

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

May 1963

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 Fifth Sunday)

11 a.m.—Family Service (First Sunday) Sung Eucharist (Second Sunday and Festivals) Matins (Fourth and Fifth Sundays)

6-45 p.m.—Evensong. Holy Communion on the Forth Sunday)

Holy Baptism—Third Sunday, 3 p.m. (Parents must see the Vicar personally at least seven days before).

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

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 & Festivals : Holy Communion (9-15 a.m. Easter)

11 a.m.—Third Sunday : Family Service

11-40 a.m.—Third Sunday : Holy Communion

5-30 p.m.—Every Sunday : Evensong

WEEK-DAY SERVICES : According to notice in porch.

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,

Many thanks to you (from both parishes) for your generous Easter Offering. Easter communicants were more numerous than for some years (201 at Badsey, 61 at Wickhamford). Both churches were beautifully decorated (the daffs came out just at the right time), and everywhere were signs of resurrection after the grim winter.

The Confirmation and 1st Communion on Passion Sunday was an unforgettable experience, not only for the candidates. After the candidates renewed their baptismal vows, the Bishop asked us all to renew ours as well, thus giving the whole congregation an opportunity of making this confirmation service an act of renewal and re-dedication of our corporate life. The Bishop gave us a text to remember when the way of Christian duty seems hard and we are tempted to give up, 'He loved me and gave himself for me.'

The Bishop's Lent Course was very well attended each week by people from all the parishes concerned. We are most grateful to the Bishop, not only for the help that he has given us in our prayers, but for enabling us to meet week by week for corporate worship with our neighbours of the other villages. It was a great encouragement to the parson and people of each parish to have their church full on a weekday evening, and to get the sense of belonging to something much greater than their own parochial community.

I am looking forward to a further widening of my horizons during the week May 6 to 10, when I have been so fortunate as to be nominated by our Bishop to take part in one of the "open weeks" at St. Augustine's, Canterbury, the central college of the Anglican Communion. Representative clergy from English dioceses are invited to these open weeks, to join in the life of the College, attend lectures, and meet the overseas priests and students from other provinces of the Anglican Communion.

"Honest to God"

Honestly, I have read the book. I had to wait a long time for a copy, and it did not seem right to make any comments when my knowledge of the book was based only on extracts, reviews and other people's reactions. As I know a number of Christian people are puzzled and upset by some of its radical ideas, I felt it my duty to read it at first-hand at the cost of time which might have been given to more profitable reading.

But I will not deny that I found the book in some parts helpful and stimulating. It made me look up again some of the books already on my shelves and re-read certain passages with fresh insight. I did not find the book shocking (and I am a fairly conservative-minded churchman) but that was chiefly because most of the Bishop of Woolwich's ideas, as he admits, are a following up of lines of thought put out by other writers (mostly German

and American). Any of us clergy who try to keep up with contemporary trends in theology are familiar with this stuff already, though not often at first-hand. What I had hoped to find in the Bishop's book was a statement of this way of thinking in simple, untechnical terms for ordinary laypeople, much as C. S. Lewis does for orthodox Christian belief. In this I was disappointed. The book is far from easy reading. Here is a random sample: "What does Tillich mean by this word 'theonomy'?" It corresponds with his concern to push beyond supernaturalism and naturalism to a third position, in which the transcendent is nothing external or 'out there' but is encountered in, with and under the Thou of all finite relationships as their ultimate depth and ground and meaning."

Now that sort of thing is all right in a college common room discussion, but what is it doing in a five bob paperback? The author and publisher wanted the book to become a talking point, and they certainly succeeded. But ideas like the above, if they mean anything at all, just cannot be expressed in the language of popular journalism or the strip cartoon. That has been the unfortunate result of all the press publicity. The Bishop wrote a book for intellectuals (a rather incoherent sort of book even for intellectuals to grasp his meaning), but the general public has been served with ill-assorted scraps which can seem to mean just the opposite of what the writer intended when taken out of the context of the argument as a whole. No wonder there is perplexity.

"Don't give us your doubts", a preacher was told, "give us your certainties." The function of the prophet, as was revealed to Jeremiah, is to build and to plant as well as to root out, pull down and destroy. It is a great pity that Dr. Robinson did not start by giving us the substance of what he does believe (for he really is a believing Christian and, I should imagine, an inspiring teacher) and only afterwards tell us what he has had to discard of the traditional scheme. As you read through the book he seems to be peeling an onion, stripping off layer after layer, till you begin to wonder whether there will be anything left. Actually there is something at the core. I found the best chapter to be the central one in the book, when he writes about the person and work of Christ. I felt there was something valuable and helpful there, in which the Bishop speaks to us as a careful scholar of the New Testament. I wish he had started with that and developed it in a more positive way.

Dr. Robinson's contention is that in our time man has 'come of age' and finds he can dispense with God. The Bishop wants to show that it is not God that modern secular man can dispense with but the old forms and symbols through which God has been presented in the past. Even if we no longer think of God as an Old Man in the Sky, he says, we still imagine him as a Person 'out there' who came as a visitor to this world in Jesus Christ.

Dr. Robinson would prefer us to think of God as deep down, "the ground of our being", rather than 'up above' or 'out beyond'. There is nothing new about this idea of depth. It is found in most of the Christian devotional writers. But the Bishop is only substituting one spatial dimension for another, and he lands himself in inconsistencies when later he talks about 'the beyond in the midst'.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury has pointed out, when we pray to God we pray to Him whom Jesus called 'my Father in heaven'. Dr. Robinson expects us to pray not even to 'a sort of a something somewhere', but to a sort of a nothingness nowhere in particular, and (whatever happens) never at a set time. He wants a 'religionless Christianity', but in place of religion he seems to substitute a vague religiosity of finding the sacred in the secular.

As to man having come of age in our time, I should have thought it was truer to say he had become adolescent. It is characteristic of adolescence to think one has found all the answers and to debunk the old people's cherished beliefs. Macaulay in one of his essays likened this disparagement of the achievements of the past to a child standing on his father's shoulders and saying "Look, I'm taller than Daddy!"

I have heard some people say hopefully that the controversy about this book has at least made God a popular topic of conversation and that is all to the good. I cannot agree. People are not going to find God by regarding Him as one more thing to be talked about. St. Paul was not very successful with the men of Athens. "who spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or hear of some new thing". People who are in this frame of mind, "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth", are not easily converted by the dismantling of the things they have no wish to believe in anyway. God is to be found less by speculative reasoning than by reverent waiting upon Him who reveals Himself. For this kind of knowledge the language of worship is more helpful.

Here is an extract from one of Evelyn Underhill's books:—"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name! That tremendous declaration, with its unlimited confidence and unlimited awe, governs everything else. What a contrast this almost inarticulate art of measureless adoration is, to what Karl Barth calls the dreadful prattle of theology. Hallowed be thy Name: not described or analysed be thy Name. Before that Name, let the most soaring intellects cover their wings, and adore."

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

MAY Church Services.

- 1, Wed. SS. Philip & James, Apostles. 10-0 H.C.
5 Easter III. As usual for 1st Sun. (See cover).
8, Wed. No H.C. (See Vicar's letter).
12 Easter IV. As usual for 2nd Sun. (See cover).
14, Tues. M.U. Festival Service, Worcester Cathedral.

15, Wed. 10-0 H.C.

19 Easter V. (Rogation). As usual for 3rd Sun. (See cover).

22, Wed. No H.C.

23, Thurs. ASCENSION DAY. 6-30 & 10-0 H.C. 8 p.m. Evensong (with hymns).

26 Sun. after Ascension. St. Augustine, 1st Archbp. of Cant. As usual for 4th Sun. (See cover).

29, Wed. 10-0 H.C.

JUNE

2 WHITSUNDAY. 7-0 & 8-0 Holy Communion. 10-0 Children's Service. 11-0 Sung Eucharist. 6-45 p.m. Evensong.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., 7th May, 8-0 p.m.

Servers for May 5th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 M. Betteridge. 12th, 8-0 C. Freeman; 11-0 M. Betteridge (Server), N. Redgewell (Crucifier); 6-45 D. Barrand 19th, 8-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 N. Redgewell. Thurs., 23rd (Ascension Day). 6-30 a.m. F. Moran. 25th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 P. Moran; 6-45 D. Crane (Server), M. Betteridge (Crucifier).

War Memorial Flowers. May 5th, Mrs. T. Keen; 12th, Mrs. R. Sparrow; 19th, Mrs. Spencer; 26th, Mrs. C. Haines.

Mothers' Union. On Tuesday, 14th May, at 3 p.m. there will be the annual Festival in the Cathedral, when the Bishop of Oxford will preach. A coach will leave Badsey at 1-45 p.m. fare 4/-, but members wishing to go must sign the list by 7th May.

The branch meeting will be on 28th May at 7-30 p.m.

Plans are being made for the outing to Blenheim on 9th July. The coach for this will leave Badsey at 1 p.m. Details will be available shortly.

Note. Corporate Communion, 1st May, 10-0 a.m. E.G.B.

Confirmation, 31st March

The following were confirmed by the Bishop of Worcester: Margaret Josephine Begley, Margaret Cole, Nancy Joan Grinnell, Gwendoline Frances Hughes, Rosalie Elizabeth Addis, Angela Talboys Byrd, Judith Ann Hartwell, Anne Jane Harwood, Margaret Hatcher, Pamela Mary Jones, Victoria Mary Mustoe, Anthea Janet Taylor, Janet Elizabeth Wheatley, Leslie James Bennett, Peter John Cole, Derek Roger Crane, Selwyn Samuel Gresty, John Philip Harwood, Glyn Llewellyn Cyril Lewis, Peter Leslie Moran, Norman Leslie Redgewell, Norbert Scott Tucker.

Holy Matrimony

Mar. 23 Peter Francis Stewart, of the R.A.F., S. Cerney, Glos., and Julie Ann Stewart, of Badsey.

Burial. R.I.P.

April 3 Alfred Cecil Keen, aged 69.

Our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Keen and family on this sad loss. Mr. Cecil Keen was for some years caretaker of Badsey School. He was a loved and respected member of our village community.

Jottings. Our warm sympathy goes out to Mrs. W. G. Geden, Mrs. G. F. Edwards, and Mrs. A. F. Allen on the deaths of their husbands, and to Mrs. H. L. Hatcher on the death of her mother.

News of the sick is always out of date by the time this gets into print. I will therefore simply ask for your prayers for the following who are in hospital or ill at home at the present time: Mr. Bert Jells, Mr. William Griffin, Mr. Albert Harris, Mr. Charles Savage, Mr. George Hartwell, Mr. William Hartwell, Mrs. Rose Sparrow, Mrs. Deighton, Miss Clinton, Mrs. Turrill, Mrs. Lucy Knight, Mr. Jim Dutton, Mr. Raymond Crane, Mr. John Keen, Miss Crisp, Mr. Frank Herbert, Mrs. Gunn (Mrs. Dickinson's mother). We are happy to welcome home from hospital Mr. W. C. Major, Mrs. Padfield, Mrs. J. Plant, Jr., Mr. Frank Reeves, Mr. A. Newitt (our roadman), Mrs. W. Sandford, Mrs. Diston, and pray for their complete recovery.

Communicants. Week beginning March 24th, 63; 31st, 146; April 7th, 62; 14th, 210.

Donation. In Memoriam Maude A. Hart, A. Leslie Byrd, 10/-.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

MAY

Church Services

Suns, May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th (**Easter III, IV, V, Sun. after Ascension**) As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Suns. (See cover).
Thurs., May 23rd. **ASCENSION DAY.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
Sun., June 2nd. **WHITSUNDAY.** 9 a.m. **Holy Communion** (with hymns). 3-0 Children's Service. 5-30 Evensong and Sermon.

Mothers' Union. On Wednesday, 1st May, at 7-30 p.m., the speaker will be Policewoman G. A. Blagg, who will speak about 'the work of the police'. This visit was postponed owing to the bad weather in February, so I hope a large gathering of members will come this month to hear about this important work. Tea Hostess: Mrs. C. Sturt.

Festival Service in the Cathedral, 14th May. Please see Badsey notes. E.G.B.

The Parochial Church Council at its April meeting decided to invite the newly confirmed and their parents to an informal gathering in the Memorial Hall towards the end of May and invitations will shortly be issued.

Holy Baptism

April 14 Paul Frederick Turley; Judith Angela Green.

Confirmation

March 31, in Badsey Church, by the Bishop of Worcester:— Patricia Haile, Maureen Ann Lewis, Margaret Ann Robbins, Pamela Dawn Sturt, Elizabeth Anne Vaughan, Shirley Ann Webb, Jennifer Jane Whiting

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Burial. R.I.P.

April 10 (after cremation). Laura Hall, aged 83.

Mrs. Hall's death, and that of another member of her family, in a road accident was a sad bereavement, though mercifully she was spared much suffering herself. Both Mrs. Hall and her late husband, who lived in the Willersey Road towards Bowers Hill, had been regular worshippers at Wickhamford Church in former years.

The Sick. News of the sick is generally out of date by the time this is in print, but at the time of writing Mr. and Mrs. P. Heritage, Mrs. E. Pethard, Mr. H. Mitchell, and Mr. A. Newitt have recently come out of hospital, though Mr. Heritage shortly has to go into Warwick Hospital for treatment. Mrs. Pearce is still in hospital. It has been good to see Mr. Johnson back at church.

Women's Institute. At the April meeting Mrs. Parry (president) introduced Dr. E. T. Shennan, Medical Officer of Health, who led a lively discussion on the care of the aged and the young, and was thanked with deep appreciation by Mrs. Boston. Mrs. Thomas, in the absence of Mrs. Litterick read the report of the council meeting at Worcester on March 25th.

Please note that the rummage sale has been postponed to Saturday, May 11. On May 9 there will be a talk by a V.C.O. and a competition for an arrangement of wild flowers. June 13 will be a business meeting, with a competition for cold cookery and party sweet. M.E.H.B.

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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.