

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JANUARY, 1967.

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

17th December, 1966.

My Dear People,

"Songs of Praise the angels sang.....
When creation was begun".

I have heard it said that it was a pity they sang from such a period-flavoured book. Hymns A. & M. or even the English Hymnal might have given them a better selection for such a momentous occasion.

But, seriously, I do wish we could have some completely new hymns, don't you? Lots of new tunes have been composed for old hymns, and the subject of hymn tunes ("Why can't we have pop tunes?"; "I likes the good old 'uns", etc.) is always guaranteed to galvanise the most torpid C. of E. meeting into animated debate. But people do not seem to be so much concerned about the words of hymns, which is strange. Do we think about what we are singing? Take those two lines at the top of this letter, for instance. A very muddled bit of thinking behind this, surely. If the angels are created beings, they could not have been there to sing anything when creation was begun. If they are not creatures, then we do not believe in one God.

Rhyme without reason

And what are young people of the 1960s to make of a piece of doggerel like this?

"We love the sacred Font;
For there the holy Dove
To pour is ever wont
His blessings from above".

The word "wont" has been dragged in to rhyme with "font", and "dove" has been requisitioned to go with "above". It has rhyme but no reason. Whatever doves are "wont" to do, they certainly do not pour anything (it is fortunate the author did not use the word "drop"!); When a dove is pictured as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, as in the Gospel account of our Lord's Baptism, it is as in swooping flight.

"Sing ye praises with understanding"

You may say: Hymns are meant to be sung, not analysed. True, yet St. Paul says, "I will sing hymns as I am inspired to sing, but I will sing intelligently too" (1 Cor. 14 v. 15 - N.E.B.). We do not sing hymns for the sake of a singsong, but in order to express intelligently our praises and aspirations to God. If the words and images used are unintelligible or fail to awaken meaningful associations in our minds, we might as well be singing incantations like "abracadabra hocus pocus feefifofum".

Where are the Space Age hymns?

We desperately need some hymns written for this age of revolution, when everything seems to be in flux. Many of the hymns of the old static world order just do not "click".

I am not saying that all the hymns we sing should reflect contemporary conditions and attitudes. We need to be reminded of the timelessness of the everlasting Gospel and our historic continuity with the past ages of Christendom. We need to be lifted out of the temporal and passing things of the moment. But we cannot opt out of the 20th century altogether, whenever we come to church.

When I was staying at St. Augustine's, Canterbury, about three years ago, we used the hymn-book of the American Episcopal Church, which contains some fine modern hymns that were a joy to sing. The collections in our hymn books have very few hymns written later than 1910 (A. & M. Revised, 1950, contains about a dozen written since 1920, only 4 of which are general hymns). Most of the national and missionary hymns are completely unusable nowadays. There are some modern hymns in small collections, but not in the larger books commonly used in church. Our generation does not seem to produce hymn-writers.

Expression of faith

If we regard the function of hymns in church services as merely filling in gaps while something else is being done, e.g. taking a collection, or the entrance of the choir, then it is of no great importance what we are singing, so long as we make a cheerful noise unto the Lord. But, as our Methodist friends would remind us, hymns are a means of corporately expressing our faith and rendering back in praise what we have received in God's holy Word. For that reason, in planning the services the hymns cannot be just picked at random: they have to be carefully selected.

Choosing the hymns

It takes me two or three hours to choose the hymns for the month for the two churches. I am sure there are a lot of people who feel they could do it better; they are probably right, and they are welcome to try, provided they really do take trouble over it.

These are some of the points that have to be considered.

(1) What is the season of the Christian year, and is the Sunday concerned a particular festival or of some other special significance?

(2) What is the theme of the collect for the day, the epistle and gospel, the 1st and 2nd lessons? Is there going to be a sermon on a special theme?

(3) There must be a balance between corporate hymns and subjective hymns of personal devotion, e.g. it would not do to have in the same service "Abide with me", "Hark my soul, it is the Lord", "Nearer my God to thee" and "Art thou weary, art thou languid"? (Yes, very weary after that lot), any more than to have as one's four hymns "The Church's one foundation", "The Church of God a kingdom is", "City of God", "Glorious things of thee are spoken".

(4) There should also be a balance if possible between hymns of praise (e.g. "O worship the King"), hymns of aspiration (e.g. "O for a closer walk with God"), hymns of supplication (e.g. "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer"), and hymns of dedication (e.g. "Soldiers of Christ, arise").

5. There should be variety in the pace and vigour of the hymns - not all quiet and contemplative, not all lively and militant, not all slow and stately.

6) Variety in the length of verse is also important. It can be very tiring to have too many hymns of 8-line stanzas.

(7) We need a balance between very familiar hymns and the not so familiar. We can let ourselves go with the well-known hymns, but familiarity often dulls our minds to what we are singing. Faced with a new or uncommon hymn, we have to pay more attention to the words.

These are only some of the factors which have to be considered when choosing hymns. Obviously it would be impossible to apply all these principles to perfection for every service. The chief limitation is the poor choice in our present hymn books.

And that brings me back to where I started.

O would some bard wing us to heaven
In hymns of nineteen sixty-seven.

Your sincere friend and Vicar.

PETER BRABY.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Every year this is held by Christians of all denominations from Jan. 18 to 25 inclusive. On the opening day, Wednesday the 18th, we shall have in the Meeting House, Badsey, a united prayer meeting for all Christians at 7-30 p.m., lasting half an hour. This year there will not be a public meeting in Evesham, but the town

churches are having a united service in the Baptist Church on Sunday, 22nd, at 6-30 p.m., to which anyone is welcome from the villages as well. Also, as every year, there will be united silent prayer for half an hour in St. Mary's R.C. Church, on Wed., 18th at 11 a.m.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings. Owing to the very early Lent this year, and the preparation for the Confirmation on March 12, A.P.C.M.s in both parishes will not be held till after Easter: Wickhamford March 29th, Badsey, April 4th. In the meantime, the annual revision of the Church Electoral Rolls will take place. If you are not on the electoral roll of your parish and are a baptised member of the Church of England over 17 residing in the parish (or, if not resident, regularly attending church here for the last 6 months), you should apply for inclusion in the Roll. Forms are available at the churches or at the vicarage. When signed they should be returned to Mr. H. L. Hatcher, 53, Bretforton Road (Badsey), or to Mr. C. G. W. Beacon, 11, Sally Close (Wickhamford).

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

January, 1967

- 1 Sun. **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Children's Carol Service & Nativity Play. 11-0 H.C. 6-45 Evensong & Carols.
- 4 Wed. No H.C.
- 6 Fri. **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.** 10-0 H.C.
- 8 **Epiphany I.** As usual for 2nd Sun. At Evensong: Questions instead of sermon (see note below).
- 11 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 15 **Epiphany II.** As usual for 3rd Sun. Preacher at Evensong: Rev. D. T. Russell, M.A. Vicar of the Littletons.
- 18 to 25 **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.**
- 18 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 7-30 p.m. United prayer meeting in Meeting House.
- 22 **Septuagesima.** As usual for 4th Sun.
- 25 Wed. **Conversion of St. Paul.** 10-0 H.C. 3 p.m. Pram Service (see note below).
- 29 **Sexagesima.** As for 5th Sun. 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Family Service. 6-45 Evensong.

February

- 1 Wed. No H.C.
- 2 Thurs. **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** 10-0 H.C.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Jan. 3, at 7-15 p.m. Study of proposed alternative Order of Holy Communion. Stewardship Sub-Committee, Tues., Jan. 17, at 7-15 p.m.

Confirmation Classes will be resumed as follows: Adults Mon., Jan. 2nd, 7-30 p.m.; Boys, Wed., Jan. 4th, 6-15 p.m.; Girls, Fri., Jan. 6th, 6-15 p.m.

Pram Service. Every month, on the 4th Wednesday at 3 p.m., a short service will be held in the church for mothers with babies and toddlers. The pram service this month will be on Jan. 25th.

Question Time. From time to time, on a Sunday evening, the Vicar will try to answer questions instead of preaching a sermon. It will be announced in the Parish Review when the question evenings are going to be, so that you may send in your questions in advance (though this does not rule out spoken supplementary questions at the time). To this end there will be a box for written questions in the church during the previous week, or you may hand your questions to the Vicar at any time. He does not undertake to deal with all the questions at the same session, if there are many. The first of these sessions will be on Sunday evening, 8th January.

Sunday School Parties. These will be held at the Meeting House, Chapel Street.

Nursery & Infants: Sat., Jan. 7th, 3-0 to 6 p.m.

Junior Sun. Sch. & Confirmation Candidates under 14: Sat., Jan. 21st, 4-30 to 8 p.m.

Donations towards the cost of the parties will be very acceptable, and may be given to the Vicar. Gifts of trifles, made jellies (not packets), tinned fruit, sandwich fillings, butter, etc. will be very welcome, and should be brought to the Meeting House on the day of the party not later than 11 a.m. Non-perishable goods may be brought to the Vicarage earlier in the week.

Village Party for the Over Sixty-Fives. This will be held in the Remembrance Hall on Sat., Jan. 14th. Anyone who qualifies, but by some mischance has not received an invitation by Jan. 7th, please contact Mr. H. L. Hatcher, 53 Bretforton Road, or the Vicar.

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

Fri. Jan. 6 Corporate Communion 10 a.m.

Tues. Jan. 10 Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hurlley on "The Church in the 19th Century". Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Hatcher (Committee), and Mesdames G. A. Jones, Marshall, Major, Perkins.

Tues. Jan. 24 Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. P. Frost, on the Missions to Seamen (films). Tea hostesses: Mrs. C. Stewart (Committee) and Mesdames A. Reed, E. Smith, Sparrow, Sladden. E.G.B.

HOLY BAPTISM

Dec. 18 Brian Anthony Jones; Amanda Jayne Mitchell (of Wickhamford).

BURALS, R.I.P.

Dec. 10 Annie Elizabeth Grinnell, aged 69.

It was very sad that so soon after returning from her long stay in hospital Mrs. Grinnell succumbed to a fatal stroke. The previous day she was gaily about the village in a wheeled chair, seeing old friends. Many will have happy last memories of her on that day. Our sincere sympathy with all the members of the family. She was a wonderful example of Christian patience and courage.

Dec. 14 Elsie Annie Moisey, aged 65.

Mrs. Moisey had been an invalid for many years, and we can be happy that she has been granted release. Our prayers as well as our sincere condolences with her husband who is in hospital with heart strain, and with the other members of the family.

Mrs. Georgina Pitts died in hospital at the end of November and was buried at Bretforton. Mrs. Lizzie Cook, of Badsey Fields, died on Dec. 16th in Cheltenham Hospital, and is to be cremated at Cheltenham. Our sympathy and prayers for their relatives.

Jottings. Miss Catherine Sladden sails this month for India, where she is to be on the staff of St. Mary's Training College, Poona, in the Diocese of Bombay. She has waited for many years to be able to serve the Church overseas. She goes with our prayers and very best wishes.

We are glad to welcome home from hospital Mr. Harry Marshall after his serious operation, and Mr. W. Wheatley hopes to be home for Christmas. Mrs. Jane Davies is also home for Christmas. Mrs. Tom Wilson returned some weeks ago after her eye operation. Michael Sheward is in hospital after breaking his kneecap at work, and is very plucky. Mrs. A. N. Porter is in hospital with chest trouble.

Bellringers. There is a great need for more ringers, and young people may be glad of the opportunity of learning this fascinating art. If you are interested, please ask the Vicar or Mr. Tony Brazier.

Servers for January. 1st, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 R. Keen. 8th, 10-15 C. Tucker (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 S. Gresty. 15th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 R. Keen. 22nd, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 D. Crane (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer). 29th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 10-15 R. Keen; 6-45 C. Tucker.

War Memorial Flowers. Jan. 1st, Mrs. Hurman; 8th, Mrs. W. Sparrow; 15th, Mrs. D. Grinnell; 22nd, Mrs. L. Reeves; 29th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

U.S.P.G. Boxes 1966: £50-8-2.

Birthday Half-crown: Miss Juliet Sladden.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Jan.

- 1 Sun. Circumcision of our Lord. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E. and Carols.
- 8 Epiph. I. 3-0 E. and Holy Baptism.
- 15, 22, 29 Epiph. II, Septuagesima, Sexagesima. As for 3rd, 4th & 5th Suns. N.B. Evensong at 3 p.m.

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Jan. 11th, 7-30 p.m.

Confirmation Classes will be resumed on Tues., Jan. 3rd, at 6-15 p.m.

Mothers' Union. The branch meeting this month will be on Wednesday, 18th Jan., at 2-30 p.m. at 8, Washington Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Digby. E.G.B.

Youth Club. We are sorry that Mr. Michael Jones has been unable to continue his fine leadership of the youth club owing to business and domestic commitments. This seems an opportunity to express our very warm thanks and appreciation for all that he has done. The Youth Club is closed, we hope temporarily, and if anyone of suitable age and qualifications would be interested in undertaking this work, will they please contact the Vicar.

Jottings. Our sincere condolences with Mrs. Griffin and her family on the death of Mr. Basil Griffin, aged 88, on Dec. 16th. The funeral was at Bengeworth. We shall all miss this delightful old friend, a very hard worker in his time, and still active in his retirement.

We are sorry that Mr. Harry Walters is in hospital again, and has to undergo an operation in Worcester. Mrs. Cuttler has heart trouble and is in a nursing home at Clevedon with her son Jack. Mr. Bunyan is home after a few weeks in hospital, and Mr. Beacon has been laid up with jaundice.

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