

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

AUGUST, 1965.

PRICE 4/- PER ANNUM

Vicar: REV. P. BRABY, M.A.  
(Tel. Badsey 343)

Deaconess: MISS C. P. WRIGHT.  
Vicarage Cottage

## CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BADSEY.

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

First Sunday ... .. Holy Communion 8 and 11 a.m. (said). Evensong 6-45 p.m.  
Second Sunday ... .. Family Eucharist 10 a.m. Evensong 6-45 p.m.  
Third Sunday ... .. Holy Communion 8 a.m. Evensong 6-45 p.m.  
Fourth Sunday ... .. Holy Communion 8 a.m. Family Mattins 10 a.m.  
Evening Eucharist 6-45 p.m.  
Fifth Sunday ... .. Holy Communion 8 a.m. Mattins 11 a.m. Evensong 6-45 p.m.  
Holy Baptism ... .. 3rd Sun., 3 p.m. (Parents must see the Vicar personally at least  
seven days before).  
Sunday School ... .. 10 a.m. (except 2nd and 4th Suns.). Over 7, Meeting House.  
Under 7, Parish Room and Village Hall.

### WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

Churchwardens ... .. Mr. G. H. Stewart, 36, Bretforton Road. (Badsey 219).  
Mr. J. F. Ives, 45, Brewers Lane.  
Clerk ... .. Mr. E. Mitchell, 68, Synehurst.

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

First Sunday and  
Festivals ... .. Holy Communion 9 a.m.  
Third Sunday ... .. Family Eucharist 11 a.m.  
Every Sunday ... .. Evensong 5-30 p.m.  
Sunday School ... .. 11 a.m. (except 3rd Sunday), Village Hall.

### WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

Churchwardens ... .. Mr. E. Cooke, Robin Cottage. (Badsey 237).  
Mr. J. E. Parry, Wickham House. (Badsey 244).  
Clerk ... .. Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

## THE VICAR'S LETTER

19th July, 1965.

My dear People,

An engagement has been announced.

It is cause for great thankfulness that the representative bodies of both the **Anglican and Methodist Churches** in this country have now declared (by substantial majorities) their intention to go forward towards re-union on the main lines of the recent Conversations.

But let no one suppose that the need for prayer, hard thinking, and 'speaking the truth in love' is finished. Consultations have only reached the end of the beginning. Many problems shelved or lightly skated over in the Joint Conversations have yet to be squarely faced. The Report was never intended to do more than provide a framework for negotiations. A joint commission is now to be set up, which will not report back until 1968. Unity is still a long way off.

At least we seem to have reached the point of no return. What might have been no more than a mild flirtation is now an engagement to be married. Engagements, it is true, can always be broken off; if this one were to be, it would have tragic consequences for the whole Christian cause. We pray that the declared intention to go forward to full communion (and later to organic union) may be a spur to deeper understanding and fellowship, and a growing together in common obedience and love to our blessed Lord.

### Religious Education

In one extremely important sphere we may hope that the increasing momentum of Christian co-operation will be effective. Denominational differences in the past have severely hampered the work of Christian education in State schools. Because of these differences it has been laid down in successive Education Acts that "no catechism or formula distinctive of any particular denomination may be taught". Fair enough; but Nothingarianism is not Christianity. A virile presentation of Christian truth cannot be made on the basis of the lowest common denominator of all denominations.

Christian education has been well defined in a new agreed syllabus of one of the county authorities: "The aim of religious instruction is not merely to impart religious knowledge but to bring the scholars into living contact with Christ in a worshipping community (where possible the one to which their parents belong)".

### Enforced but enfeebled

The Education Act of 1944 laid down that religious instruction should be given in every school and that each school day should begin with an act of collective worship. In county schools the religious instruction was to be on the basis of an 'agreed syllabus' drawn up by the local education authority in consultation with representatives of the churches.

In formulating the original agreed syllabuses, caution was the order of the day. No one wanted to raise awkward questions, to re-ignite sectarian strife, or to arouse the least suspicion in the minds of teachers that they were being asked to give 'denominational instruction' in any form. (Even the Apostles' Creed was considered risky from this point of view). Consequently it was felt by those who drew up these syllabuses that the safest thing was to stick to 'straightforward Bible lessons'. Cut out creeds, dogmas, commandments, sacraments; liturgy; and just give the children a good grounding in the Old and New Testaments, preferably (if you wanted to play safe) without comment.

### Dead Language

It sounds all very fine to say, 'Teach the Bible', and leave it at that. A few teachers have the gift of making the Bible seem alive and meaningful in the context of present day living. But most teachers in Christian education. (as distinct from merely religious knowledge)

find such a syllabus extremely hampering. Its general effect has been to confirm the majority of the younger generation in a completely negative attitude towards Christianity. The Bible seems as dead and useless to them in their upbringing as Latin or ancient history.

Bishop Cockin, in an article in the monthly review "Theology", quotes comments by secondary school Heads on the syllabuses used in their areas. Here are two of them: "Too much of the time is devoted to superfluous Old Testament passages. As the children are not Jews they are not interested in the carryings on of a minor state thousands of years ago, and they are not interested in Messianic prophecy. Their environment already gives enough encouragement to the view that 'religion's got nothing to do or say today', and 'it's a waste of time', without R.I. teachers adding fuel by teaching O.T. stories". "The syllabus does not encourage the approach I think most valuable" (writes another). "It is doctrinaire and its thinking is about 1945 vintage, i.e. Biblical facts to be delivered, and their modern significance then elucidated. It begins with the Bible. I prefer to begin with the children and work into the Bible. It is too 'religious', and not near enough to 'life'".

It is good to hear that the new spirit of ecumenical co-operation is resulting in revised agreed syllabuses in many counties—syllabuses with more scope and 'punch' for teachers who are alive to the needs and attitudes of children today.

### Campaign against Christian Teaching

The religious provisions of the 1944 Education Act are coming increasingly under attack. It is being argued that, since only a minority of adults in this country profess the Christian faith and join in Christian worship, it is wrong to insist upon Christian education by law. The surprising thing is that a recent public opinion poll among parents of schoolchildren on this very question showed an overwhelming majority in favour of continuing the present provisions. As very few of these parents participate in Christian worship or give Christian instruction at home, the inference is that they want their children to be taught about God, but they want someone else to do it. They are in effect throwing the responsibility on the teachers for the Christian upbringing of their children.

### "Feed my lambs"

How tremendously important then, is the supply of convinced Christian teachers, really expert and qualified in their subject, if the Good News of Christ is to be a live option in the Britain of tomorrow. It is no good having compulsory Christian teaching, nor the most skillfully devised syllabus, if there just are not the teachers to give it. It would be better for the Christian cause in this country that compulsory religious teaching should go—far, far better—than for it to be put over by unbelievers or merely nominal Christians who have got to 'fill in the period somehow'.

Yet there are very few students in training colleges who offer R.I. as their special subject (or even as one of their subjects) for certificate. Here is a vicious circle which cannot be broken by either the schools or the training colleges. Few students take the subject because in so few secondary schools it is taken in G.C.E., even at ordinary level. The reason is that the schools have not enough qualified teachers in this subject. And the reason for that.....

This is where the churches come in. If the vicious circle is to be broken, it is they who must present this to their young people as a Christian vocation of primary importance. There are some in our parishes on whom Christ has laid his hand and is saying "Follow Me... Feed my lambs". If they have the aptitude for teaching, they ought seriously to consider whether they should

not answer the call of the great Teacher to the demanding but rewarding work of imparting Christian truth. Having answered that call, they should do everything possible to equip themselves for the task.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

Note that there will be **no mid-week celebrations** of Holy Communion during August. There will be **no 11 a.m. Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday. Holy Baptism** will be administered on **Aug. 22** instead of the 3rd Sunday.

Otherwise Sunday services as usual (See Front Cover).

**Sunday School.** We have once more reached the end of our Sunday School year. During the year the children have done a great deal of individual work, which we hope will be seen by parents and friends at an exhibition in September.

We are very sorry to be losing two of our teachers, Angela Byrd and Anthea Taylor. Both will be going to college in the autumn. We thank them for the work they have done for us in our Sunday School and we hope they will enjoy their college life.

Sunday School will re-start on 19th Sept. The family services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10-0 continue as usual during the holidays, and we hope that parents will bring the children with them to these and other services. C.P.W.

### The Fête, 26th June

Doubtful weather all that week produced gloomy prognostications that "this time they really will have to use the Village Hall". However, the sun shone as usual on our outdoor festivities, enlivened this year by the attendance of the Blackminster School Silver Band. Mr. Austen Jones opened the fete with a concise and clear account of its objects, and everyone was gratified when it was announced next day that the total proceeds were over £200. Certainly people had worked very hard and given generously to stock the stalls and prepare refreshments and entertainment. The proceeds were later allocated by the P.C.C. in the proportion earlier agreed at a village meeting: U.S.P.G. project in Fiji, £90; N.S.P.C.C., £90; 'Help Aged Refugees' £23-5-0.

Detailed receipts were as follows:— Donations £7-7-2; Programmes, £13-15-0; Gate Money, £2-18-6; Teas, £8-7-8; Produce Stall, £34-13-9; Overseas Committee Stall, £26-5-3; M.U. Stall, £20-13-6; W.I. Cake Stall, £10-13-6; Handkerchief Stall, £6-10-0; Youth Fellowship and Junior Club, £9-1-11; Bottle Stall, £13-7-0; Tombola (and Raffle for Camera), £16-3-3; Raffle for Ham, £17-10-0; Bowling, £4-13-1; Fun and Games, £4-6-9; Orange Shy, £4-12-6; Ping Pong Balls, £2-8-2; Button Mine, 10/-.

Total £203-19-0, less Insurance 14/-: **£203-5-0.**

### Holy Baptism

July 11 Clifford Andrew Wells.

### Holy Matrimony

July 3 Graham Reginald Haines and Christine Joan Sadler, both of Badsey.

### Burials, R.I.P.

July 2 Frank Perkins, aged 78.

Our profound sympathy with Mrs. Perkins and relatives. Mr. Perkins had been in failing health for some time, but it was always a pleasure to meet him in the post office or on one of his little walks in the village, because of his unflinching courage and cheerfulness. Although not natives of Badsey, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have made any friends here, and we are all encouraged by the Christian fortitude with which they have faced many personal sorrows.

Mr. James Dutton (Jim to his friends) died in hospital after a long illness and gradually failing powers; the funeral was at Cheltenham Crematorium on 13th July. He had done great service on the Midland Red buses in his time, and was an enthusiastic member of Badsey football and cricket clubs. He was a genial, friendly man, and in the sufferings of the last months revealed a simple but strong Christian faith.

**The Sick.** At the time of writing Mrs. March is laid up at home, and we wish her a speedy recovery: it is a great deprivation for her to miss church. Mr. R. Chamberlain is convalescent at home after being very ill: we thank God for his deliverance. We welcome home from hospital also Mr. Frank Harwood of Aldington, Mrs. Charles Hall, Mr. L. Bott, Mr. Higginson, Mrs. Francis Perkins, Jonathan Welsh, and pray for successful convalescence. Mrs. Richards has now gone to hospital and may have to have an operation. Mrs. Ted Evans is still in hospital, and so is Mrs. C. Knight, who was stated in error in the last number to have returned home. Mrs. Turill, Mrs. Deighton and Mrs. E. Cole, in Avonside, have been rather poorly. Mr. Albert Stewart is in hospital, and Mr. C. Stewart has been laid up after injuring his leg. Sally Bindoff is in the Eye Hospital, and Colin Harwood is waiting to go into hospital to have a cartilage removed. Mr. Bill (Conger) Jones has been ill again but with his usual toughness made a rapid recovery. We pray for Mrs. D. Wright of Middle Littleton, who is ill and staying with her brother and sister-in-law Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Lord.

**Servers for August.** 1st, 8-0 P. Moran; 6-45 D. Partridge. 8th, 10-0 S. Gresty (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 15th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 A. Silvester. 22nd, 8-0 D. Partridge; 10-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 D. Crane (Server), S. Gresty (Crucifer). 29th, 8-0 T. Hatcher; 11-0 D. Crane; 6-45 C. Hartwell.

**War Memorial Flowers.** Aug. 1st, Mrs. Cecil Crane; 8th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 15th, Mrs. R. Hartwell; 22nd, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 29th, Mrs. G. Marshall.

**Communicants.** Week beginning June 20th, 38; 27th, 73; July 4th, 47; 11th, 57.

**Birthday Half-crown.** Rev. P. Braby.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

Sunday services as usual. See front Cover.

### Holy Baptism

June 27 Lorna Irene Carter.  
July 4 Mary Shaw; Andrew Ward.

### Holy Matrimony

June 30 William Archer Johnson and Violet Cox, both of Wickhamford.

**Jottings.** It was very unfortunate that, so soon after the happy event recorded above, the bridegroom had to go into hospital, but we are glad he is now home, and wish them both health and happiness.

Congratulations to Glenn Frederick Cox on his marriage to Patricia Ann Stock at Peabworth on 17th July.

Congratulations also to Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Sheaf, formerly of Wickhamford, on their Golden Wedding on 19th July.

We welcome home from hospital, Mr. W. Merriman, and are glad he is so much better. Your prayers are asked for Mrs. Franklin, who is in hospital at the time of writing.

It is sad to have to say goodbye, after so short an acquaintance, to Derek and Carol Vernon. They have to leave this district to take up teaching appointments in Nottingham. In the twelve months they have been here, they have given much to the life of our church and parish, and their departure is a very great loss to us. Carol has given her musical talents freely and enthusiastically at the organ, and we shall also miss Derek's beautiful rendering of the lessons. We wish them both great happiness in their future, and thank them for their service and fellowship in the Lord.

Will anyone help us to find an organist?

**Birthdays** Half-crowns. Mrs. Nott, Rev. P. Braby.

### THE FETE

Saturday afternoon, 28th August.

It is hoped that as many parishioners and their friends as possible will support the Fête at Field Farm, Wickhamford, that afternoon. The Committee are arranging the following programme, after the opening at 2-30 p.m. by D. G. S. Russell, Esq., O.B.E.

Bowling for the Pig, 2-30 p.m. onwards.

Fortune Telling, 3 p.m. onwards.

Children's Fancy Dress, 3-30 p.m.

Tug of War, 4 p.m.

Draw, 4-30 p.m. approx.

In addition to this programme of events there will be a Clay Pigeon Shoot during the course of the afternoon, and at intervals there will be some races for the children. For the younger children there will be pony rides.

Throughout the afternoon the various gift stalls, produce stall, bottle stall, cake stall, etc. will be open, and it is hoped they will be well supported.

Teas, cakes and ices will be available in the Marquee during the afternoon.

The Draw, for which there are numerous prizes, donated by local tradesmen etc., will be drawn by Mrs. Braby at approximately 4-30 p.m., and tickets (6d. each) can be obtained from any member of the P.C.C. and will also be on sale at the Fête. Additional tickets can be obtained from Mr. C. Beacon, 11, Sally Close, Wickhamford, and anybody who is prepared to sell tickets can contact him. Any help in this direction would be appreciated.

Nurse James of Broadway has kindly offered to judge the Baby Show and Mrs. Astley the Children's Fancy Dress, so parents, bring your babies and children along to join in the fun.

The Committee would like to thank all the other helpers, and those who have given prizes, donations, produce, etc.

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.