

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

AUGUST, 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

20th July, 1966

My dear People,

"Crisis brings out greatness", the Prime Minister reminded us in his broadcast tonight. I remembered a question that was put to me four weeks ago: "What makes England great?" It took me by surprise: it seemed so singularly inappropriate.

It came from an American woman as I descended from the nave pulpit in Westminster Abbey after conducting the hourly moment of prayer for the needs of the world.

I had found that the first five or ten minutes after this prayer were the most fruitful time for spiritual approach by visitors to the Abbey. Sometimes people would express appreciation at being reminded they were in a house of prayer—others would ask me to write down for them the prayer I had used.

But this question "What makes England great?" annoyed me. It sounded sarcastic. Here were we on the brink of an economic crisis, in the middle of a disastrous seamen's strike, begging and borrowing right, left and centre from Uncle Sam and all the rest, licking the boots of Ian Smith, Charles de Gaulle, Abdul Nasser, old Uncle Kosygin and all. And this woman quips me about England's greatness!

I got her wrong

"I didn't quite catch what you said", I stammered, somewhat untruthfully, playing for time. (As you know so well, dear friends, I have not the gift of ready speech. The right words do not come easily to me, even about the weather).

She repeated the question in the same words, and I could see that she was intensely serious.

"Just like these Americans", I thought. "They wallow in sentimental veneration for the past. She's been knocked silly by the sight of all those monuments to England's ancient glories, and has imagined herself back into the age of Nelson or even Winston Churchill".

I murmured something to the effect that when England had been great in the past, it was because she had not forgotten God, but that I didn't think England was particularly great at the moment.

She looked at me in astonishment. "But England is great, right now!"

The true glory

It is said that the loss of empire has led to a failure of nerve among us, resulting, as with ancient Athens and Rome, in a falling off of moral standards and a cynical, disillusioned attitude towards spiritual values.

But if there are some foreigners who think England is great today, though without imperial power or the influence of wealth, who are we to lose faith in our country, or to confuse greatness with glory and riches?

"For, thus saith the Lord, let not the wise glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty glory in his might, let not the rich glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord who exercise loving kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord".

That is the real message of Westminster Abbey, though it is hard to discern it among all the memorials to civic grandeur and military pomp.

Westminster Abbey

The Dean has written in the 900th anniversary Commemorative Book: "Tombs indeed there are, so numerous that they have for some people confused or hidden the spiritual meaning of Westminster Abbey.

... Is the Abbey then a national museum? Is this the sense in which it is yours? I offer you a clue. The central tomb in Westminster Abbey is the Shrine of St. Edward, King and Confessor... The Life of the Nation and the Life of the Church are here together, in partnership and in tension... Therefore we must proclaim the Sovereignty of God over both Church and Nation, and the Lordship of Christ over all our life, the so-called secular and the so-called religious. For this Sovereignty of God the Abbey stands."

The Spell of St. Edward

During my week as chaplain at Westminster Abbey I felt more and more the spell of that gentle saint, Edward the Confessor, who was everything that a great ruler should not be, as the world commonly counts greatness. I used to despise him as the man responsible for bringing on his country the troubles of 1066 and all that, by preferring holiness to statecraft, and celibacy to marital fulfilment. But that was not at all how Englishmen regarded him in the generations that followed his death. Under the ironclad, efficient regime of the Normans they looked back nostalgically to "the good laws of King Edward". When might was enthroned as right, and violence and cunning were exalted, they thought, however mistakenly it might seem to us, that England's happiest days had been when her crown was worn by a saint who despised all earthly crowns.

Such was the spell of St. Edward, that the Conqueror himself insisted on being crowned in the church the saint had built and where his body rested. And all the sovereigns since have been hallowed and crowned close to his shrine.

To be a pilgrim

On an ordinary day in June, as many as 6,000 people may pass through the royal chapels, at the heart of which there stands the saint's shrine. One of the most cherished memories of that week was a visit to the shrine one morning just before the crowds were admitted. I wanted to be there when it was quiet, and to see the first wave of sightseers arrive. But the first people to arrive that morning were genuine pilgrims. The Dean himself came in with a party of students of both sexes from University College, London. They had just finished their exams, and were starting a pilgrimage which was to finish at Canterbury, by praying at the shrine of St. Edward the Confessor. Before the altar in St. Edward's Chapel the Dean prayed for their pilgrimage in simple and moving words and blessed them before they started on their way. I was glad I was privileged to be there.

So the ideals of St. Edward do mean something to some young Englishmen and women today. "Let not the mighty glory in his might... but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me... saith the Lord". Therein lies England's true greatness, in the past, and, we pray, in the future.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

RADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES Church Services

Aug. (Note changes during this holiday month)

- 3 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 6 Sat. **Transfiguration of Our Lord.** 7-30 H.C.
- 7 **Trinity IX.** Name of Jesus. As for 1st Sun.
- 10 Wed. St. Laurence, D. & M. 10-0 H.C.
- 14 **Trinity X.** As for 2nd Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
- 17 Wed. No H.C.
- 21 **Trinity XI.** As for 3rd Sun. (Holy Baptism on Aug. 14).
- 24 Wed. **St. Bartholomew, Ap.** 10-0 H.C.
- 28 **Trinity XII.** St. Augustine of Hippo, Bp. & Dr. 8-0 H.C. 10-30 Mattins (said) 6-45 Evensong (not H.C.)
- 31 Wed. No H.C.

Sunday School does not meet during August or 1st Sun. in Sept. Parents are asked to bring their children to the Family Eucharist on Aug. 14, and to Evensong on other Sundays if old enough.

The Mission. During September a program of the Mission Week (Oct. 16 to 23) with a letter from the Bishop, will be delivered at every home in the parish.

As the time approaches, pray more and more for the Mission, that it may bring spiritual renewal to the parish. If you have not one of the Mission prayer cards, take one from the church table, or ask the Vicar for one. Ask others to pray for the Mission. Take some cards from the church and give them to your friends. Make the Mission a talking point, and do all you can to awaken interest and arouse expectancy. Make sure that every member of your family able to read has a prayer card.

Ask friends in other parishes to arrange for our Mission to be prayed for in their parish. Ask them to send a small picture or parish magazine cover of their church, so that we may have a display board of the parishes praying for us.

The Choir, with the servers and bell-ringers, enjoyed a day's outing to Weston-super-Mare on 2nd July.

The next evening, Sunday, 3rd July, before the congregation, Peter Lord, Andrew Watt and Nicholas Bell were admitted as choristers.

The Fete, June 18th

There were the usual last minute trepidations about the weather. Friday was stormy with torrential rain: the forecast for Saturday was worse still. In the event it was a glorious sunny day—one of the best this summer. Everyone had worked hard and the stalls seemed well-stocked. It was good to see so many young people on these or running sideshows. In the end £201-16-4 was the net total, only 30/- less than last year. It has been allocated by the P.C.C. as follows: Diocesan M.R.I. Project (Bishop Tucker College, Uganda), £70; Overseas Project (Ba, in Diocese of Polynesia), £70; British Rheumatism and Arthritis Society £61-16-4.

Detailed receipts were as follows:—

Donations, £2-5-0; Programs, £13-8-9; Gate Money, £5-2-9; Teas, £7-7-0; Produce Stall, £33-12-1; Mothers' Union Stall, £27-14-6; Overseas Committee Stall, £21-0-0; W.I. Cake Stall, £8-11-7; Handkerchief Stall, £7-15-0; Bottle Stall, £15-13-0; Tombola Stall, £11-3-3; Sweets & Soft Drinks Stall, £5-7-3; Draw for Ham, £18; Men's Bowling, £9-7-0; Ladies Bowling, £4-10-0; Orange Shy, £5-0-5; Pony Rides, £2-6-7; Minefield, Chair Lift & Live Wire, £2-2-6; Record Roulette, 17-6; Cups, 18-6; Darts, 12-6; Treasure Hunt, 12-6; Fortune Telling, 10-4; Lucky Numbers, 6-0; Pennies in Pool, 4-10. TOTAL, £204-8-10, less Insurance and Advertising, £2-12-6: Net Total, £201-16-4.

Burials. R.I.P.

July 15 Alfred John Frisby Wright, aged 63 (cremation).

Our profound sympathy and prayers for Deaconess Caroline and her mother. Mr. Wright had been in failing health for some time, but was looking forward to his retirement in Badsey.

The Sick. Poor Sister Davies! She was just thinking how much better she was, when she was hustled off to hospital again with an attack of pleurisy. She is already feeling better at the time of writing, and looking forward to the day when she can start her work again. Her mother is still in Evesham Hospital. Mr. Frank Reeves has been in hospital with his old trouble of an erratic heart beat, but is home again now, though still convalescent. Mrs. M. Brotherton had a nasty fall down the stairs one night, when she was alone, and lay all night with three fractures before she could crawl to the door and summon help. She was to have gone into hospital two days later for an operation. She is now to have her operation on the day this is being written, and the broken bones seem to be setting well, we are thankful to say. She is very patient and cheerful. So also is Mrs. Lottie Haines, now making good progress, and able to walk a little in the ward. Mrs. Jenkins is now in Avonside Hospital and happily settled. Mrs. Annie Collett has been poorly and has now gone to stay with her son and daughter-in-law at the Bell. Mrs. Kitley had to go to hospital with a severe but mercifully short attack of encephalitis. She is now restored, quite fit, to her husband and children in their new home.

Servers for August. 7th, 8.0 P. Moran; 11.0 D. Partridge; C. Hartwell. 14th, 10-15 D. Crane (Server), S. Gresty (Crucifer); 6.45 C. Tucker. 21st, 8.0 D. Barrand; 6.45 D. Partridge; 28th, 8.0 C. Hartwell; 6.45 (Evensong) S. Gresty).

War Memorial Flowers. Aug. 7th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 14th, Mrs. R. Hartwell; 21st, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 28th, Mrs. C. Marshall.

Birthday Halfcrown. Rev. P. Braby.

Communicants. Week beginning June 19th, 39; 26th, 70; July 3rd, 57; 10th, 69; 17th, 34.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Suns., Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 (Trinity IX., X, XI, XII).

Services as on front cover for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Suns. respectively.

Holy Baptism

June 26 Paul John Turpitt.

Burials. R.I.P.

We offer our warm sympathy and prayers for the families of these faithful departed.

June 29 Mary Louise Taylor, aged 76.

A faithful communicant and member of the Mothers' Union, Mrs. Taylor, with her sunny and affectionate nature, will be much missed by all who knew her.

John Enstone, aged 79, died on 29th June in hospital, and the funeral was at Cheltenham. Most of his life was lived in Aldington and Badsey, but since retirement he had been living at Corner Cottage with his daughter and son-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Eric Hogg. Though sadly crippled with arthritis, he always seemed to keep bright and cheerful.

July 12 (at Bengeworth) William Archer Johnson, aged 67. A memorial service was also held in Wickhamford Church on 15th July.

William Johnson's name has appeared more often on the sick list in this magazine than any other in recent years. Apart from the loss of a leg in the first world war, he was in almost constant pain of one kind and another, and continually in and out of hospital. But he was a most inspiring example of triumphant suffering in Christ. He was sustained by his courageous faith and the strength he received through Communion. He also had an unflinching sense of humour. After a spell of illness, he was always back at church at the earliest opportunity often at some risk to the process of recovery. He served as a member of the P.C.C. and on the Deanery Moral Welfare Committee for some years, till increasing bad health forced him to give up. Our special sympathy to Mrs. Violet Johnson, whose marriage to him lasted just over 12 months, and to his mother, aged 94, who lives at Bretforton.

The Sick. Your prayers are asked for Mr. Harry Walters, ill in hospital, also for Mr. Dolphin in Avonside Hospital, who is rather poorly at the time of writing. Mrs. Franklin is in hospital for treatment.

Birthday Halfcrowns. Mrs. Nott; Rev. P. Braby.

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

A Generous Bequest

The Vicar has recently been informed by solicitors of Calgary, Alberta, that Charles William Cox, who died on 2nd June, aged 80, bequeathed 500 Canadian Dollars (about £167 at the present rate of exchange) to Wickhamford Church, to be applied for additions or repairs, as the incumbent sees fit. This is really wonderful news, and it is splendid to think that Mr. Cox, who left this country as long ago as 1905 to become a rancher in Canada, did not forget the parish church of his family in England.

Remember, O Lord, for good, our benefactors, who have gone before us with the sign of faith, and who rest in the sleep of peace.

Women's Institute. The amount collected by some members in the village for the Cancer Campaign was £8-15-6.

There will be no meeting in August.

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