

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

APRIL, 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 March, 1967

My dear People,

### The Impatience of a Parson

This was the title of a book by that beloved character Dick Sheppard in the nineteen-twenties. Not every impatient parson would have wanted to bellyache about the same things as he did, but I must say that the causes of frustration appear to increase rather than diminish as the years go on. Those of us in the parochial ministry who want to be good law-abiding conformists are finding it increasingly hard to contain ourselves within the archaic framework which the people who represent us at the centre seem utterly powerless or unwilling to reform. Unless something happens quickly, the Church of England is going to be faced with either paralysis or anarchy.

It isn't only the parsons who are getting impatient (and the bishops - see our own Bishop's letter in the Diocesan Messenger for February), but the thoughtful laity in the parishes. Nothing ever seems to get done or authorised at the centre. It's like some nightmare game of snakes and ladders in which we keep having to go back to square one. We are saddled with a lot of worm-eaten period pieces - 17th century liturgy, 16th century articles of religion, inconvenient or redundant buildings, waste of man-power, out-of-date canon law, 5 legislative houses, yards of legal red tape. These are only a few of the things that everybody agrees ought to be changed, yet none of the excellent proposals prepared and put forward by appointed experts ever seems to get accepted or authorised. Our sister churches in the Anglican Communion are not hamstrung in this way. Yet we cannot blame the fact of establishment: Parliament has allowed the Church to experiment freely in forms of worship. Yet look what happens.

### A vision of the Upper Room

A liturgical commission is appointed by the Archbishops and the Church Assembly, to draw up new orders of service for experimental use in the parishes (where desired by a two-thirds majority of the P.C.C.). These acknowledged experts, drawn from all schools of thought in the Church, spend much time and care in compiling a new Order of Holy Communion which is generally agreed to be sensible, simple, beautiful, and true to scriptural and primitive tradition as well as being suited to 20th century conditions. The whole aim of this exercise was to get behind the arid controversies and complications of the Reformation period to the four-fold action of Our Lord at the Last Supper and the table-fellowship of the undivided Church. This proposed liturgy has caught the imagination of church people (both clerical and lay) who have studied it, far more than any attempted modifications of the 1662 rite could do. It has given to some a new insight into what the Eucharist means, in terms of our common life and service.

The idea was that this rite should be authorised as soon as possible for experimental use in the parishes for three years. After this period, amendments would be considered by the Convocations and House of Laity in the light of reports from the parishes who had used the service. In both, our parishes, as requested by the Bishop, the P.C.C.'s studied the proposed service. But just as there is all the difference between reading a play and seeing it performed (or better still, performing it together), so we felt we could not assess the merits of the new service without trying it out. Accordingly, one weekday evening we celebrated Holy Communion according to the proposed order, for members of both P.C.C.s. Although we did not take a vote at this stage, the general opinion seemed to be strongly in favour of using the new liturgy when authorised.

### War March of the Fossils

The proposed rite had been published a long time before. The Convocations of the clergy had already passed it for experimental use. It remained only for the House of Laity to give their approval. In the February

session of the Church Assembly they only gave one day to its consideration. Some 16 amendments were before them. In the course of the morning they discussed at length such trivialities as whether the Collect for the Queen should be optional. By the end of the day they had passed 3 or 4 amendments and then had to adjourn the debate till some future session.

The result has been to kill this hopeful project stone dead. The amendments which were agreed will be passed back to the Liturgical Commission. When dealt with by

### Kiss of Death

them, they will have to go back to the Convocations, and finally return to the House of Laity. But that House has still to go through the other amendments which it did not reach at its last session, and begin the process all over again. If after a few years a completely mangled and unrecognisable version of the original proposed liturgy is eventually authorised, everyone will have lost interest.

It would not be fair to blame the representatives of the Laity for acting conscientiously and carefully in the matter. But they ought surely to trust the clergy and people in the parishes to try out what cannot be seriously debated until it has been tried. They were putting the cart before the horse.

Perhaps the present proposals for synodical government (if they ever came about) would prevent such a stalemate in the future. Sometimes one feels like a Luddite with regard to all the creaking ecclesiastical machinery. But that is the way to chaos.

May God use our sense of weakness and frustration with ourselves to bring us to a greater dependence on his power. Whatever happens, we must not lose our faith in the Church, which Christ purchased with his own blood.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

**Evesham Ruridecanal Synod, Monday, 24th April, in Evesham Town Hall, 7-30p.m.**

All who will have been elected to the Parochial Church Councils at the Annual Church Meetings are members of the Ruridecanal Synod, and are expected to attend the twice-yearly meetings as one of the duties they have undertaken. At the April Synod, eight questions on the Synodical Government of the Church have to be discussed and the replies forwarded to the Diocesan Conference. It is likely that every P.C.C. member will be allocated to a small group, for study and discussion of a specific question.

### May Fair, Friday, 5th May.

This will be held in the Town Hall from 10-30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will be opened by Lady Flower. It is the annual Evesham Deanery fund-raising effort for our branch of the Family & Social Service (formerly known as Moral Welfare).

Badsey & Wickhamford parishes will run a joint stall, and our representatives - Mrs. Sladden of Badsey and Mrs. Thomas of Wickhamford - will be very glad of offers of goods and of help.

### BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES Church Services

#### April

- 2 Easter 1. As usual for 1st Sun.
- 4 Tues. **Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary** (transferred from March 25). 10-0 H.C. 3-0 M.U. Deanery Festival Service in Badsey Church.
- 5 Wed. No H.C.
- 9 Easter 2. As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 12 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 16 Easter 3. As usual for 3rd Sun.
- 19 3-0 Pram Service.
- 20 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 23 Easter 4. St. George, M., Patron of England. As usual for 4th Sun.
- 25 Tues. **St. Mark, Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.

26 Wed. No H.C.  
30 Easter 5 (Rogation). As usual for 5th Sun. 10-15 Family Service.

#### May

1 Mon. SS. Philip & James, Apostles. Rogation Day. 7-0 H.C.

#### WHO CARES ?

Committal or non-committal? That was the issue we faced in the Parish Mission last October. "He that is not with me is against me", says our Master in no uncertain terms. If you have decided that you are committed to Christ, and therefore to his people, you will do your utmost to come to the annual gathering of the Church in this place, on 4th April. If you are not sure of committal, because you feel the Church is not reflecting the image of her Lord and is not doing what she should be doing, that again is an imperative reason why you should come, and let your voice be heard. If you are one of those "don't care either way" people, you will naturally not even try to come. But remember that it is the "don't cares", not the honest doubters, who range themselves against Christ.

At the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting, on Tuesday, 4th April, in the Meeting House, at 7-15 p.m.**, the Church Council will render an account of their stewardship in the past twelve months. Churchwardens and councillors will be elected, and suggestions from parishioners for future policy will be discussed. After a short interval for tea and chat, we shall have a general debate on the government and organisation of the Church of England. Is it truly representative? Does it work? How can it be improved?

We hope we may have a good number of nominations for the P.C.C. Nomination forms may be obtained at the church or vicarage. They should be returned to Mr. Hatcher or placed in the box in church labelled "Nominations", not later than Sunday, 2nd April. Nominees for the Council have to be communicants over 21. Electors are those on the Church Electoral Roll, but anyone of any age is welcome to attend the meeting and take part in discussion.

There will be a corporate Communion of the new P.C.C. on Sunday, 9th April, at 10-15 a.m.

**Parish Social, Monday, 10th April, in the Meeting House, at 7-30 p.m.** Tickets 3/- each, include refreshments. They are obtainable from Mrs. D. Bell or the Vicarage or any P.C.C. member. No children under 14 unless confirmed or accompanying parents. We look forward to another of those happy and hilarious evenings.

**The Choir.** Roger Keen and Allan and Michael Clements have now left the trebles after honourable service. Tim Bell is now head chorister, and Maurice Exon the leading boy on cantoris side. There are vacancies for more boys, and we shall be glad to hear of possible trainees.

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

#### April

- 4 Tues. (Lady Day) Corporate Communion 10 a.m. Deanery Festival Service, Badsey Church, 3 p.m. Preacher: Rev. O. A. Griffiths, Rector of Moreton-in-Marsh.
- 11 Tues. Branch Meeting 2-30 p.m. "Drugs and the Teenager". Information and discussion. Tea hostesses: Mrs. G. A. Jones (committee) and Mesdames Harwood, Hatcher, Holley, Ives.
- 18 Tues. Deanery Quiet Evening, St. Lawrence's Church, 7-30 p.m. - 9-0 conducted by Rev. K. O. Gray, Rector of Welford and R.D. of Campden.
- 20 Thurs. Coffee Morning in aid of Overseas Stall, at 12 High Street, by kind invitation of Mrs. A. Bell 10 - 12-0 (Bring and Buy).
- 25 Tues. Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hodson on "Mary Sumner". Tea hostesses: Mrs.

Perkins (Committee) and Mesdames Marshall, A. Reed, Sparrow, C. Stewart.

A very busy month! but please do your best to attend these gatherings. E.G.B.

**Over Sixties Club.** Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month will re-commence on 18th April, in the Meeting House at 2-30 p.m.

**Junior Club.** During the summer months the meetings will be once a month. The April meeting will be on Tuesday the 11th.

#### Holy Baptism

Mar. 4 Wendy Elizabeth Wild (adult); Nicholas Linley Wild.

„ 19 Melanie Jane Charlwood; Laura Jane Meadows; Richard William Dobson.

#### Confirmation

Mar. 12 by Bishop Clifford A. Martin:

Derek Norman Jepson, Roger Clive Davies, Stanley Michael Harris, Roger Brian Harris, Andrew John Pedrick, David John Jepson, John Ivor Hewlett, Roger Ian Hartwell, Allan Douglas Clements, Michael Harry Clements, Michael David Jones, Roger Edward Keen, Peter Andrew Lord, Robert Lawrence Bindoff, Timothy John Bell, Kenneth Andrew Cole, Mark Andrew Norledge; Edith Mary Wild, Joyce Phyllis Jepson, Winifred Florence Hewlett, Wendy Elizabeth Wild, Susan Joyce Hewlett, Diane Clare Norledge, Pauline Anne Brazier, Sally Rosalind Hewlett, Wendy Louise Moran, Lynda Joy Hunt, Valerie Catherine Davies, Jane Elizabeth Knight, Christine Ann Redgewell, Hazel Franklin, Helen Ballard, Linda Christine Guise, Sandra Dawn Jelfs, Suzanne Jane Hodgkins, Elizabeth Anne Cleaver, Linda Ann Watt, Susan Perkins, Annalie Clara Scott Tucker.

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

Feb. 24 Georgina Mildred Perkins, aged 73.

Mar. 7 Frederick Charles Jones, aged 73.

„ 14 Marion Robinson, aged 61.

Our very sincere sympathy and prayers with the families of the above.

Mrs. Albert Perkins of Old Post Office Lane had suffered much ill health since her husband's death a few years ago, and had alternately resided with members of her family in Worcester and Badsey.

Mr. Fred Jones Senr., did not long survive his beloved wife. He had suffered many blows in the last year, beginning with the death of his eldest son. His passing was gentle and unexpected, in his sleep.

The circumstances of Mrs. Robinson's death were very sad. Although her health has never been strong, it was distressing that while on holiday with her husband in the Canary Isles that she was taken ill, and died in hospital. To be suddenly bereft of one's beloved spouse in a strange land, where one is only a temporary visitor, must be a truly harrowing experience. Arrangements for bringing the body home were far from easy, but it was at last accomplished, and she has been laid to rest in Badsey Churchyard.

May the risen Lord quicken with life and peace his servants whom he has taken to Himself, and those who mourn them with patience and hope.

**Jottings.** We are very sorry to have to say goodbye to Denis and Cecile Dickinson, who are going to live in Dublin, where Dr. Dickinson's work takes him. We shall miss them very much, and wish them every happiness in their new home and adopted country.

Mrs. King, in Evesham Hospital, is still very weak; Mrs. Harry Stewart has been ill at home; Mr. Helm is improving slowly; Mr. Bill Jones, in Avonside Hospital, has also been ill. In hospital for operations have been Mr. Tom Harris, Mr. Dick Hartwell, Mr. Jim Smith, Mrs. Biddle. Mrs. Braby and Mrs. Andrew have returned from hospital, also two who have been in hospital since before Christmas: Mrs. Porter and Michael Sheward. Mrs. Turrill, Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Emma Cole, in Avonside Hospital, continue much the same. Mrs. Lottie Haines is still confined to her home.

**Servers for April.** 2nd, 8-0 P. Moran; 11-0 D. Crane; 6-45 M. Clements. 9th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 R. Keen. 16th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 A. Clements. 23rd, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 C. Tucker (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer). 30th, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 10-15 S. Gresty; 6-45 D. Crane.

**War Memorial Flowers.** April 9th, Mrs. J. Barnard; 16th, Mrs. C. Sears; 23rd, Mrs. I. Jones.

**Communicants.** Week beginning Feb. 19th, 36; 26th, 76; March 5th, 51; 12th, 181.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services

**Suns.,** April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. (Easter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). As usual for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Suns. respectively. Evensong is now at 5-30 p.m.

**Tues.,** April 4. **Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary** (transferred from March 25). 9-0 a.m. H.C. 3-0 p.m. Deanery Festival Service, Badsey Church.

#### MR. EDMUND COOKE

Although we write before the annual election of churchwardens has taken place, Mr. Cooke has intimated to us that he will not seek re-election as churchwarden. We are confident that it will be the wish of parishioners that some tangible recognition should be made of his many years' faithful service to Wickhamford church and parish. We therefore invite contributions to a presentation, a token of gratitude and affection, to be made to him at church after Evensong on Sunday, 30th April. Mr. J. E. Parry will act as treasurer, and will be glad to receive any donations, not later than 26th April.

Peter Braby, J. Edward Parry.

**Mothers' Union.** There will be no further branch meetings until September. Members are asked to note the following dates:—

#### April

4 Tues. Deanery Festival Service in Badsey Church at 3 p.m.

15 Tues. Deanery Quiet Evening, St. Lawrence's Church 7-30 - 9-0.

#### May

23 Diocesan Festival Service in the Cathedral at 3 p.m. (details next month).

I hope all members will attend these important gatherings. E.G.B.

#### Confirmation

Mar. 12 by Bishop Clifford A. Martin, in Badsey Church:

David Michael Smith, Christopher Keith Cox, Ian Charles Smith; Janet Irene Allchurch, Sandra Emily Anne Robbins, Vicki Gail Cull, Julia Mary Raudall.

**The Sick.** Our sympathy with Miss Sherwin on breaking her ankle in a fall, causing her to be laid up for several weeks. So quickly done, so long to mend! Miss Colley is doing well in Avonside Hospital, where she is having a course of physiotherapy treatment. Mr. L. A. Jones has been rather poorly. His grandson Barry has been in hospital to have his appendix removed, and Gillian Sutton has also been in hospital for an operation on her feet.

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