

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

October 1963

Price 4/- per annum

Vicar : Rev. P. BRABY, M.A.

Tel. Badsey 3+3

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 Fourth 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 Pitches Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear People,

"The man in the pew" (and even the man before the goggle box) has probably in recent years quite frequently heard the expression, "the Liturgical, Movement." Just one of those phrases, perhaps, which preachers let loose on their congregations (or TV panellists on their audiences) without explanation. Perhaps the man in the street, if asked its meaning, might hazard a guess that it was a medical term or had something to do with population trends.

In last week's Evesham Journal there was an excellent article by the Rev. Bernard Marshall on modern church buildings, and like him I find the best concise definition in the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church: "A Movement of which the object is the restoration of the active participation by the people in the official worship of the Church."

Mr. Marshall describes some of the exciting new church buildings (chiefly on the Continent, but a few in this country) of which the essence of the plan is to provide for the assembly of the people round a central (or nearly central) altar, so that all can see, hear, and participate in, the Eucharistic action. The idea is a return to the earliest form of Christian church building, which grew out of a simple room with a table, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Naturally the 'room' plan could not always be readily adapted to large numbers, and in the West the bigger churches were more on the plan of a Roman law court (basilica), oblong and with the altar at one end, in front of an apse. Not yet however was the altar tucked away against the east wall at the end of a long chancel, hidden from the gaze of the people by an almost impenetrable screen, so that their only part in the service was to hear "the distant mutter of the mass" and say their own private devotions, only interrupted by the Sanctus bell and the raising of flaming torches to remind them that the Elevation was taking place.

At the Reformation some attempt was made to encourage laypeople to receive Communion and to understand the service (now in the common tongue) rather than just being a passive audience. But there were still the long narrow mediaeval church buildings which made any radical return to primitive use impossible, even if the reformers had desired it.

In most parishes we have these same mediaeval buildings today. How can we recapture the essence of the Eucharist as a gathering of the Family round the Lord's Table?

Take Wickhamford Church, for instance. Up there, in that cramped sanctuary, isolated from the people, the priest feels himself to be in quarantine. He cannot hear their responses: they cannot see what he is doing. For all they know, he may be performing some mummery of his own devising. To him, his own voice sounds rich and fruity, like singing in one's bath: the chancel is a sound-box.

But very little of it is penetrating through the little aperture of the chancel arch into the nave. What is the remedy? Pull down the church and build another with a central altar?

There is no need for anything so drastic. They found some sort of solution at the time of the Reformation, still using the same buildings. In the reign of the first Elizabeth, if you had attended Holy Communion in Wickhamford Church or any other church, you would have found the Holy Table had been brought down into the chancel and was placed so that its ends faced east and west. The priest stood at the north side of it, so that at the time of consecration the actions of blessing and breaking the bread, etc could be clearly seen. In any case, at the words "Draw near with faith...", the communicants came up into the chancel and ranged themselves round the altar, so that there really was a family gathering about the Lord's Table. In Hailes Church, not far from here, and at Deerhurst, near Tewkesbury, you can still see the old arrangement of seats in the chancel round four sides of the central space where the Communion table used to stand. Later on Archbishop Laud insisted on the altars being placed against the east wall and railed off. Later still, in Victorian times, most choir galleries at the west end of the nave were pulled down, and choir stalls erected in the chancel instead (in imitation of cathedral and collegiate churches), thus further obscuring the view of the altar by the communicants.

But not in Wickhamford. Here we have that wonderful and rare thing for these days: a chancel not cluttered with fixed stalls. Have we not in Wickhamford Church the very remedy for its own defects? We have no room to place an altar in the nave, as is done nowadays in many churches with long narrow chancels. But there is plenty of room in the chancel itself.

At the 9 a.m. celebration at the Harvest Festival, Sunday, 6th October, with the full concurrence of the P.C.C., I propose to carry out the following experiment. The altar will be brought down to the chancel and placed lengthwise, i.e. with the ends east and west instead of north and south. I shall stand on the north side, as the rubric in the Prayer Book directs. Furthermore, instead of wafers we shall use a loaf of bread baked in the parish. The breaking of the bread will be clearly seen by those present. Instead of imported wine we shall use a bottle of home-made wine also made in the parish. There will be long kneelers in the chancel round three sides of the holy table, and at the time of Communion the communicants will come up and take their places round the table.

We are not trying this experiment as a piece of antiquarian revivalism, nor as a stunt. It has two objects: to overcome the particular architectural difficulties of Wickhamford Church which make the Eucharistic worship seem so remote; and to

try to recapture the sense of the family gathering at our Father's table which we seem to have lost in recent centuries. If it turns out that the experiment is worth repeating, I shall gladly do so. Badsey Church does not present quite the same problems. But if there are features of the Wickhamford experiment which could profitably be adapted to the worship at Badsey, I shall be happy to discuss them with Badsey P.C.C.

Two Paperbacks for your autumn reading. "For Christ's Sake", by O. Fielding Clarke (Religious Education Press 5/-). A reply to "Honest to God". The author not only exposes quite devastatingly the wooliness of Woolwich: he offers a positive and constructive faith for Christians in the world of today. "An Exposition of Christian Sex Ethics" by V. A. Demant (Hodder 4/6). A really splendid answer to some of the muddleheadedness of "the new morality", given with a light touch and much sensible advice on courtship and marriage, among other things.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

OCT. Church Services

- 2, Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 6 **Trinity XVII. HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 8-0 H.C.
 11-0 Family Service & Children's Harvest Offerings. 6-45 Evensong.
 9, Wed. St. Denys, Bp. & M. 10-0 H.C.
 13 **Trinity XVIII.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
 16, Wed. No H.C.
 18, Fri. **St. Luke, Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.
 20 **Trinity XIX.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
 23, Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 27 **Trinity XX.** As usual for 4th Sun. 8-0 & 6-45 H.C.
 28, Mon. **S.S. Simon & Jude, Apostles.**
 30, Wed. No H.C.
 1, Fri. **All Saints' Day.** 6-30 & 10-0 H.C.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Gifts of fruit, eggs, vegetables, flowers, etc. will be welcome, and should be brought to the church on Saturday, Oct. 5, not later than 10 a.m. when decorating will begin. The children will bring their own offerings up to the altar at the Family Service at 11-0 on the Sunday.

We shall be glad of helpers on Monday morning, Oct. 7, from 9-30, to sort out the goods, prepare and deliver baskets to the sick, and the rest for the hospital. Cars will be useful if available.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., 1st October, 7-30 p.m.

Servers for October. 6th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 P. Moran. 13th, 8-0 C. Freeman; 11-0 D. Crane (Server), N. Redgewell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Betteridge. 20th, 8-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 N. Redgewell. 27th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 P. Moran; 6-45 M. Betteridge (Server), D. Crane (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Oct. 6th, Mrs. Dungworth; 13th, Mrs. P. Sparrow; 20th, Mrs. Bonehill; 27th, Mrs. F. Cleaver.

Sunday School. During September the children moved to their new classes. This is an excellent time to start or re-start Sunday School, as, like the day schools, we too start a new year's work. The under sevens meet in the Remembrance Hall and the Parish Room at 10-0 a.m. every Sunday, the Juniors at church, also at 10-0., every Sunday except the 1st, when they meet at 11-0 for the Family Service. The senior section is meeting on Tuesdays at 5-0 p.m. in the Parish Room for instruction, followed by club activities. They will be worshipping with the Family at the normal services on Sundays. This club is for boys and girls of 11 years and upwards. C.P.W.

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

- Oct. 7 Committee Meeting 2-30 p.m.
 8 Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Barnish
 The Toronto Congress. (Also Bring & Buy Stall.)
 22 Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Speaker:

Refreshments will be given by Mrs. G. A. Jones and Mrs. G. Knight on 8th Oct. and by Mrs. Hutchings and Mrs. Ives on the 22nd.

Please note—Corporate Communion Wed., 2nd Oct. at 10 a.m. E.G.B.

Holy Baptism

- Aug. 18 Simon John Hatcher; Paul Antony Trotman.
 Sept. 15 Alison Jayne Hartland.

Holy Matrimony

- Aug. 17 Vernon Antony Rogers, of Offenham, and Anita May Chamberlain, of Badsey.
 Sept. 14 Paul Arthur Frederick Brown, of Honeybourne, and Pamela Irene Owens, of Badsey.

The Sick. We were very sorry that Mr. Edgar Mitchell had to go to hospital, he has been resting quietly and hopes soon to be home again. Mr. Moisey, at the time of writing, is still in Cheltenham Hospital recovering from his operation. Your prayers are asked also for Mrs. Dobbins and Mrs. Wheeler ill at home, and for our parishioners in Avonside Hospital: Mrs. Turrill, Mrs. Deighton, Mrs. Lucy Knight, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Goldstraw, Senr., Mr. Raymond Crane, Mr. Jim Dutton, Mr. Charlie Knight. It has been good to see Mrs. J. Plant, Senr. about again and looking so much better.

Communicants. Week beginning Aug. 18th, 41; 25th, 56; Sept. 1st, 20; 8th, 52.

Birthday Half-Crowns. Jonathan Braby, Mr. Bertram Jones, Mrs. Bertram Jones.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

OCT. Church Services.

- Sun. Oct. 6, **HARVEST FESTIVAL 9 a.m. Holy Communion** (with hymns). See Vicar's Letter. 3 p.m. Children's Harvest Gift Service. 5-30 p.m. Evensong.
Suns., Oct. 13, 20, 27 (**Trinity XVIII, XIX, XX.**) As usual for 2nd, 3rd, 4th Suns.
 Thurs., Nov. 1, **All Saints' Day.** 7-30 H.C.

P.C.C. Short Special Meeting, Wed., Oct. 3rd, 7-0 p.m.

HARVEST SUPPER. Wickhamford Memorial Hall, Wed., 9th October, 7-30 p.m. Chicken Supper, followed by Social. Tickets 6/- each may be obtained from any member of the P.C.C. All parishioners invited, but tickets must be obtained before Oct. 6. During the evening, there will be an auction of produce for church funds.

Moral Welfare. At this time the annual house-to-house collection for this important work is in progress. Please respond generously.

Mothers' Union. At the Branch Meeting on Wed. 2nd Oct. at 7-30 p.m. Mrs. McCalman will speak on her visit to Iona, and will show coloured slides.

On Wed. 16th Oct. at 2-30 p.m., Sister Davies is to be our speaker on the subject of "Keeping Well", and she will be pleased to answer questions.

Both these meetings are open to visitors as well as members, so do come along. We shall be very pleased to welcome you. (Tea hostesses will be Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. Roberts respectively).

Birthday Half-crowns. Mrs. Davies, R.F.B., L.E.G., M.E.B.

Congratulations to that very wonderful person, Mrs. Davies on celebrating her 90th birthday last month. She was at church as usual on that day, looking as game as ever.

Mrs. Pearce and Mrs. P. Sutton, at present in hospital, are assured of our prayers.

Sunday School Outing. We were fortunate in having a fine afternoon when we visited Warwick Castle on the 26th August for our annual outing. The Castle proved to be full of interest to both children and adults, and the grounds, with the peacocks and gold fish ponds, were quite delightful. An excellent tea was provided by the "Porridge Pot", then a rollicking time on the Park's amusements rounded off a very happy afternoon. Many thanks to all adult members of our party, who gave such valuable assistance in caring for the safety and pleasure of the children. The children's behaviour as always, was exemplary; parents will be delighted to hear that even the Castle Guide commended them!

Unfortunately, the Vicar was unable to accompany us, the date clashing with his holiday, but Deaconess came instead. One quite small child soon made enquiries about him, a sign he was not forgotten!

Our thanks go out to Mr. John Drysdale, who again defrayed the cost of the tea. Wickhamford Sunday School is indeed fortunate in having two such devoted benefactors as he and Mrs. Drysdale, who in addition to paying for the Annual Tea and Prizes, evince a constant interest in the School re-opened by his mother so many years ago.

A.L.C.

Womens' Institute. At the September meeting Mrs. Parry (president) welcomed new members and congratulated Mrs. Hampton on her recent golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Bent then took the chair, it being members' night, and gave a cleverly rhymed description of the outing to Coughton Court in July, so enjoyed by 22 members and two brave husbands. Mesdames, Cox, Jones and Holding ably assisted in making the evening a success and were also tea hostesses. Mrs. Whitford spoke about her recent visit to Persia, and hoped to come again with colour slides. The trading stall did brisk business. Mrs. Jones won the monthly parcel and Mrs. Daffurn volunteered to be sick visitor for the month.

Forthcoming events: Next meeting, October 10, fashion show and competition (something new from something old) also plant stall; October 11, bingo, run by Mrs. Byron.

M.E.B.

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.