

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

January, 1965

Price 4/- per annum

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

(Tel. Badsey 343)

Deaconess : MISS C. P. WRIGHT.

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BADSEY.

SUNDAY SERVICES :

8 a.m.—Holy Communion (also at 6-45 p.m. on the Fourth Sunday and 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 (except 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.

<i>Churchwardens</i>	...	Mr. G. A. Jones.	Tel. Badsey 333.
		Mr. G. H. Stewart.	Tel. Badsey 219.
<i>Secretary P.C.C.</i>	...	Mr. H. L. Hatcher.	
<i>Treasurer P.C.C.</i>	...	Mr. M. H. Harvey.	Tel. Badsey 325.
<i>Clerk</i>	...	Mr. E. Mitchell, 68 Synehurst.	

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

SUNDAY SERVICES :

9 a.m.—First Sunday and Festivals : Holy Communion.

10 a.m.—Third Sunday : Holy Communion.

11 a.m.—Fourth Sunday : Family Service.

5-30 p.m.—Every Sunday : Evensong.

WEEKDAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

<i>Churchwardens</i>	...	Mr. E. Cooke.	Tel. Badsey 237.
		Mr. J. E. Parry.	Tel. Badsey 244.
<i>Secretary P.C.C.</i>	...	Mrs. E. Cooke.	
<i>Treasurer P.C.C.</i>	...	Mrs. M. Jones.	
<i>Clerk</i>	...	Mr. C. H. Willis, 35 Pitchers Hill.	

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear People,

Whatever 1965 may have in store for us, all who love the Lord pray that it may bring even greater advance towards Christian unity. Outwardly we know there will be important events: the conclusion of the Vatican Council, decisions to be taken by the Anglican and Methodist Churches in this country on the recent Report, inauguration of reunion schemes in Nigeria, Canada and other countries. What matters even more is the gentle yet compelling movement of the Spirit among ordinary Christian men and women in the places where they live, work and worship.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Jan. 18 to 25. There will be a big Christian rally as usual in Evesham Public Hall, on Wed., Jan. 20, at 7-30 p.m. The subject will be "Worship". Cllr. George, the Deputy Mayor, will be in the chair, and the speakers will be an Anglican, a Roman Catholic and a Methodist. As last year we shall have in the Meeting House, Badsey, a united prayer meeting for Christians of all denominations, and this will be on Tues., Jan. 19, at 7-30 p.m. The meeting will last half an hour.

The World Council of Churches have prepared an excellent leaflet with prayers and meditations for private use for every day of that week, and I have ordered a quantity. Each member of the Prayer Guild will receive one free with their January intercession paper, and there will be plenty over for others at 2d. each. By the way, now is a good time to join our Badsey and Wickhamford Prayer Guild. The annual subscription is 1/-, and members receive a monthly intercession paper, mainly parochial. Each then knows himself to be one of a group of people praying for the same objects and using the same prayers.

Sunday Observance Report

The Crathorne Report on Sunday Observance, as was to be expected, proposes alterations in the law which, if implemented, will further secularise Sunday. Certainly there are some absurd anomalies in the law as it stands, in some cases unfair, and in many respects unenforceable because unacceptable to public opinion.

The original object of Sunday Observance Laws was to protect the liberty of the subject: to prevent people from being forced to work unnecessarily on Sundays or being prohibited from lawful recreation. These laws begin with the Declaration of Sports issued by James I. Its aim was to stop Puritan busybodies interfering with people's recreations on Sunday after divine service, i.e. after evensong, which was held in the early afternoon. "Our pleasure is that after the end of divine service our good people be not disturbed, letted or discouraged from any lawful recreation, such as dancing, either men or women; archery for men, leaping, vaulting, or any other such harmless recreation, nor from having of May-games, Whitsun-ales, and Morris-dances; and setting up of May-poles and other sports therewith used: so as the same be had in due and convenient time, without impediment or neglect of divine service". (Bull and bear baiting and plays were however prohibited on Sundays, because they encouraged people to gather in large and noisy crowds merely to watch entertainment and not to recreate themselves).

The reasons given for this declaration are interesting: (1) that the Papists should not have cause to say there was no honest mirth allowable in the Church of England; (2) that discouragement of such exercises would make the common people less fit for war, "when His

Majesty or his successors shall have occasion to use them; and in place thereof sets up filthy tippling and drunkenness, and breeds a number of idle and discontented speeches in their ale-houses. For when shall the common people have leave to exercise, if not upon the Sundays and Holy-days, seeing they must apply their labour and earn their living in all working-days?"

Holiday is Holy Day

In those days there were no paid annual vacations of two or three weeks, nor were there 'weekends': Sundays and other holy days were the only holidays. The other big difference is that the recreations of the old "merrie England" were essentially communal and corporate. On Sundays and saints' days they did things together as families - went to church together, and dispersed themselves together on the village green. They played outdoor games; they did not lose their identity in vast crowds several miles away watching professional players. If they stayed at home it was not to gape passively at mass entertainment laid on for them, but to practise the arts of home entertainment - singing with instrumental accompaniment, reading aloud (especially, on Sundays, from the Bible).

As far as Sunday sport is concerned, one is glad to note that the Crathorne Committee have recognised this distinction, though in the provision of mass entertainment on Sundays, it seems they wish to open the floodgates completely.

They profess a desire to retain as far as possible the special character of Sunday, yet it must be admitted that their proposals would almost entirely erode what little is left of that special character.

One can sympathise with their difficulties. It is obvious that no amount of outworn Lord's Day Observance laws or other obstructions are going to prevent people from spending 'their' Sunday as they choose, or to increase the attendances at church or check the secularisation of the day. What is basically wrong is the attitude that such restrictions as should be retained are for the sake of the minority of religious-minded people who want to observe Sunday as a sacred day. We are approaching a situation in which the State proclaims itself to be completely neutral where the laws of God are concerned.

God's Law and Man's Laws

Now the laws of God do not affect only a minority of people who think in some queer outmoded way that God ought to be honoured. If someone ignores the law of gravity by walking over the edge of a cliff, the consequences will be just the same whether he is a Christian or an atheist. As with the laws called natural, so with the laws called moral. If only a minority of people are expected to do no murder or not commit adultery or not steal, society would soon destroy itself as effectively as by any nuclear war.

The 4th commandment is just as much one of God's laws as the 6th or 8th. God has decreed that it is necessary for our very existence as human beings that one day in seven should be set apart for cessation from work and the dedication of that work and of all life to the eternal purpose for which we were created. If man consistently ignores that law, his body wears out, his mind dries up, and his soul withers.

So let us explode this silly myth that the only reason for having laws about Sunday observance is to safeguard the interests of people who like a spot of religion.

The New Sabbatarianism

As a matter of fact, everybody worships on Sundays. If people don't worship God, they worship some man-made idol which degrades them into the image of itself. Sunday is becoming the day of mass slavery to pagan conventions far more tyrannical than the traditions of the Pharisees ever were.

From hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment, good Lord, deliver us.

Electoral Rolls

In February we shall have the annual meetings of our churches (Badsey Feb. 16, Wickhamford Feb. 24). Before then the Electoral Rolls have to be revised and brought up to date. If you are not on the roll of your parish and are a baptised member of the Church of England over 17 residing in the parish (or regularly attending church here for the last 6 months), you should apply for inclusion on the Roll. Forms are available at the churches or the vicarage. When signed, they should be returned to Mr. H. L. Hatcher, 53, Bretforton Road (Badsey) by Feb. 2, or to Mrs. Cooke, Robin Cottage (Wickhamford) by Feb. 10.

A blessed New Year to you all.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Study Group on Faith & Practice of the Church of England.

Tues., Jan. 12, Meeting House, Badsey, 7-30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 27, Memorial Hall, Wickhamford, 7-30 p.m.

BADSEY & ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Jan.

- 1, Fri. **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 10-0 H.C.
- 3 **Christmas II.** As usual for 1st Sun.
- 6, Wed. **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.** 10-0 H.C.
- 10 **Epiphany I.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 13, Wed. St. Hilary, Bp. & Dr. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 **Epiphany II.** St. Antony, Abbot. As usual for 3rd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
18. Mon. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (see Vicar's Letter).
- 19, Tues. St. Wulfstan, Bp. 7-30 p.m. United Prayer Meeting in Meeting House.
- 20, Wed. St. Fabian, Bp. & M. 10-0 H.C. 7-30 p.m. Christian Unity Meeting, Evesham Public Hall.
- 24 **Epiphany III.** As usual for 4th Sun.
25. Mon. **Conversion of St. Paul.** 7-0 H.C. End of Week of Prayer.
- 27, Wed. St. John Chrysostom, Bp. & Dr. 10-0 H.C.
- 31 **Epiphany IV.** As usual for 5th Sun.

Feb.

- 2, Tues. **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** 10-0 H.C.

P.C.C. There will be no meeting of the Council in January. Committees will meet as follows: Overseas, Tues., Jan. 19, Meeting House, 8 p.m. Pastoral, Fri., Jan. 29, Parish Room, 8-15 p.m. Finance, Mon., Feb. 1, Parish Room, 8-15 p.m. Next Council meeting, Tues., Feb. 2.

Rev. W. B. Chapman Memorial Fund. The appeal will not now close till Jan. 31. A list of subscribers (but not the amounts) will be posted in the church porch. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Stewart, 36, Bretforton Road.

Mothers' Union. The Annual General Meeting of the branch will be on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 2-30 p.m. Tea hostesses will be Mrs. G. H. Stewart (Committee) and Mesdames C. Harwood, R. Hartwell, Hatcher, Harvey.

The annual party will be on Tues., Jan. 26, from 7-0 to 10 p.m. when, as last year, members are asked to bring some food for pooling. If you have not already done so, please give your name either to me or Mrs. Harvey. E.G.B.

Choir Cassocks. Many of these are in need of repair (buttons, etc.) I would be grateful if some ladies would help with this at the Vicarage on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 2-30 p.m. E.G.B.

Burials, R.I.P.

Dec. 2. Laura Agnes Mary Nightingale, aged 71.

Dec. 4. Lucy Knight, aged 83.

We extend our warm sympathy to all relatives and close friends of the above, also to Mr. Tom Major and family in the loss of his younger son Colin.

Mrs. Nightingale seems to have died quite peacefully in her sleep. Unassuming and friendly, she will be much missed.

Mrs. Knight died in hospital after a fairly long illness. We thank God that peace has come to her at length after a life of much suffering and sorrow. She had a sweet nature, an undaunted faith, and a generous and thankful heart.

The Sick. At the time of writing, twin babies Sarah and Martin, born to Mr. and Mrs. Jennings of 54 Bretforton Road, are seriously ill, and we pray for them and their parents. We pray for other parishioners in hospital since our last number: Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. R. Porter, Andrew Pedrick (who has had to return to hospital, we hope only for a short stay this time). We welcome home from hospital, Mr. R. Chamberlain, and Mrs. Podesta after a major operation. John Harwood has a badly fractured arm from an accident at football.

Servers for January. 3rd, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 A. Silvester; 6-45 D. Barrand. 10th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 S. Gresty (Server), C. Harwood (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Partidge; 17th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 24th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 D. Crane (Server), A. Silvester (Crucifer). 31st, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 S. Gresty.

Communicants. Week beginning Nov. 22nd, 77; 29th, 47; Dec. 6th, 28; 13th, 51.

Electoral Roll. See Vicar's Letter.

Study Group. See notes after Vicar's Letter.

Acknowledgments. Birthday Half-crowns: Mrs. G. G. Knight, Miss J. Sladden.

Wedding Anniversary 5/-: Mr. & Mrs. B. Jones.

Silver Jubilee of Priesthood 25/-: Rev. P. Braby.

S.P.G. Boxes 1964: £54-14-0. Children's Society Boxes 1964: £23-8-0.

As last year, the P.C.C. has allocated from its funds £20 each to C.M.S., S.P.C.K., B. & F.B.S.

Mothers' Union. The one branch meeting this month will be on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 2-45 p.m. when the tea hostess will be Mrs. C. Sturt.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due and should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. F. Smith. E.G.B.

The Sick. Your prayers are asked for Mrs. C. R. Pearce, in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, and Mr. J. Dolphin in Ronkswood Hospital. We give thanks for the recovery of little Lynne Winkett from pneumonia.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Suns., Jan. 3 (Christmas II) 10, 17, 24, 31 (Epiphany I, II, III, IV). As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Suns.

Jan. 18 to 25. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (See Vicar's Letter).

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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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.