

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 1966.

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 January, 1966

My dear People,

While one is glad to think of more houses being built in Badsey, it will be sad to see the end of the old Georgian house known as "the Poplars". Though a sorry picture of dilapidation in recent times, it has formed a dignified feature of High Street, its colourful red brick contrasting with the sober grey stone of Seward House. Many of the older people can remember it as the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Pethard, who kept a coal business there. Mr. J. Lees-Milne, in his Shell Guide to Worcestershire, mentions that there are several houses of this period in Badsey "in red brick with tuck pointing and large sash windows under rusticated lintels—a characteristic feature of these parts". One can see these characteristics in Vine Cottage and Pool House as well as the Poplars.

What was Badsey like a hundred years ago? May's History of Evesham (1845) refers to the "airiness of its street and the substantiality of its principal buildings". May does not however mention that a horse-pond lay right across the middle of the street (Pool House is named from this). But no doubt the street had become a good deal more passable since 1841, when the Vestry ordered that all cattle found trespassing on the high-ways should be impounded by the parish surveyor (that is, if the order was enforced).

Badsey was an unimportant place outside the mainstream of national life, being just off the turnpike road. The village ended at the National Day School (now the British Legion Club), built in 1854 on land given by Mr. Richard Ashwin (for all the land north of Badsey Manor House belonged then to Aldington Manor). In view of the cost of recent renovations, Legion members may be interested to hear that the school was built for £372. A hundred years ago the population of Badsey was about 450 and Aldington 140 (both together having fewer people than Bretforton).

This was before the great agricultural depression had set in, and the big farmers were still the rulers of the village. Two of them, Joseph Jones and Thomas Byrd of Aldington, were the churchwardens that year. Before the formation of county, district and parish councils, the churchwardens and other parochial officers elected annually at the Easter Vestry formed the 'local authority'. But poor law administration had been largely taken out of their hands since 1834, and they were no longer allowed to levy a compulsory rate for the maintenance of the church. Church rates were made voluntary in 1853 and abolished altogether in 1868. At this time therefore church collections were a novel but increasingly necessary source of income.

In this year of 1866 two separate sums, quite large for those days, had to be raised in Badsey by public subscription, and it took more than one year to do it. All that year the church bells (six) were silent. They had been pronounced dangerous the previous autumn, owing to their mutilated state. They were taken down, repaired and re-hung (not till Aug. 1867) by Henry Bond of Burford for £55.

It was not until 100 years ago that the churchyard came into the possession of the church! In 1657, during the Protectorate, the Wilson family, newly become lords of Badsey Manor, obtained a 1,000 year lease of the churchyard. In 1866 Mr. Edward Wilson, who resided then in Cheltenham, put up the lease for sale. Now was the chance for the Church to gain ownership of the churchyard, which was in a deplorable state, if the money could be found. But opposition arose from a dangerous quarter. The formidable Thomas Hall, a doughty dissenter who had become prosperous through being one of the pioneers of market gardening in Badsey, was determined to obtain the land, in order, as he openly boasted, to deny it to the Church. He planned to block the access to the church from the village street, by building cottages and a public house.

The story of what happened is told in the late A. H. Savory's "Grain and Chaff from an English Manor" (though in reading his account one must remember that his information was at secondhand, as the events were a little before his time). The sale was to be by auction (in July). The vicar, the Rev. Thomas Hunt, unable to raise the money in the time available, appealed to Christ Church, Oxford, the patrons of the living, for help. They agreed to send an agent to represent them at the sale, but his identity was kept a closely guarded secret. He even got off the train at Honeybourne and walked, so that his arrival would not be noticed at Evesham. When the Vicar stopped bidding, to the delight of his opponent, the unknown bidder went on, until Thomas Hall had to give up in despair, but relieved to think that the Vicar had been knocked out. So Christ Church bought the manorial rights and the churchyard for £185, on behalf of the parish. "If I'd known the pairson was a goin' to 'ave it", said Thomas Hall (according to Savory) "I'd a made 'im pay a pretty penny more nor that".

The Vicar and his warden Joseph Jones later raised the money by public subscription. The other churchwarden, Thomas Byrd, refused to have anything to do with it. Thomas Hall had been his bailiff (another story has been told me by one of T. Hall's descendants to account for Mr. Byrd's being under an obligation to him, but I'm keeping that under my hat). Mr. Joseph Jones later grazed his sheep in the churchyard, and fell out badly with the Vicar when the latter planted the present yew hedge. But that is another story.

There is much more that could be written about Badsey in 1866. But next time there is space for historical notes, it is really Wickhamford's turn.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES Church Services

February

- 2 Wed. **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** 10-0 H.C.
- 6 **Septuagesima.** Queen's Accession. As for 1st Sun.
- 9 Wed. No H.C. (Vicar at annual retreat).
- 13 **Sexagesima.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 16 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 20 **Quinquagesima.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 23 **ASH WEDNESDAY.** 6-30 & 10-0 H.C. 7-30 p.m. Evensong & Bible Study (See note on Lent Services).
- 24 Thurs. **St. Matthias, Apostle.** 7-30 p.m. Licensing of Rev. W. A. Trippass as Rural Dean by the Bishop, Bengeworth Church.
- 25 Fri. 4-15 Children's Service.
- 27 **Lent I.** As for 4th Sun.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Feb. 1, 7-15 p.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday, 15th February, Meeting House, 7-15 p.m.

Do you feel you are one of a miscellaneous assortment of people who happen to attend the same church from time to time, as you might use the same shop or bus service? Or do you feel you **belong** to a **congregation** of God's people? Let it be seen on the 15th February that we really are a congregation, and that each one cares about belonging.

At this meeting the church council will render an account of its stewardship in the past twelve months. Churchwardens and councillors will be elected, and suggestions from parishioners for future policy will be discussed. There will be an interval for tea and chat.

We hope we may have a good number of nominations for the P.C.C. Nomination forms may be obtained at the church or vicarage. They should be returned to Mr. Hatcher, or placed in the box labelled "nomina-

tions' in the church, not later than Sunday, 13th February. Nominees for the Council have to be communicants over 21. Electors however can be as young as 17, provided their names are on the Church Electoral Roll. It is still not too late for enrolment up to 1st Feb.

Nursery & Infants' Sunday School Party, Sat., 5th Feb., 3 to 6 p.m. Donations will be very welcome and may be given to the Vicar or Deaconess. Gifts of trifles, made jellies (not packets), tinned fruit, sandwich fillings, butter will be welcome, and should be brought to the Meeting House on the day of the party not later than 11 a.m. It would be helpful if non-perishable goods could be brought to the Vicarage Cottage by Thursday, 3rd February.

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

Wed. Feb. 2 Corporate Communion 10 a.m.

Tues. Feb. 8 Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Bevan. Subject: "Some women in the Old Testament".

Tea hostesses: Mrs. G. H. Stewart (Committee) and Mesdames Sparrow, C. Stewart, Sladden, E. Smith.

Tues. Feb. 22 Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dickson of M.E.B. Subject: "Safety in the Home".

Tea hostesses: Mrs. Perkins (Committee) and Mesdames A. Reed, Watkin, Bell. Miss Tizard. E.G.B.

Over Sixty Club. Meetings this month on the 10th and 24th.

Lent Services. Many who took part in the "No Small Change" meetings last Lent would agree that one of the most fruitful sessions, when we seemed really to get to grips with what is fundamental, was that in which we did some group Bible study. A request was made that we should have more opportunities for studying the Bible together, and its relevance to our own situation today. Accordingly our mid-week gathering on Wednesday evenings this Lent will be in Church for joint Bible study and corporate meditation and prayer.

As usual there will be a series of children's Lenten services, after school, on Fridays. Each child attending will have a card with weekly pictorial stamps.

The Choir, etc. On the Sunday before Christmas, at Evensong, Roy Davies, Robert Lord, Kevin and Andrew West, and Nicholas Wild were admitted as choristers. On the same occasion Alan Clements was given a head chorister's badge and ribbon, and the next three leading boys, Michael Clements, Timothy Bell and Roger Keen, received smaller badges and ribbons, to wear with their choir robes.

Our team of young hand-bell ringers, trained by Mr. Tony Brazier, not only rang carols at the Christmas Eve midnight service, but did so in each of the wards in Avonside Hospital on the previous evening. This was much appreciated by the patients and staff. The team of six are Clifford and Roger Hartwell, Christopher Tucker, Mary Braby, Isabelle Gresty, Robert Bindoff.

The Sunday before Christmas members of the Youth Fellowship visited our parishioners in Avonside Hospital and took them little presents. On Christmas Eve some of the Youth Fellowship sang carols with Deaconess at the homes of some sick or elderly parishioners.

New Notice Board. Our thanks are due to Mr. John Bird for making and presenting a new outside notice

board for the church and painting and lettering it so beautifully. Names of officers and times of church services will not be painted on until after the Annual Church Meeting.

Holy Baptism

Jan. 16 Linda Jane Grinnell; Roger Oliver Hunt; Julie Dawn Dunkley; Alison Elizabeth Smith; Nigel Keith Taylor.

Burials, R.I.P.

Dec. 29 Florence Elizabeth Haines, aged 73.

Mrs. Haines's death in a tragic road accident just before Christmas certainly saddened the festival for us all, for she was much beloved in Badsey. "Welshie" was an active member of the Women's Institute, the British Legion Women's Section, and the Mothers' Union. Lately her health had not been too good and she would sometimes feel depressed, but she would not let things get on top of her, and the old humour would break through. It was characteristic that her last act before her death was to go out on a wretched afternoon to visit an old friend in hospital. Our warmest sympathy goes out to her son and daughters and their families.

Dec. 31 Mary Ellen Knight, aged 80.

This sweet and gracious soul will also be greatly missed, although as an invalid she had not been out of her home for some years. It was a great deprivation to her not to get to church, but she received the Sacrament regularly at home. She had a great love for Wickhamford Church as well as Badsey, for she was married at the former, being in those days cook at the Manor in the time of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Lees-Milne. Our heart-felt sympathy with Mr. Tom Knight, Joan and Roy.

Ernest Robert Pitts died on 7th January, after some weeks in hospital. The funeral was at Bretforton, his old home. Sympathetic condolences to Mrs. Pitts and family.

May God grant light and peace to these his servants.

Jottings. We offer our heartiest congratulations to our distinguished Aldington parishioner, Mr. C. H. Gardiner, on the well-deserved award of M.B.E. in the New Year Honours. Mr. Gardiner has been Clerk to Evesham R.D.C. since 1928. He is in many ways the ideal public servant and has truly identified himself with the country people of the Vale, although his early love, never quite lost, was for the Cotswolds. We rejoice that his faithful service has been recognised in this manner.

Warm congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jelfs of Bowers Hill on their Golden Wedding on Dec. 26, and to Mrs. Adams of Aldington, mother of Mrs. S. J. Cole, on her approaching 90th birthday on 5th February.

Your prayers are asked for the sick, especially for Mr. Tom Knight, Mr. Tony Royle, Mr. Frank Stewart, Mr. Frank Herbert, Mr. Westwood. In the past few months we have welcomed home from hospital Mrs. W. Tomkins, Mr. John Perkins, Mrs. George Goldstraw, Mrs. A. Syril, Mrs. Andrew (who had a nasty fall before Christmas), Marilyn Bennett, Mr. W. S. Brown, Mr. George Addis. We pray for successful convalescence.

Servers for February. 6th, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 13th, 10-0 C. Tucker (Server), S. Gresty (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Crane. 20th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 A. Silvester. 27th, 8-0 D. Partridge; 10-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 S. Gresty (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Feb. 6th, Mrs. N. Cook; 13th, Mrs. M. Hewlett; 20th, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 27th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Wedding Anniversary 5/-. Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Jones.
Communicants. Week beginning Dec. 19th, 217; 26th, 39; Jan. 2nd, 56; 9th, 39; 16th, 22.

Church Membership Scheme. Total to end of December, £902; Total promised for 1965, £997-17-6.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

- Feb. 6, 13, 20 (**Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima**). Services as for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Suns.
23 **Ash Wednesday.** 7-30 a.m. H.C. 4-30 p.m. Children's Service.
24 **Thurs. St. Matthias, Apostle.** 7-30 p.m. Licensing of Rev. W. A. Trippass as Rural Dean by the Bishop, Bengeworth Church.
27 **Lent I.** As for 4th Sun.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday, 28th February, Memorial Hall, 7-15 p.m.

This annual gathering is a real opportunity for parishioners to get together and discuss the matters of common concern regarding our church and its work. The churchwardens and church councillors have to be elected, and the accounts presented. There will be refreshments and an opportunity for informal chit-chat in the interval.

Nominations to the Council should be made in writing and seconded, and received by Mr. C. G. W.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham

○○○○○

TELEFLOWER SERVICE

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Beacon, Hon. Sec. 11, Sally Close, or by the Vicar, before the meeting. There are nomination forms in the church.

Mothers' Union. The branch meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd Feb., at 2-45 p.m. Tea hostess will be Mrs. Whiting. E.G.B.

The Sick. Mr. Cooke continues to make slow but steady progress. Mr. Cecil Ward returned from hospital just before Christmas. Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Spragg's mother, is now in hospital, Mr. Allchurch is still convalescent. Pray for these and all other sick people.

Acknowledgement. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Cooke for a rich red altar cloth, made by Deaconess with materials which they provided, and also for a drawer cabinet in the vestry for altar linen, made by Mr. T. H. Collett.

Women's Institute. At the meeting on 10th Feb., Mr. Grindle will take members round the world with slides. Appropriately there will also be a competition for a holiday snapshot. There will be a bring-and-buy stall for funds.

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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.