

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JULY, 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 10-15 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. Evening Eucharist 6-45 p.m.  
Fifth Sunday ... .. Holy Communion 8 a.m. Family Service 10-15 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. Over 7, Meeting House. Under 7, Parish Room and  
Village Hall.

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

- Churchwardens ... .. Mr. J. F. Ives, 45, Brewers Lane.  
Mrs. N. Clark, Pennyfields, Aldington.  
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

16th June, 1966

My dear People,

A few months ago I tried to conjecture what Badsey was like 100 years ago. I said next time it would be Wickhamford's turn.

But I know much less about Wickhamford in 1866 than in 1666. In the 19th century it was a nondescript sort of place, with most of the life gone out of it since the Sandys family stopped living here about 1700, and finally settled on their other manor at Ombersley. The manor house was occupied by a series of farmers, and fell into a state of almost complete dilapidation, as did most of the cottages in the village. The people were for the most part extremely poor, and poverty usually causes migration. The result is that in Wickhamford there was little continuity of residence by the same families. This lack of continuous family tradition makes the history of Wickhamford in many ways less interesting than that of Badsey.

As is well known, the restoration in the 20th century of the old manor house, the church, and many of the cottages was largely due to the enterprise and generosity of the late George Less-Milne.

### Wickhamford in 1666

Let us then try to put ourselves in Wickhamford 300 years ago, and see what it may have been like.

In the first place, we should find that the whole life of the community centred round the manor and the church. It was a tight little community of between 60 and 90 people, and everyone had his place in the very feudal set-up which still existed. He was either a tenant or servant or official of the lord of the manor. Fortunately the proceedings of the manor court have been preserved, and the well known local historian the late E. E. A. Barnard published a whole series of extracts in the Evesham Journal in 1935-6.

During the early Stuart period the steward of the manor was none other than Robert Dover, who founded the famous Games on Dover's Hill. By this time, the only matters these manorial courts dealt with were questions of land tenure and the cultivation of the common fields. They were presided over by the lord's steward, and a small jury of tenants called the Homage. But we learn a great deal from the proceedings about the names of local fields and people, and the methods of farming. Little enclosures here and there were encroaching on the common land, and people were quick to stake their claims to compensation in the manor court.

### Fallow fetches and ringed pigs

Here is an example of some of the regulations laid down at one of the courts:

"No sheep shall be pastured or turned into the white stubble before Michaelmas. Penalty 20s.

Hereafter Gloucey shall for ever remain and lie for beast pasture and no horse shall be tied to the same. Penalty 20s.

Every tenant shall sow fallow fetches (vetches) in one field as the said Thomas Wagstaff and George Blizard shall think fit. Penalty 20s.

Everyone shall ring their pigs after harvest, and shall take them up, as soon as wheat is sown. Penalty 3s. 4d."

Unfortunately there is a break in the records of the manorial court between 1650 and 1675. This does not mean that courts were not held during this time, at any rate after the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

### Back to Normal

Three hundred years ago life was settling down to normal again in Wickhamford after the upheavals of the Civil War and Puritan rule. Mr. David Cox of

Evesham, who has done some statistical research on Wickhamford church registers, thinks there was a decrease in population at this time. It is difficult to assess, because, as in most parishes, a Puritan minister was intruded into the living during the Protectorate and did not bother to keep any records between 1656 and 1660. If there was a slight decrease in population it would not be surprising. Sir Samuel Sandys was a staunch royalist, governor of Evesham for the King during the Civil War, and no doubt recruited many young men from his estates to serve in the King's cause. If not killed, some may have been taken prisoner or settled in other parts of the country during the campaigns, and not returned.

But now the King had come into his own again, and Sir Samuel celebrated this triumph by having a new royal coat-of-arms painted on boards and placed above the church chancel entrance, where before the Reformation the rood had stood. The moulded oak panelling which forms a ceiling above it was the original "canopy of honour" for the rood.

### "The New Church"

When this coat-of-arms was freshly painted, it must have been a sight to be proud of, in the newly built nave (though no doubt it did not strike the parishioners as incongous that King Charles II should occupy the place once held by the King crowned with thorns, any more than that the effigies of Sir Samuel's ancestors should dominate the sanctuary of the Lord of Hosts). 'What is this about the new nave?' you may ask. 'We thought our church was much older than that'. Yes, when visitors ask me how old the church is, they seem surprised when I tell them that most of it was built in the 17th century. Yet that is so. An entry for 1640 in the baptism register bears the note: "the first baptized in the new Church".

They seem to have rebuilt the walls of the nave, while possibly retaining the old roof trusses. The window tracery and mouldings betray the period. The 13th - 14th century chancel did not apparently need restoration at this time. It was in any case not the responsibility of the churchwardens but of the rector (i.e. Christ Church, or, in practice, the person or persons to whom the college leased the tithes). There was as yet no tower. But a start was made on it at this time. At the visitation of 1674 the churchwardens present "the want of a flagon and a book of canons and 39 Articles and Table of degrees of Marriage and our steeple unfinished".

The tower was completed in 1686. There is said to be an inscription on the S. side of the parapet bearing the date and the initials of the churchwardens. Mr. Ted Parry and I recently risked our necks trying to find it, but it seems to be now altogether defaced and covered with lichen.

The single bell was hung the same year as the belfry was finished. It was cast by Matthew Bagley, and may have been the first bell cast by him at his new foundry on Merstowe Green, Evesham, set up in 1686.

Between the church and the manor house you would have seen an enormous tithe barn. It was demolished in 1900.

### Tax Evasion

How did the churchwardens in those days raise the money for re-building and restoration? An annual levy was apportioned between the parishioners, and anyone who would not pay was presented by the wardens in the archdeacon's court.

One persistent non-payer in Wickhamford was Alice Booker, a widow. One of the Bookers, John, had already showed himself anti-establishment, for in 1665 the churchwardens presented him "for absenting himself from church these three years past and for refusing the paying of any dues to Mr. Millington Minister there,

and for detaining of the vicarage land". In 1674 the churchwardens present Alice Booker, widow, "for denying to pay her apportion towards the church levy, being 3d." Two years later the visitation acts book in the Diocesan Registry records that she had been excommunicated and refused to pay the levy, "saying she would see the Church on fire before she would pay anything towards the repair of the Church". In 1684 we find that she had been excommunicated for 11 years but was still paying nothing!

#### The new Vicar

William Millington was the first minister (or chaplain) to hold the two parishes of Badsey and Wickhamford in plurality. He had been collated by Christ Church to Badsey as early as 1643, but owing to the national troubles was unable to claim the benefice till the Restoration, when he was newly collated to both livings. He was a Worcestershire man, from Crophorne, a graduate of St. John's College, Oxford, and was in his late fifties when he came here. His wife died in 1663 and was buried at Badsey, but next year at the age of 60 he married Anne Dingley in Wickhamford Church. He died in 1677 and was buried at Badsey. According to the Badsey churchwardens in 1674 he was "a very honest good religious man and performs all duties belonging to him both with reverence and gravity and performing his duty in the church duly and constantly".

In 1688 John Booker of Wickhamford was still not paying Mr. Millington's successor his dues. It is only fair to state that Badsey also had its share of non-payers. The parson can't be popular with everybody!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

**Confirmation Candidates.** Any further names of intending candidates from both parishes should be given to the Vicar or Deaconess as soon as possible.

### BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

#### Church Services

#### July

- 3 **Trinity IV.** As for 1st Sun.
- 6 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 10 **Trinity V.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 13 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 **Trinity VI.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 20 Wed. St. Margaret, V. & M. 10-0 H.C.
- 22 Fri. St. Mary Magdalene 7-0 H.C.
- 24 **Trinity VII.** As for 4th Sun. Eve of Patronal Festival, 6-45 p.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 25 Mon. **ST. JAMES, APOSTLE, (PATRONAL FESTIVAL).** 10-0 H.C.
- 28 Wed. No H.C.
- 31 **Trinity VIII.** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Patronal Festival Family Service. 6-45 Evensong.

#### Holy Baptism - Special Note for August

In August Holy Baptism will be administered on 14th (2nd Sun.) and not on 3rd Sun.

**Sunday School Exhibition.** On Sunday, 10th July, after the Family Eucharist at 10-15 a.m., there will be an exhibition of the children's work in the Meeting House.

**P.C.C. Meeting,** Tues., 12th July, 7-30 p.m.

**The Mission.** Please go on praying for the parochial mission by the Village Evangelists in October. If you haven't one, take a prayer card from the church.

Our Missioner has suggested that we should each write to friends in other parishes or churches, at home or overseas, asking for their parish to pray for our Mission, and obtaining a photo of their church or cover of their parish magazine, so that we may have a display in our church of all the parishes praying for us. Will you do this?

**Christian Aid Week.** You will be glad to hear that the result of the house-to-house collection in Badsey was £41-18-2, an increase of £7-10-11 on last year. Our collectors reported a very good response and genuine concern among the people they visited. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Churchill and her band of workers for all that they did on our behalf.

**Mothers' Union.** The branch meeting will be on Tuesday, 26th July at 7-30 p.m. when the Vicar will talk about Westminster Abbey.

Tea hostesses: Mrs. G. A. Jones (committee) and Mesdames Marshall, Major, Perkins and A. Reed.

Corporate Communion, Wed., 6th July, at 10 a.m.

E.G.B.

#### Holy Baptism

June 19 Dawn Kathleen Selina Kedward; Nigel Careless; Andrew John Benfield.

#### Burials, R.I.P.

June 13 Arthur Edward Barnard, aged 67.

Mr. Barnard's sudden death was a great shock to us all, and our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Barnard, Frank and other members of the family. He was a well-respected ex-serviceman and member of the market gardening fraternity.

Our condolences also with Mr. C. H. Gardiner on the loss of his wife Miriam, only a month before his impending retirement as Clerk to the R.D.C. The funeral was private, at Cheltenham Crematorium.

**Jottings.** We are very grateful to Mr. Henry King for offering his services in a temporary capacity as organist and choirmaster.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ballard on celebrating their Golden Wedding on 31st May. They kept very quiet about it, but the grapevine fruited just in time, and a quarter peal was rung in their honour.

We do offer sincere congratulations to Badsey Cricket Club for their splendid successes at the start of the season. May they continue thus all through. It is good that there is so much promise in some of the younger players.

Readers of this Review probably do not need reminding that the Flower Show is on Saturday, 23rd July, on the Recreation Ground.

Sickness has been unusually rife for June. A peculiar and rather violent pneumonia virus laid low Sister Davies our District Nurse, and also Paul Halford. Sister Davies is now at a convalescent home, but her mother has unfortunately had a slight stroke and is in Evesham Hospital. Another victim of a stroke is Mrs. Lottie Haines, who is in Avonside Hospital where she can have regular physiotherapy, and it is nice that her sister Mrs. Emma Cole, also a patient there, is able to sit with her in the day-time. Mrs. Pitts, Senr. is in Evesham Hospital, but Mrs. W. Bird is now in hospital at Oxford. At Avonside, Mrs. Deighton is not at all

well at present. Miss Juliet Sladden is laid up at home with a slipped disc. Miss Curtis is home from hospital but has had several setbacks. Mrs. Jenkins is rather poorly, being nursed faithfully at home by her sister Mrs. Edwards. Mrs. Gittos has been ill and being looked after by her daughter Mrs. Ted Taylor. Wendy Reeves had to have an emergency operation for appendicitis while the family were on holiday at Exmouth, which was bad luck. Your prayers are asked for these and all other sick people.

**Servers for July.** 3rd, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 D. Crane; 6-45 S. Gresty. 10th, 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), C. Tucker (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Silvester. 17th, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 D. Partridge. 24th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 S. Gresty (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer). 31st, 8-0 C. Tucker; 10-15 C. Hartwell; 6-45 D. Barrand.

**War Memorial Flowers.** July 3rd, Mrs. N. Cook; 17th, Mrs. S. Ingram; 24th, Mrs. G. H. Stewart; 31st, Mrs. C. Crane.

**Communicants.** Week beginning May 22nd, 61; 29th, 114; June 5th, 34; 12th, 33.

**Anniversary Donations.** Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Ballard (Golden Wedding) £1. Birthdays: Mrs. T. Keen 5/-; Anon. £1.

**Result of Fete at time of going to Press:** £205. Details next month.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

**Suns.,** July 3; 10; 17; 24; 31 (**Trin. IV, V, VI, VI, VII, VIII**). As for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th **Suns.** on cover.

**Mothers' Union.** The branch meeting will be on Wednesday, 6th July at 2-30 p.m., when the Vicar will give a talk on Westminster Abbey. Tea hostess: Mrs. Smith. E.G.B.

**Women's Institute.** At the meeting on 14th July, Mrs. P. Hancock will talk on Floral Arrangement, and there will be an on the spot competition in floral arrangement.

**The Sick.** Your prayers are asked for Mrs. Taylor, now in hospital, also for her son-in-law Mr. Cecil Sturt who is in Evesham Hospital with heart trouble. Mrs. E. M. Pethard has had an operation and has now returned home. Mr. F. Badham is also convalescent at home.

Phones : (Shop) 2020. (Nurseries) 2130

## THE FLOWER BASKET

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