

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

DECEMBER, 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

My dear People,

The tragic situation arising from the Rhodesian declaration of independence, like the throwing of a stone into a pool, is seen in ever-widening ripples of disturbance throughout the world. It seems to have brought to a head the pullulating abscess of racial poison; it imperils the security of all white people living in African countries; it may lead to the break-up of the Commonwealth; above all, it has placed the whole work of Christian missions throughout the African continent in extreme jeopardy.

In our prayers for Rhodesia we ought especially to remember the Church. Much has been said about "our kith and kin" in that land. To most people the phrase denotes those of British blood, who share with us the same national and cultural traditions. But for Christians there is a tie much more binding than that of race or nation or class. Our kith and kin are our brothers and sisters in Christ, whether white, black or brown.

The great educational work of the Church in Rhodesia has been hampered by the apparently deliberate policy of the Rhodesian government to withhold educational facilities above primary level from the majority of Africans. Before U.D.I. they had announced a reduction of nearly 25 p.c. in the teacher training programme for 1966, and have consistently refused offers of British help towards expanding secondary education.

But the greatest setback for Christianity in Rhodesia and in the neighbouring African States is the association of the Church, which British people did so much to plant there, with the white minority regime. Already, before U.D.I., Africans who were faithful members of the Church were regarded in many areas by their own people as traitors to African nationalism. Now, as a result of what has happened, the pressures on them to deny Christ will be extremely severe. We must also remember that the position of European churchpeople is far from easy, since the churches in Rhodesia have openly declared their opposition to the Smith regime. Furthermore, as economic sanctions become effective, financial support for the Church will almost cease.

Pray for our Christian brethren, black and white, throughout Africa.

The Wicked Uncles of Millbank

A nickname invented years ago by some wag for the Church Commissioners. Poor uncles! Knowing themselves to be under constant suspicion for the most unspeakable villainies, they frequently seek to justify themselves in 'popular' handouts and 'simple' explanatory booklets. It might be better for them and their defenders if they maintained a superior aloofness, for every time an apologia is published it is seized upon by certain newspapers in order to put the uncles once more in the pillory and pelt them with fruits selected from their own barrow.

Naturally the Church Commissioners provide a sitting target for any sniper whose real object is to assail the Church itself. The idea is to present a picture of the Church as a wealthy corporation which is a mere parasite on the national economy, and whose one aim is to make money which is not put to any useful purpose.

The fable of the wicked uncles has been so assiduously fostered that it has come to be accepted almost without question, even by a good many Church members. Why should I contribute to church funds, say some, when the Church Commissioners have got all this money? There are actually church councillors who think the diocesan quota would be unnecessary if only the Church Commissioners would play the game.

It is impossible in the space available to deal adequately with the subject, but a few facts may help to dispel some of the illusions.

In 1964 the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance received £87,000 from the Church Commissioners and £56,500 from the parishes through the Diocesan Quota. The grants from the Church Commissioners totalled £65,500 for augmenting the stipends of the clergy to bring them up to diocesan minimum, and £21,500 towards the building of churches in new housing areas in the diocese. The Commissioners are debarred from making grants for any other diocesan purposes, because the money is not their own to dispose of as they please. It is made up of the endowments of the individual benefices throughout the country (which they hold in trust for the incumbents) and the capital assets of Queen Anne's Bounty for the augmentation of poorer livings. These endowments which provide two-thirds of the stipends of the clergy are the accumulated gifts and bequests of earlier generations of Christian men and women made out of a standard of living very much lower than our own. The Church of England is unique in the Anglican Communion (indeed perhaps in Christendom) in the almost negligible amount of money which the local parish and congregation has to supply for the maintenance of the ministry. Indeed, if it were not for the high rate of giving in the past and the conscientious and businesslike stewardship of the Church Commissioners, the parishes would be in very grave straits.

But for the machinations of the wicked uncles, the babes would be completely lost in the wood.

'Season's Greetings'

Mrs. Braby and I will not be sending Christmas cards this year. We hope our friends will understand that it is not through any lack of affection and goodwill, nor merely to save trouble. We feel that the Christmas card business has got out of all proportion to its original purpose. We have worked out the money we would have spent on cards and postage, quite a tidy sum, and feel it would be more in accordance with the Christmas spirit to devote it to help someone in some part of the world where Christmas is not just another name for a huge spending spree. Accordingly we are sending it to help supply a Christian need somewhere in southern Africa. This does not mean we do not have our friends in our hearts, and we wish you all a very blessed and happy Christmas.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY & ALDINGTON NOTES**Church Services**

Dec.

- 1, Wed. No H.C. (Tues. 10-0).
- 5 **Advent II.** As for 1st Sun. Preacher at Evensong 6-45, Rev. N. B. Moore, Bishop's Chaplain for Youth.
- 8, Wed. Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary. 10-0 H.C.
- 12 **Advent III.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 15, Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 **Advent IV.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 21, Tues. **St. Thomas Apostle.** 10-0 H.C.
- 22, Wed. No H.C.
- 24, Fri. **Christmas Eve.** 6-30 p.m. E. & Preparation for H.C. 11-30 p.m. **1st Communion of Christmas** (with hymns, and carols by the hand-bell ringers).
- 25, Sat. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 8-0 & 10-50 a.m. **Holy Communion.** 10-0 Family Service. 4 p.m. Evening Prayer (said).
- 26 **St. Stephen, the first Martyr.** 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Mattins (said). 6-45 Evensong with Carols.
- 29, Wed. 10-0 H.C.

Jan.

- 1, Sat. **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- For all who seek "the benefit of absolution, together with spiritual counsel and advice", in accordance with the Prayer Book Exhortation to Communion, the Vicar will be in church at 7 p.m. on Tues.: December 21 and Fri., Dec. 24.

Flowers and evergreens will be welcome at the church for decoration on Friday morning, Christmas Eve. Decoration will begin at 2 p.m. and we shall be glad of helpers.

The Vicar will be glad to take Holy Communion to the homes of those who through sickness or infirmity are unable to get to church. If you are not already on his regular list, please let him know.

Alms on Christmas Eve and Day are for the Church of England Children's Society.

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

Mon., Dec. 6. Committee Meeting, 2-30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 8. Corporate Communion 10 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 14. Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: the Vicar. "Some problems of the Church today". Tea hostesses: Mrs. Betteridge (committee) and Mesdames C. Haines, Hall, Harvey, Hughes. E.G.B.

The Children's Stewardship Scheme. The response to this has been very encouraging. Children need help and training in their duty to give back to God a token of all He has given to them. Children who join the scheme receive a book containing a set of envelopes covering a complete year. These envelopes do help the children to see where their money goes - to their own parish church, the diocese, the worldwide Church, and to all in need. The weekly envelope helps the children to put aside a portion of their pocket money regularly, and when they are unable to come to church or Sunday school they are still able to fulfil this duty of giving back to God. The scheme has been introduced in the junior and senior departments, but there is no reason why younger children should not join. But it does really depend on whether or not a child has pocket money; for giving back to God must right from the start be a reality to the child - it needs to be a giving of his own money, and not just collection money handed out for that purpose alone. If your child does not belong to the scheme and you would like him to do so, please contact Deaconess. C.P.W.

Junior Fellowship has a new look. It is still a mixed club, but for most of the time the boys and girls have separate programmes. I have always hoped that this would be possible, and I am very pleased to have Jonathan Braby helping me. Jonathan is a first class scout, and I am sure the boys will enjoy the varying activities he is planning. Judging from the sounds that penetrated through from the back room on the boys' first night, they were having a very good time - there is still room for a few more members. If you are interested:— 5-30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Meeting House. C.P.W.

Youth Fellowship. We now have 40 members and a waiting list. In October members elected a new committee: Anthony Silvester (chairman), Betty Smith (secretary), Alan Reeves (treasurer), Penny Betteridge, Pamela Jones, John Bennett and David Partridge. Two special dates in December:—

Sun., 5th. Visit from Diocesan Youth Chaplain. I hope a large number of young people will be at church that night, and come down to Vicarage Cottage afterwards to meet Mr. Moore.

Thurs., 30th. Christmas Party 8 p.m. at the Meeting House. C.P.W.

Jottings. Belated congratulations and good wishes to Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Ellis on their Golden Wedding at the end of October.

Your prayers are asked for the sick: for Mrs. Tom Knight in Worcester hospital after her nasty fall (we are glad Mr. Roy Harman is now home from hospital after his accident - what misfortune that family has had lately, and how brave they are); for Mr. Sam Gresty, in hospital after being taken ill at work, a very cheerful patient; Mrs. J. H. Plant, Junr., who has had her operation at last after setbacks patiently borne; Mr. Fred Jones, Senr., who has just had a serious operation; Mr. Bill (Conger) Jones is doing very well now in Avonside Hospital and has cheerfully accepted having to do without his beloved pipe. We welcome home from hospital Mr. Bernard Major (in trouble again!), Mrs. Tandy, Mrs. Bailey. Mr. Harvey is now making good progress, and we wish him and Mrs. Harvey every happiness in their new home. Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. H. Hatcher both have to go into hospital at the end of November.

Servers for December. 5th, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 A. Silvester. 12th, 10-0 D. Partridge (Server), C. Tucker (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 19th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 24th & 25th (Christmas) 11-30 p.m. D. Crane; 8-0 C. Harwood; 10-0 S. Gresty; 26th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 D. Partridge.

War Memorial Flowers. Dec. 5th, Mrs. F. E. Haines; 12th, Mrs. K. Cole; 19th, Mrs. H. Hatcher; 26th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Communicants. Week beginning Oct. 24th, 80; 31st, 42; Nov. 7th, 47; 14th, 36.

Birthday Half-crowns. A.G.H., F.E.H., Mrs. E. G. Braby, Mary Braby.

Nov. 14th, Earl Haig's Fund, £11-11-2. Oct. 28, People's Offering £20.

Church Membership Scheme. Total received up to end of October, £696-10-2. Total promised for year £1,013. May we remind members who have not yet given their contributions that there is only one month left for this year?

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

December

5 **Advent II.** As for 1st Sun.

12 **Advent III.** As for 2nd Sun. 3 p.m. Sunday School Prize-giving, Memorial Hall.

19 **Advent IV.** As for 3rd Sun.

25 **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 9 a.m. **Parish Communion** (with hymns).

26, Sun. **St. Stephen, the 1st Martyr.** 5-30 Evensong with Carols (hand bells).

Communion of the Sick. See Badsey notes.

Church of England Children's Society. In accordance with our custom, the alms on Christmas Day will be for this cause. We are glad to record that in October, Mrs. L. Poulter went to the Founders' Day gathering at the Royal Albert Hall and took a purse of £7 which she had collected.

People's Offering for Moral Welfare. The result of the house-to-house collection in October was £12-16-11, and this was duly presented at the annual service on Oct. 28. A very good result, even better than last year. Well done, everybody concerned.

Wickhamford Planned Giving Scheme

At the end of October we completed our first year of the Planned Giving Scheme, and the result, I feel, is very encouraging. We have 31 members and the total sum given was £239-3-0. As treasurer, I would like to thank all members for their splendid co-operation which has made my work so pleasant and so satisfying.

One could wish that this grand result would stimulate others to join the scheme, especially those who, perhaps through no fault of their own, are unable to attend church regularly. If only sixpence a week were given, the figure at the end of the year would be quite worth while, and make the Church's work so much easier. One good way, too, of returning thanks to God for all his blessings to us.

The Sunday School has donated £4 to Oxfam and £4 to the U.S.P.G. This, I know, represents giving from parents of our children, who by their continued interest, and support encourage us in our work. A.L.C.

Mothers' Union. The branch meeting will be on Wednesday, 1st December at 2-45 p.m. when we shall have

discussion on "Family Affairs". Tea hostess: Mrs. Walters. (Advance Notice: Wed. 5th Jan. Social Afternoon). E.G.B.

Christian Women's Fellowship. This is the agreed title of the new fellowship group which meets every 3rd Wednesday at 7-30 p.m.

Last month we had an animated and enjoyable discussion on topics concerning Religious Instruction in Schools and T.V. Censorship.

On Dec. 15 Deaconess Caroline will lead a devotional preparation for Christmas.

On Jan. 19 there will be a social evening. Membership being inter-denominational, is open to all women in Wickhamford, so do come along, and bring your neighbour with you.

Burial, R.I.P.

Nov. 2 William John Tustin Figgitt, aged 73.

The Sick. We are very sorry that Mr. Cooke has been ordered to rest because of heart strain, and pray for a good recovery. We are glad that Janet Allchurch is better, and hope that this will continue. Miss Colley has been in hospital, and Mr. Johnson has again been under the weather.

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.