

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 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

18th January, 1967.

My dear People,

A report on a certain escaped prisoner says that 'he is more amenable to persuasion than to direction'. How very original! If anyone had to make a report on you or me, wouldn't they say the same? We all dislike being 'pushed around', as we are fond of saying, and waste a lot of the world's time in making those in authority practise the arts of persuasion on us instead of carrying out some simple direction.

It seems that even the animals are the same nowadays: two or three years ago a lady advised us all that if you want to get rid of rats, they will leave your home if you ask them politely, and presumably take up their abode with someone who prefers more arbitrary methods.

Authority

It is an anti-authoritarian age. How much of our de-
testation of war is due to genuine humanity, or is it partly a dislike of the military virtues? It would be easier for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than for the mid-20th century to produce Christians like Ignatius Loyola or William Booth.

Yet surely that Roman centurion was right when he recognised in the Lord Jesus a kindred spirit. "I also, am a man under authority". He said "under authority" where we would have expected him to say "in authority". He saw that the authority with which Jesus spoke, and the confidence with which He commanded even the powers of nature, sprang from his own complete obedience to the Father,—just as the centurion's commands were obeyed by his men because behind them was his own submission to the Emperor.

If we cherish above all our freedom from the restraint of authority and pride ourselves more than anything in our independence, we shall find our freedom is that of an anchorless ship, and our independence that of an autumn leaf detached from its tree. Without direction our lives lack purpose. We drift.

Obedience to God

In the Collect for the 1st Sunday in Lent we pray that, "our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may obey Christ's godly motions". I am not quite sure what 'motions' means here, but we know what it means when a policeman motions us to stop or to proceed. So I have always taken the Collect to mean that if I practise self-control after Christ's example I shall be able more clearly to understand the signs He gives me and to respond more readily to his directions. Perhaps that is the main purpose of Lenten self-denial.

Lent is above all a time to practise obedience to God. It is not a bad rule to make a point of doing at least one or two little good things each day for no other reason than that one would rather not do them, or would prefer to be doing something else. This is a good discipline, though we must remember that what we like doing is not necessarily contrary to God's will! When faced with a choice between two courses of action (or between action and inaction), and you feel inclined to the one rather than the other, ask yourself why. Is it because the one resembles a cushion and the other a cross? If so, it is a sure sign from God that He wants you to choose the latter.

Obedience to the Church

And then there is obedience to the Church. We all tend to lose patience with Mother Church, and it is true she has glaring faults. But Christ loves her and gave Himself for her. To be disloyal to the Church is to be disloyal to Christ. Most of us English people tend to an unhealthy subjectivism in our religious practice. 'Does this suit me?' If the Church enjoins something on us which interferes with our pet indulgences we say: 'I don't hold with that sort of thing', and erect our prejudices as lofty principles.

The Church of England does not go in for detailed regulations for the conduct of its members. The Church

of Rome, which has been inclined to do this, is now finding it has to be continually modifying such regulations to meet the altered circumstances of modern life. It therefore often gives the impression of a continuous retreat from fortified positions to hastily prepared trenches. (This is not not intended as disparagement; I for one have a good deal of sympathy with the Roman Church in its present problems of combining its admired discipline with the flexibility that many of its members seek). A good example of this is the "Table of the Days of Fasting or Abstinence" in the Book of Common Prayer. The days are given on which the Church of England expects its members to practise fasting and abstinence, but our Church has never defined what it means by 'fasting or abstinence'. It makes no detailed regulations, but shows quite clearly that members of the Church of England are expected to practise an inner discipline by some definite form of self-denial on the appointed days.

Lenten Discipline

This is not a matter of individual opinion or preference. It is something "accepted and approved by all sober, peaceable, and truly conscientious Sons (and Daughters) of the Church of England" (Prayer Book Preface). Obedience to the Church requires that we should all practise some form of self-denial on Fridays (the day of Our Lord's death for love of us), and during the season of Lent, as well as on the Ember and Rogation Days.

When we are all curbing our wayward individualism in this corporate discipline, then does the Church acquire new strength, and our own lives are given that sense of direction and power which comes to those who are 'under authority'.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid. You will be pleased to hear that this reached £100. Miss Janet Lacey, the Director, has sent a letter to the Vicar: "I write to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of a most generous Christmas gift of £100 towards our work among refugees and under-privileged communities overseas, from the Parishes of Badsey and Wickhamford. I am most grateful that you have been able to remember our work in this way and trust that these thanks will be passed to all your members for their generosity. You will, I feel sure, be pleased to know that the giving of many Church members and friends everywhere made available to people in need over £120,000 more during 1966 than in the previous year!... Thank you again for this help which makes possible not only prompt action in times of disaster but also continued support for the many long-term programmes of agricultural improvement, rehabilitation and relief sponsored by us overseas".

Church Electoral Roll forms are available at both churches or at the vicarage. When completed and 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 Church Services

Feb.

- 1 Wed. No H.C.
- 2 Thurs. **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** 10-0 H.C.
- 5 **Quinquagesima.** As usual for 1st Sun.
- 8 **Ash Wednesday.** 6-30 & 10-0 H.C. 4-15 Children's Service. 7-30 p.m. Evensong & Devotional Address (see below).
- 12 **Lent I.** As usual for 2nd Sun. At Evensong answers to questions (see below).

- 15 Wed, Ember Day. 10-0 H.C. 4-15 Children's Service. 7-30 p.m. Devotional Service.
 19 Lent II. As usual for 3rd Sun. Officiant & preacher at Evensong: Rev. N. Haigh, V. of Childswickham & R. of Aston Somerville.
 22 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service. 4-15 Children's Service. 7-30 Devotional Service.
 24 Fri. St. Matthias, Apostle. 7-0 H.C.
 26 Lent III. As usual for 4th Sun.

March

- 1 Wed. St. David, Bp. 10-0 H.C. 4-15 Children's Service. 7-30 Devotional Service.

Lenten Services. On Wednesday afternoon, after school, there will be a short children's service in the church, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 8th Feb.

On Wednesday evenings there will be a course of devotional addresses by the Rev. L. C. Clifton-Everest, Assistant Priest of Evesham.

Please note that there will be another 'Any Questions' session on Sunday, Feb. 12th. There will be a box in church for questions the week before.

A Bible Study Group is meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. N. Clark, Pennyfields, Aldington. Anyone is welcome. Please ask Mrs. Clark about dates and times.

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

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

Thurs., Feb. 2—Corporate Communion 10 a.m. (note date). Outing to Stratford 5-30 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 14—Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Carter on M.U. Overseas Work. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Caswell (committee) and Mesdames Watkins, Richards, Wright, Betteridge.

Tues., Feb. 28—Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Group Discussion. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Bell (committee) & Mesdames Cleaver, Clark, Crisp, Cole. E.G.B.

Memorial to Wilfred Broadhurst Chapman. We were sorry that notice of the dedication could not be given in the January number, but the screen was unexpectedly erected just before Christmas, and was dedicated at Evensong on Jan. 8th.

The screen is of plate-glass framed in oak, with the memorial inscription incised in the glass and well seen from the nave below. It is in the upper part of the tower arch, surmounting the screen erected some years ago to commemorate the ending of the last war. The new screen was executed by Messrs. B. Brazier, and was designed, with the excellent lettering, by Mr. K. Cole. The practical problem was to exclude draughts from the tower into the nave and at the same time to retain as much light as possible from the W. window. This has been well contrived, and at the same time, on the advice of the Bishop's Advisory Committee, the peal record boards have been moved from the piers of the arch itself to the walls on either side, where they not only look very effective, but do not interrupt the fine soaring lines of the 14th century arch mouldings.

We are glad that memorials have now been completed in both parishes to a much-loved priest who gave such a devoted ministry in Badsey and Wickhamford, the fruit of which is being harvested today.

Sanctuary Curtains. We are most grateful to Mrs. Edith Smith and her daughter Norah for the gift of new curtains behind the altar. These look very effective. We already owe the re-carpeting of the chancel and sanctuary to their generosity.

Sunday School Parties. Many thanks to all who contributed towards the cost of the parties and who helped with the catering and running of games, etc.

Youth Club. Following our Christmas Social which we shared with parents and friends, the Fancy Dress Party achieved great success. The originality and effort of the members made front page news in the Evesham Journal. This good publicity makes very pleasant reading from the usual adverse criticism of Youth Today.

Our next important date is Saturday, 25th February. This is a 'Collectors & Hobbies' display with Models, Arts, Coins, Stamps, Railways, Cards, etc. Any adult assistance to this interesting exhibition will be welcome. D.N.J.

Holy Baptism

Jan. 15 Mark Stephen Higgins.

Jottings. Very hearty congratulations indeed to Mrs. Florence March, who celebrates her 90th birthday on Jan. 21st. In spite of failing health, Mrs. March keeps remarkably active, and will not be deterred from getting to church whenever she possibly can. What an inspiration she is to us all of the delight of Christian worship! When we see her on a Sunday morning, she seems to be saying, with the psalmist, "This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Mrs. Lilian Jones died peacefully on Jan. 17th after a severe illness bravely borne, and is to be buried in Badsey. We offer our prayerful sympathy with Mr. Fred Jones, Senr. and the members of the family, who have suffered so much in recent months.

Mrs. George King has been very ill, but is getting stronger. Mrs. Porter is making a slow recovery, and is still in hospital at the time of writing. Miss Ruby Jones, who has been suffering from heart strain, is having treatment in hospital and is a good deal better. Miss Ella Jones is keeping fairly well, and is in the care of Mr. & Mrs. Llewelyn Jones at Malvern House. Mrs. W. Bennett Senr., who was getting a good deal better, has broken some ribs in a nasty fall. Her neighbours, Mrs. Annie Sadler and Mr. Don Hartwell, have also been laid up. Mr. Cyril Sladden is in hospital at Oxford, where he has had an operation for cataract, and Mr. Fred Cleaver is having an operation on his neck. We welcome home from hospital Mr. George Grove (who is ever so much better as a result of his operation and walking well), and Mrs. Mary Williams. We also welcome home Mr. & Mrs. C. Haines from recuperation in Cornwall. Mrs. F. Edwards who was laid up with a fractured ankle is still staying with her son. Mr. George Crane's back is improving with treatment. Michael Sheward is still in hospital. All these sick people and others not mentioned will be glad of your prayers.

Servers for February. 5th, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 S. Gresty. 12th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 C. Hartwell. 19th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 R. Keen. 26th, 8-0 D. Crane; 6-45 C. Hartwell (server), C. Tucker (crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Feb. 5th, Mrs. N. Cook; 12th, Mrs. M. Hewlett; 19th, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 26th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Anniversary Donations. Wedding 10/-: Mr. & Mrs. B. Jones. Birthday 2/6: Mrs. F. Knight.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Note that during Lent there will be a celebration of Holy Communion every Sunday. Evensong still at 3 p.m. this month.

Feb.

- 5 Quinquagesima. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.
 8 Ash Wednesday. 7-30 H.C.
 12 Lent I. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.
 19 Lent II. 11-0 Family Communion. 3-0 E.
 26 Lent III. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.

Electoral Roll. See Note after Vicar's Letter.

Mothers' Union. The Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday, 15th Feb. at 2-30 p.m. at 7, Coombefield Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Spragg.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for this year, 6/-, are due and should be paid to Mrs. F. Smith. E.G.B.

Sunday School. A visit to the pantomime at Cheltenham has completed another happy year in our Sunday School. Prize Giving was held in church in December, the Vicar presenting prizes, and Mrs. John Drysdale again being the generous donor of them. Mr. John Drysdale also presents us with an annual cheque towards the cost of the outing; we are indeed fortunate in having two such faithful benefactors.

The Sunday School has sent donations of £8 to U.S.P.G., £5 to the Aberfan Disaster Fund, and £3 to Christian Aid. This reflects great credit on the parents of the children, who by their interest encourage us in our work.

Our young teachers are very keen and can teach me lessons! Miss Margaret Willis is a great source of comfort to me, for besides showering her loving care on all the little ones, her loyalty and kindness sustains us all. Please pray for God's blessing on our work.

I would like to thank those who have given me postage stamps for the Rev. W. S. Tyler's appeal for the Missions to Seamen funds; he is so grateful for any help. A. L. Cox.

The Planned Giving Scheme has had another very successful year. From the efforts of 32 members, nearly £400 has been raised—regular giving is the reason for success. May I again thank all members for their kindness and co-operation, and especially Mr. C. Beacon, P.C.C. Secretary, for his invaluable assistance. A.L.C.

Important Note. We now have a refuse container just inside the churchyard. Please put dead flowers and other litter in this, and not on the former rubbish heap.

Holy Baptism.

Jan. 8 Ralph Julian Percival.

Jottings. In addition to those who are to be confirmed in March, we offer our prayers for Nigel Astley, who is to be confirmed on Feb. 25 at Oundle School.

Miss Colley has been very ill in Evesham Hospital, though at the time of writing there has been some improvement. Mr. H. Walters has had a successful operation in Worcester Royal Infirmary, though convalescence is likely to be prolonged. Mrs. Cuttler has returned from hospital with her son Jack, to whom she gives such devoted care, but is not at all strong, and finds the burden very heavy with increasing age. Robin Cox has had a double fracture of the leg in upholding the honour of the Wicks against Cleeve Prior at football, and is likely to be laid up quite a long time. Mr. Beacon has been laid up, first with jaundice, and later with a bad foot. These and all other sick people will be very glad of your prayers.

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