

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

DECEMBER, 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.

20th November, 1966

My dear People,

I received my first Christmas card quite early in November. It is not a pretty one. It shows a lean human hand stretched over part of a globe, and bears the caption "Half the world is hungry". Inside it says: "This is not the usual type of Christmas card, but we hope you will leave it standing on your mantelpiece over Christmas as a reminder that it was into a world of hunger and poverty that Christ was born, not into a world of plenty". At the end of the message it says: "Please give generously to Christian Aid this Christmas"

Christmas Dinner

Perhaps some of you have received this card too. If you have, you may be feeling like me. I know I shall not be able to enjoy my Christmas dinner unless I have done something about it.

Something. But what? If 500 millions are hungry, a small contribution from me won't go very far! Well, if we all thought on these lines, nothing would ever be done at all.

On the day that I write, we have had in the Gospel the story of Christ feeding the multitudes. Do you remember what happened? Five thousand hungry people in a desert place. What are we to do?, asks Philip. We should need about £20 to get enough bread to give them a few crumbs each. We're nowhere near any bakeries, and we haven't got £20.

The disciples hoped their Master would save the situation either by sending the crowds away unfed, or by calling down manna from heaven. But that was just what He would not do. When men ask God to solve their problems for them by divine command, they abdicate the delegated sovereignty he has given them over the creation. But as long as we look at these problems from the wrong end, they seem insoluble.

Statistics and Stomachs

If we work out first the number of mouths to be fed, and then calculate what quantity of food is needed, we may produce such mountains of facts and figures that we collapse under them in despair. Statistics are all right for feeding computers, but no good to human bellies. The effect of it all on the individual? 'The problem's too immense. There's nothing I could do.'

Fortunately that day on the bare uplands of Galilee there was one person who did not take this line. Instead of shaking his head off at the size of the dilemma, he looked at it the other way round, to see what he had got to offer. It was a young boy with five little bread rolls and a couple of sardines. With the embarrassing directness of youth, he goes up to Andrew and says, 'Here, take this lot, if it's any use'. Imagine the wave of laughter as Andrew produces this lad with his little haversack. To cover his own confusion he says, "But what is that among so many?"

To the Lord Jesus this must have been one of those great moments of joy which thrilled his whole being. He now had just what He needed. Someone, instead of moaning and evading responsibility, had put something into his hands that He could use for his purposes of mercy and love. Consecrated by his thanksgiving, the small human offering would be the means of his feeding and satisfying his people.

Offertory

We ought to know this scene very well, for we act it every time we are together at the Holy Eucharist, in the offering of the bread and wine.

Man alone cannot solve the problem of world hunger. God alone will not. He wants men to put something into his hands first. But if everybody holds back because what he has to offer seems so small as to be worthless, nothing is done—and people starve and die.

Some people say: But you are not helping to solve the problem by giving money to one of these famine relief agencies. It's only a palliative: it's not going to prevent further famines.

Anybody who says that is out of date. These voluntary agencies like Christian Aid and Oxfam co-operate with U.N. and governments in not only relieving immediate want, but in supplying the means (tractors, fertilisers, etc.) and training, for people in underdeveloped lands to grow their own food efficiently, as God wants them to do.

Christmas Freeze?

'But I haven't any money to give away. what with the squeeze and the freeze.'

Haven't you? Were you going to freeze your Christmas presents this year?

I know some families who don't give any Christmas presents to each other at all, except some very small token. They give to famine relief what they would have spent on presents.

That is highly commendable and some might like to emulate this example. For others it may be too high a standard, and out of the question if they have young children. There is also the difficulty of deciding what sum one would have spent on presents.

Here is an alternative scheme you may like to operate this year, perhaps raising the proportion a bit next year if you feel the aim was too low. **For every shilling you spend on presents for your family and friends, you give a shilling to famine relief.** You thus know exactly how much you are to give: it will be in proportion to your actual spending.

Double Your Money

To take an example. There is your Uncle Charlie. You are very fond of the old boy and you want him to know it; it is right that you should give him a Christmas present as a token of your affection. But he is not in desperate need: he won't starve if he doesn't get a very expensive present from you. While you are doing your Christmas shopping, people in India are dropping dead from starvation. That's not Uncle Charlie's fault. But wouldn't it be lovely to associate him with you in trying to help, by reducing the size of his present, and giving the other half to provide someone with a square meal?

Think of all the square meals you can provide if you do the same not only with Uncle Charlie but with Aunt Agatha and Sister Sue and all the rest. And if each of us were doing this, we could feed thousands.

Christian Aid

I shall be delighted to receive any money you want to give in this way, and to send it up, with ours from the Vicarage (including what we save on Christmas cards), to Christian Aid. Please let me have it not later than Christmas Day.

Think of the boy with the loaves and fishes. Think of the Light streaming out from the manger at Bethlehem. Manger. Its literal meaning? To feed.

May He feed us all with the Bread of Life this Christmas. But first we must put something into his hands.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

A LETTER FROM DEACONESS CAROLINE

20th November, 1966

My dear People,

It is always very hard to put into a few words all that one would like to say after such an occasion as tonight, when your parting gift was given to me. I sincerely thank you for this token of your affection towards me, but there is much more I want to thank you for.

I shall always be grateful that God called me to serve with a fine parish priest when I was ordained, for it has been a privilege to serve you with your Vicar. I shall, too, always remember the welcome you gave me when I came, for your friendship and fellowship in these past four years, and for your support during times of personal sadness.

I shall leave here knowing that I am surrounded by your love, prayers and good wishes, and you may be

assured that you have my prayers.

May God bless all that you undertake to do in his name, and may He give to each one of you his many riches and blessings.

Very sincerely in our Lord,
Your friend,
Caroline, Dss.

THE DIOCESAN MESSENGER

In response to the request of our Bishop that the Messenger should go into as many homes as possible, both P.C.C.s. have decided that in 1967 the Messenger shall be delivered to all subscribers to the Parish Review, the price for the two together remaining at 4/- a year. This will unfortunately necessitate leaving out "The Sign" inset, as we cannot afford both, and the Messenger costs a good deal more than the Sign, so distribution will have to be subsidised to some extent. Readers will, however, have the advantage of seeing the Bishop's monthly letter, and many interesting reports on life in other parishes in Worcester Diocese, together with articles on various local as well as general topics.

In January, then, the Messenger will be distributed with the Parish Review, and there will be no additional subscription for those who take the Messenger. Towards the end of 1967 we shall enclose a slip for you to give your preference for 1968—the Diocesan Messenger or the Sign.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

- Dec.
4 **Advent II.** As usual for 1st Sun.
7 Wed. No H.C.
11 **Advent III.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
14 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
18 **Advent IV.** As usual for 3rd Sun.
21 Wed. **St. Thomas, Apostle.** 10-0 H.C.
24 Sat. **Christmas Eve.** 6-30 p.m. E. & Preparation for H.C. **11-30 p.m. 1st Eucharist of Christmas** (with hymns, and carols on the handbells).
25 **SUN. CHRISTMAS DAY 8 and 11-0 Holy Communion. 10-15 Family Service. 6-45 Evensong** (with carols, no sermon).
28 Wed. **Innocents' Day.** 10-0 H.C.

- Jan.
1 **SUN. Circumcision of Our Lord.** As usual for 1st Sun. Carols at Evensong.

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 Wed., Dec. 21 & Sat., Dec. 24.

Decoration of the church for Christmas will be on **Friday, Dec. 23,** at 2 p.m. and helpers will be welcome. Flowers and evergreens will also be very acceptable, and should be brought to the church on Friday morning.

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.

No P.C.C. Meeting in Dec. Finance & General Purposes Committee, Tues., Nov. 29, 7-15 p.m. Joint meeting of Stewardship & Pastoral Committees, Tues., Dec. 6, 7-15 p.m.

Sanctuary & Flower Guild. There will be a meeting of all members at the Vicarage on Friday, 9th Dec., at 2-30 p.m. More help is needed with this work and any ladies who are interested are cordially invited to this meeting.

Mothers' Union. There will be only one meeting this month, on Tuesday, 13th Dec., at 2-30 p.m., when the Rev. D. I. James will give a second talk on prayer. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Hatcher (Committee) and Mesdames Hall, Harwood, Holley, Ives.

The Committee will meet on Monday, 5th Dec., at 2-30 p.m.

Corporate Communion on Wednesday, 7th Dec., at 10 a.m. E.G.B.

Youth Club. We are pleased to report that our Autumn Fair raised the gratifying total of £70. This has enabled us to give our funds a needed boost, also to give £10—our agreed share—to the East African project of the Church of England Youth Clubs.

All members of the Youth Club give a sincere thank you to everyone who gave so generously in time, help, gifts and money to making the Fair the success it was. D.N.J.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 20 Tracey Jane Smith; Alison Brotheridge; Dean John Davis; Andrew John Curtis.

Burials, R.I.P.

Oct. 24 (notice last month) Jean McDonald Amos, aged 83.

Nov. 9 (church service followed by cremation) William Henry George Reed, aged 82.

Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Reed and with Archie and Ron and their wives. Mr. Reed, though not a native of Badsey, came here nearly 50 years ago and was a much respected member of the market gardening fraternity. In recent years he had suffered from chronic bronchitis and had been much restricted in his activities. Mr. & Mrs. Reed celebrated their diamond wedding last year.

Jottings. We were grieved to hear of the death in a motor accident in Chicago of Wendy (née Hurman's) husband, leaving her with three small children. At the same time we have to say goodbye to Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Kiehne (Mary Hurman), who are returning to Canberra, Australia.

Mrs. June Barrand has returned from hospital in Oxford, but her convalescence is very slow. Mr. Harry Marshall, after some delay, which he has taken very philosophically, has just had his operation on the gall bladder. Mrs. Annie Grinnell is still in Ronkswood Hospital, very cheerful, and hoping to be home by Christmas. Mrs. Cook of Badsey Fields is still ill at home. Mrs. Harry Stewart has been very run down, but we hope she is now really on the mend. We have been glad to welcome home from hospital Mrs. L. M. Jelfs, who has been rather poorly since her return, Mrs. Ford and Mr. Roy Harman, who has had another unlucky accident on his motor bike. In Avonside Hospital Mrs. Turrill and Mrs. Jenkins are very poorly at present, and Mr. W. Jones has suffered much discomfort.

Servers for December. 4th, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 R. Keen. 11th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Crane. 18th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 D. Barrand. Christmas Eve & Day, 11-30 p.m. D. Crane; 8-0 C. Hartwell; 10-15 (Fam. Service) C. Tucker; 11-0 C. Harwood; 6-45 S. Gresty. Jan. 1st, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 R. Keen.

War Memorial Flowers. Dec. 4th, Mrs. Joyce Hewlett; 11th, Mrs. L. Reeves; 18th, Mrs. Sandford; 25th, Mrs. H. Hatcher.

The recent Cancer Research collection in Badsey realised the sum of £36-17-9, a record.

Remembrance Sunday (Earl Haig's Fund), £10-11-7.
Birthday Half-crowns. Mrs. Braby, Mary Braby.

Communicants. Week beginning Oct. 23rd, 61; 30th, 96; Nov. 6th, 47; 13th, 36.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Dec.

4 **Advent II.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 Evensong & Sunday School Prizegiving in church.

11 **Advent III.** 3-0 Evensong. Dedication of Memorial Font Cover (see Note below). Preacher for U.S.P.G. Rev. Eric Skues.

18 **Advent IV.** 11-0 Family Eucharist. 3-0 Evensong.

25 **CHRISTMAS DAY. 9-0 Holy Communion** (with hymns). Alms for Church of England Children's Society.

Jan.

1 **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 Evensong & Carols.

Communion of Sick. See Badsey Notes.

MEMORIAL FONT COVER

Several months ago Wickhamford parishioners subscribed for a memorial to the late Vicar, the Rev. Wilfred Broadhurst Chapman, to be erected in the church. We are glad to say that an oak cover for the old stone font has now been made by Messrs. J. W.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Pymont and Sons of Chipping Campden, with a memorial inscription on the upper surface. A faculty has been obtained from the Chancellor of the Diocese. The dedication will be at Evensong, 3 p.m., on Sunday, 11th December.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 6 Julia Ward.

Mothers' Union. There will be no meeting this month as the date falls so near to the Christmas Festival. The next meeting will be on 18th January, details next month. E.G.B.

The Sick. We are sorry that Mr. Harry Walters is again in hospital, and pray that he may make a good recovery. Mr. Bunyan is in hospital with heart trouble but seems to be making excellent progress. We are thankful that Mr. Jess Newbury has had a successful operation and has been back at church.

People's Offering for Moral Welfare. The result of the house-to-house collection in October was £8-15-0, and our thanks are due to the collectors and to all who gave.

Earl Haig's Fund (Remembrance Sunday church collection) £5-11-8.

Women's Institute. Dec. 8. 15th Birthday Party.

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