall and fractured her arm; we are all so sorry and hope she will soon be more comfortable. We hope Mr. Bob Davies will soon recover from his leg injury.

Communicants. Week beginning May 20th, 28; 27th, 65; June 3rd, 29; 10th, 107.

Birthday Half-crowns. In Memoriam A. E. Cull; Miss Ella Jones; Mrs. B. Jones.

Envelope Scheme. An acknowledgement of sums received for the 2nd quarter, April-June, will shortly be on view on the church notice-board (members' numbers, not names, will be shown).

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services.

Sundays, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th (Trin. II, III, IV (St. Mary Magdalen), V, VI.) Services as usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham

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TELEFLOWER SERVICE

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., July 25th, 7-30.

Church Bookstall. Wickhamford's turn on the Evesham Market Bookstall is Saturday, 7th July. The Vicar will be glad to have names of volunteers as soon as possible, stating times preferred. There will be a list in the church porch. The stall has to be manned from 9-30 until 4-0.

Mothers' Union. Please see Badsey notes for details of the outing on 24th July. E.G.B.

The Sick. It is good to see Mr. Pearce and Mr. G. Robbins, Junr. home from hospital, and Mr. Johnson back at church after another illness. We are glad to hear that Miss Colley is benefiting considerably from hospital treatment at Droitwich.

F. MASTERS

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General Repairs . . .*

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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.