

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

September 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,

"We must get baby done"

Vaccination? Registration? No, when people say this they are usually referring to the Sacrament of initiation into the Church of Christ: Holy Baptism.

Why are we clergy often so awkward and cussed when parents come and ask us to do this simple thing, which is after all one of the things we were ordained to do?

It certainly isn't because we want to be unkind or that we enjoy having rows with parishioners. Most of us like a quiet life.

It is simply that we fear to be disloyal to our Master by suggesting that admission to the Christian brotherhood is merely a matter of social convention.

May I ask you to read this and think about it quietly and seriously?

How it all began.

When infant baptism first became the practice of the Church, it was administered only to the children of communicant Christians, who assembled Sunday by Sunday with the rest of the Family for the Lord's Supper. Indeed no one else would have thought of asking for the privilege. It was pre-supposed that the children were going to be brought up in the life, teaching and worship of the Christian fellowship; that they would later assume in their own persons the responsibilities of Christian membership, and become communicants like their parents. As guarantors for the faith and penitence which would be required at Baptism had they been adults, the Church provided sponsors (later called godparents). The Church would never have regarded baptism in infancy as justifiable without these safeguards.

Cold Pudding

In a country where Christianity has been established for centuries, but is now either repudiated or ignored by the majority of people, conditions are very different from those in which the practice of infant baptism first began. The life and witness of the Church are seriously weakened by the existence of a dead mass of nominal members lying heavily on her stomach, members baptised in infancy, but neither instructed in her beliefs nor confirmed (Would the rivals of Christianity today, such as Communism, tolerate such a situation in their own ranks?) These unconfirmed Christians have made no personal acknowledgment of the claims Christ and His Church on their lives, though they were pledged by others to His service in their infancy, and are counted as members of His Body. Being unconfirmed, they remain in the infant stage of Church membership, and are quite content, for

the most part, to remain infant Christians. They are not blameworthy. The fault lay with their parents and godparents, and with the Church for not making it clear to their parents just what Baptism would involve.

"Lead Thou me on"

But there are exceptions. I can think of several people I know who were baptised in infancy but not brought to confirmation, and yet who are really concerned about it. There are some of you who know you were dedicated to Christ's service in infancy and would like to make your own personal act of faith and self-surrender to Him, but find it hard to take the first step. I know it really is hard, when most of the folk around you are indifferent to these things, and going to church is considered "not done", except for people who must be a bit odd. But when Christ says to anyone, "Follow me", He is calling for just that little bit of courage that is needed to make one step in His direction, and He gives the rest. One of the saints said of Him, "His Majesty loves courageous souls."

There is a big opportunity for some of you in the classes for adults which I shall be starting in the autumn. I am not calling these "confirmation", but "enquirers'" classes, for no one who attends them is committed at the start to being confirmed. To these classes confirmed people will also be welcome. For many who were confirmed when quite young are glad of an opportunity for attending a course of instruction in the faith, to refresh their minds and equip themselves for stronger Christian witness.

Parents, be fair

Parents, if you decide to ask for your baby to be christened, please think carefully what you are about. It is a free country and you are not obliged to have your child made a member of the Church if you do not want to. If however you do, remember that you have made a decision for him which you cannot afterwards repudiate, or say, "He can now please himself". It is not fair or honest to pledge an uncomphrehending infant to membership of a society whose meetings you would be ashamed to attend and whose aims are a matter of indifference to you. Most parents who want their children baptised do honestly intend to do something about it (sometime in the future). But vague intentions are not enough. Bringing him to the font really does involve bringing him (not just sending him) to take his place regularly in the nave and later at the altar.

One day you as parents or godparents, and I as priest, must stand before God's judgment seat to answer for the awful responsibilities we have undertaken. And we have not been told the date for the audit.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

At the time of writing, the **Bishop's visit**, to which we are eagerly looking forward, has not yet taken place. Mon., Aug. 27th, 9-30 a.m. Bishop arrives Badsey Church. 7-30 p.m. Mission Service in Badsey Church. Tues., Aug. 28th, 7-30 a.m. Holy Communion in Wickhamford Church.

On Sunday, Sept. 23, the preacher at Evensong at both churches will be **Canon G. B. Armstrong** of Worcester Cathedral, and Warden of the Ordination College.

On Saturday, Sept. 29, the **Archbishop of Canterbury** and Mrs. Ramsey are visiting Worcester for the millenary celebrations of the Cathedral. Representatives of the laity will probably be invited with the clergy to a special service in the Cathedral. From that date till Oct. 27, there will be evening performances of "Son et Lumiere", the story of Worcester Cathedral in music, sound and light. We hope to arrange a party from Badsey and Wickhamford in the second half of October.

Intending **confirmation candidates** should give their names to the Vicar as soon as possible. They should be attending church regularly now, (and, for candidates under 16, their parents too).

The **Rev. W. B. and Mrs. Chapman** are now living at 36, Kaye Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, Yorks.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **Trinity XI.** As usual for 1st Sun. 11-0 Family Service.
5, Wed. No H.C.
9 **Trinity XII.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
12, Wed. No H.C.
16 **Trinity XIII.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
19, Wed. St. Theodore, Archbp. 10-0 H.C.
21, Fri. **St. Matthew, Apostle and Evan.** 6-30 H.C.
23 **Trinity XIV.** As usual for 4th Sun., preacher at Evensong 6-45, Canon C. B. Armstrong, M.A., B.D.
26, Wed. 10-0 H.C.
29, Sat. **St. Michael & All Angels.** 6-30 H.C.
30 **Trinity XV.** St. Jerome, Pr. & Dr. As usual for 5th Sun.

Sunday School. Re-assembles Sunday, 16th September. Re-organisation of classes, 2nd Sun. in October.

Young People's Guild (12 and over). Reassembles Mon., Sept. 17, Parish Room, 4-45.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., Oct. 2, 7-30 p.m.

Overseas Committee. Tues., Sept. 18, 7-30 p.m.

Harvest Festival. Sunday, 7th October. 8-0 Holy Communion. 11-0 Family Service (Children's Harvest Offerings). 6-45 Evensong and Sermon.

Servers for September. 2nd, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 A. Hartwell. 9th, 8-0 R. Harvey; 11-0 D. Barrand (Server), M. Betteridge (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Hartwell. 16th, 8-0 P. Bolt; 6-45 M. Betteridge. 23rd, 8-0 C. Freeman; 11-0 A. Hartwell; 6-45 P. Bolt. 30th, 8-0 A. Hartwell; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 M. Betteridge.

War Memorial Flowers. Sept. 2nd, Mrs. G. Marshall; 9th, Mrs. C. Stewart; 16th, Mrs. Ballard; 23rd, Mrs. Brady; 30th, Mrs. A. Syril.

Mothers' Union. The opening meeting of the season will be on Tuesday, 25th September at 7-30 p.m., when future plans will be discussed.

The time allotted to our branch for the Wave of Prayer for Overseas Work is on Friday, 7th Sept., from 8-50 to 9-8 a.m. I do hope some members will try to meet in church during this time, and all will be praying during that 20 minutes for the Mother's Union work, whether they are in church, at home, or at work. E.G.B.

Burials. R.I.P.

July 30 Albert Joseph Brewer, aged 71 (cremation at Cheltenham, officiant Rev. W. H. Bates, Vicar of Great Rissington).

Aug. 3 Patricia Marsden, aged 4 months.

" 4 Cecily Veronica Allen, aged 41 (interment of ashes)

Our warmest sympathy, goes out to all who have been bereaved this month, some in tragic circumstances.

Mr. Bert Brewer, who died after a severe illness bravely borne, will be remembered not only as baker (the family name being perpetuated in one of our village streets) and as footballer, but for gifts of character and personal charm.

The sudden death of Mrs. Roy Allen on holiday with the family in Wales has been a sad blow, and has brought home to all of us the realisation that "in the midst of life we are in death".

The Sick. Mr. Crump's condition gave cause for some alarm a week or two ago, but we are thankful to say he seems to be making a good recovery. Mr. Alec Hatcher and Mr. John Harris have both undergone operations, and at the time of writing are doing well. Mr. Ernest Sadler made a quick recovery and is wonderfully active. So is Mr. Tom Knight, almost back to normal after his stroke, and Mrs. Knight has the use of her broken arm once more. Mrs. Deighton is back in hospital, but she does not let her many setbacks get her down, and we pray that she may soon be healed.

Choir Outing. It was a bright, blustery day for our visit to Southsea, with plenty of sea-breeze to liven our landlubberly lungs. Starting at 7 a.m., we drove through pleasant country over the Cotswolds, the Thames valley, the chalk downs of Berkshire and Hampshire, finally coming over the edge of Portsdown to catch sight of Pompey and the sea, about 11-30. Owing to the excellent arrangements made by Mr. George Crisp, we not only had a pleasant journey, but a very good lunch and tea. In the afternoon some went to see H.M.S. Victory in the Naval Dockyard, others crossed to the Isle of Wight and back by the ferry. A halt was made at Abingdon on the way home, and we got back to Badsey, tired but happy, about 10-30 p.m. All members of the choir were present in their places next day for the Sunday services.

Mothers' Union Outing. Members from Badsey and Wickhamford had a successful outing on 24th July. Arriving at Coventry at 2-30, there was plenty of time for visiting shops and seeing the rebuilt city before meeting at the Cathedral to attend Evensong at 5 p.m. It was a privilege to be present at one of the services in this wonderful and yet strange, building, and join in the worship to God. After Evensong we were able to view the cathedral.

The reactions to the huge tapestry dominating the building from the east end were varied, the vastness of the work being the most impressive point. The extremely beautiful colourings of the stained glass windows were generally admired. A close view of the great cross of nails was obtainable from behind the High Altar, where also was the peaceful quietness of the Chapel of Gethsemane, which is reserved for private prayer. Past the Chapel of Industry, and down the south aisle, the glorious colourings of the windows were seen from a new angle, especially in the Baptistery with its strange unique font made from a great lump of granite. Outside we saw Epstein's statue of St. Michael hanging from the side of the west wall.

On the return journey, a stop was made for supper at Quinton, and home was reached about 9 p.m.

Communicants. Week beginning July 22nd, 58; 29th, 33; Aug. 5th, 32; 12th, 47.

Birthday Half-Crowns. Mrs. B. Jones, Mrs. E. R. Taylor, David Taylor.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services.

Sundays, Sept. 2, 9, 16 (Trinity XI, XII, XIII). As usual for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Suns.

Sept. 23 **Trin. XIV.** Preacher at Evensong 5-30, Canon C. B. Armstrong, M.A., B.D.

Sept. 30 **Trin. XV.** As usual for 5th Sun.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wed., Sept. 26th, 7-30 p.m.

Harvest Festival. Sunday, Oct., 7, 9-0 Holy Communion; 3-0 Children's Service; 5-30 Evensong and Sermon.

Harvest Social, Wed., Oct. 10, Memorial Hall, 7-30 p.m.

Mr. D. T. Peet. It gives us all much regret that, owing to indifferent health, Mr. Peet has had to resign as organist and choirmaster. We are greatly indebted to him for his skilful handling of our little organ and careful training of the choir these last four years. Mr. Cleaver has kindly agreed to carry on for the present, but does not wish to undertake the post in a full-time capacity. The Vicar would be glad to hear of anyone who might be interested.

Mothers' Union. The new season opens on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 2-30, when we shall welcome Mrs. Mills from Shrawley as our speaker. I hope members will make every effort to attend—bring your friends too. On Friday, Sept 7, we are responsible for keeping the time between 11-25 and 11-42 a.m. in prayer for the work of the M.U. overseas. If you can be in church during this time, please do, otherwise try to be prayerfully quiet wherever you are for the great work done by Mothers' Union workers. E.G.B.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

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TELEFLOWER SERVICE

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Holy Baptism

Aug. 12 William Edward Moore : Nigel William Ford.

Burial. R.I.P.

Aug. 7 George Frederick Cox, aged 71.

It has been sad to lose this well-known member of one of our oldest and best respected families in Wickhamford, and we extend our prayerful sympathy to Mrs. Cox and the family. He bore a long illness with great fortitude. It was sad to see him getting gradually weaker, and we are thankful for his release from suffering. May he be granted pardon and peace.

Just before going to press, we have received the sad news of the death of Mr. Albert Fowkes.

The Sick. Mr. W. Johnson has been seriously ill with a heart attack, being already in hospital with bronchitis. We are all relieved that he is getting better. He had been looking forward to being at his son David's wedding at Sevenoaks, but this was not to be. Mrs. Styles is in Avonside Hospital.

Sunday School Outing, Aug. 15th. Nobody's spirits were damped by the pouring rain which began as our steamer left the quay at Worcester for a trip to Camp's Lock and back. The rain stopped as we disembarked at the end! But the weather had been pretty decent earlier on, in spite of a most unpromising morning. A visit was paid to the Cathedral before tea. Some climbed the 236 steps of the tower, others descended into the crypt. We all had a very good tea, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Drysdale.

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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.