

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JUNE, 1967

PRICE 4/- PER ANNUM

Vicar: REV. P. BRABY, M.A.

(Tel. Badsey 343)

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. (3 p.m. November - February).
Sunday School 11 a.m. (except 3rd Sunday), Village Hall.

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

- Churchwardens Mr. J. E. Parry, Wickham House. (Badsey 244).
Mr. H. J. Dunkerley, Gallipot Farm, Broadway (Badsey 395).
Clerk Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

19th May, 1967

My dear People,

"So long as thou doest well unto thyself, men will speak good of thee... Man being in honour hath no understanding, but is compared unto the beasts that perish".

We had an acted commentary on those verses from Psalm 49 the other day.

Warning Shots

The tragedy of the fallen financier who appears to have taken the lives of his wife and children as well as his own is not an occasion for passing moral judgement on this particular individual, which none of us has the right to do. But it ought to make us all sit up and take notice about the fearful danger we are in, through our easy acceptance of an utterly unreal way of life.

It is unreal and insecure - a teetering house of cards - because it is balanced precariously on the management of money, the manipulation of credit, the mastery of things, instead of being founded on reverence for the Creator and respect for his creatures. The unspoken creed of our technological age is Swinburne's "Glory to Man in the highest! for Man is the master of things". The worst effect of this deification of man as Technocrat is the treatment of persons as things - often expendable things.

What am I for?

The poor man who perished so tragically is reported to have said, after the crash of his enterprises: "The whole purpose of existence is to employ yourself in an activity which is free from worry and fear." As a philosophy of life this sounds so absurd that you might say that for an intelligent and educated man to have uttered such nonsense showed that his mind was unhinged. Yet this is the philosophy of millions in the materialistic West today. If in ordinary circumstances it was said by a public speaker or appeared in a press article, it would probably pass without comment as a truism.

Very few people today try to order their lives on the supposition that "the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him for ever".

The perfect security

Yet, when you come to think of it, this is the only kind of purpose which makes activity "free from worry and fear". The principle of stewardship, or accountability to God, our actions, our possessions and our relationships, is perfect security. When everything seems to shake and collapse, we know that God and his purposes cannot be shaken. When we fail, we know that the skies will not fall. So we can say, with St. Paul: "I know who it is in whom I have trusted, and am confident of his power to keep safe what he has put into my charge, until the great Day".

Destructiveness of fear

To make activity - any sort of activity - an end in itself is sure to lead to frustration and unhappiness. You cannot justify an activity by saying it is the purpose of your existence to employ yourself in being active. But the worst human crimes and follies arise from the need to secure self-regarding activities "from worry and fear". What comes most easily to mind is the proclivity of the armed robber to shoot his way out of danger, regardless of other people's sufferings. That is an obvious illustration. Less obvious to some people is the picture of a nation which, to secure its 'way of life', sends masses of young conscripts to fight in a distant land, bombs cities in the neighbouring country, deliberately destroys acres of rice fields in a starving continent and 'defoliates' huge areas of vege-

tation, in order to deny supplies or cover to its enemies; and, by the very presence of its own troops in such vast numbers, effectively wipes out the historic culture of that country and imposes its own 'way of life' on a helpless population. All that, in order to make the original activity "free from worry or fear".

But it doesn't. Once you start on such a road, you never find it safe to turn back. Fear impels you to throw more and more supplies and forces, and other people's lives and interests, into the stakes.

Crazy Gang

In the struggle to maintain himself, "free from worry and fear", in a world which he regards as his own possession, western man is upsetting the balance of nature, poisoning the land, polluting the rivers and seas, defiling the countryside, ravaging and degrading the animal kingdom, fouling the air, shattering the silences. Meanwhile he rushes around in feverish activity ("the purpose of his existence"), in a fool's paradise which he calls the affluent society, living 'on tick' and wishing there were fewer people in this overcrowded show. Once there is a loss of confidence and the whole crazy edifice begins to crumble, there is no knowing what he will do.

Already there are danger signals in the mounting vandalism and anarchism of many of the young. This is going to increase. Is it surprising when the older generation show such a lack of responsibility and trusteeship for the natural world and the artistic heritage of the past?

And they say that man has come of age and has no further need of God!

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy;... from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

June

- 4 **Trinity 2.** 8-0 & 11-0 H.C. 10-30 M. 6-45 People's Service (instead of Evensong) - see Note below.
- 7 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 11 **St. Barnabas, Apostle. Trinity 3.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 14 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 18 **Trinity 4.** As usual for 3rd Sun. 6-45 At Evensong, Admission of new Enrolling Member of Mothers' Union.
- 21 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 24 **Sat. Nativity of St. John Baptist** (See Wickhamford Notes).
- 25 **Trinity 5.** As usual for 4th Sun.
- 28 **Wed.** No H.C. 3 p.m. Pram Service.
- 29 **Thurs. St. Peter, Apostle & Martyr.** 10-0 H.C.

'People's Service'. Starting on 4th June, on most 1st Sundays in the month, we shall have an informal kind of service at 6-45 p.m. instead of Evensong. It is hoped that lay people, especially young people, will lead prayers as well as read lessons, and the Vicar will be very

glad to have offers and suggestions. The June service is being prepared by the Vicar with the Youth Club committee, but suggestions of hymns and tunes for future services will be very welcome. Questions will be answered at these services instead of a sermon being preached, and the question box will be in church the previous week or two.

No P.C.C. Meeting in June. The committees will meet on Tuesday evening, June 6.

Spring Cleaning of the Church. Helpers needed. Men, Monday, June 5, from 7-30 p.m. Ladies, Tues., June 6, from 9-30 a.m.

Mothers' Union. On Sunday, 18th June, at Evensong, Mrs. Betteridge will be presented for the office of Enrolling Member by our Diocesan President, Mrs. Dukes. This is a most important occasion, and I hope that all members will be there to pray with her for the work of the Mothers' Union in this parish and for our new leader and committee.

Corporate Communion, Wed., 7th June, at 10 a.m.

The annual outing will be on Tuesday, 27th June, leaving Badsey (Wheatsheaf) 1-30 p.m., and then stopping at the Pike and the Oak. E.G.B.

The Annual Choir, Servers' and Bell-ringers' Outing will be to Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, 1st July. The Vicar needs to know as soon as possible the names of those who are going.

Holy Baptism

May 21 Peter Andrew Rock.

Holy Matrimony

April 29 Monty Donald Scarrott, of Evesham, and Barbara Lucy White, of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

Mrs. Mabel Lucy Jenkins, aged 78, died on 21st April, and was buried at Bengeworth with her husband. Our profound sympathy with her sister Mrs. Florence Edwards, who cared for her so devotedly during the long years of illness. We are thankful that Mabel Jenkins has been released from her sufferings. She had been a nurse in her active days, and was a communicant member of the Church.

May 19 (cremation after service in church) Eunice Turrill, aged 85.

It was with great relief and thankfulness that all who loved her heard that she was now taken into the world of light. Mrs. Turrill had been a patient in Avonside Hospital for many years, blind, weak and helpless. But she held on by faith when sight had left her, clutching the prayer and hymn book which was to her the tangible link with the eternal realities. Widowed for nearly forty years, she was a devout worshipper and active worker at St. James's Church, a keen member of the M.U. and of the Sanctuary Guild. When illness and infirmity laid her aside from active good works, she did not lose her concern and love for people, always eagerly asking after everyone she knew, and offering them up to God, we know, in her prayers.

God grant his servants peace and life eternal.

Jottings. Congratulations to Wendy Hobbs on being appointed at an early age, to a hospital sistership. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Hobbs on losing her mother and sister in the same week.

We were all sorry when Mrs. Reed Senr., had a stroke and had to be taken to hospital. With her usual courage and cheerfulness, she seems to be making steady progress. So does Mr. Tom Knight, who would have been in Wickhamford Church on Whitsunday but for the bad weather. We are glad to say that Mr. George Crane is now back at work, and Mr. Dick Hartwell and Mr. Len Lord back from hospital. The latter had been laid up for quite a while. Mr. Tom Harris slowly improves. Mrs. Harry Stewart is better, but her husband has been under the weather again. So has Mrs. Lottie Haines, and Mr. Edgar Mitchell has had a bronchial attack. Mr. Gorham of Aldington has been unwell.

Your prayers are asked for the following now in hospital: Mr. Tutton, who has had a major operation, Mrs. May Brotherton, also in Cheltenham Hospital for an operation, Mrs. Lardner (heart trouble), Mr. T. Hodgkins (after a serious accident to his leg).

We regret that through a misprint in the May number it appeared that Mr. Frank Reeves had been ill. It should have been Mrs. Reeves, who we are glad to say is now much better.

Servers for June. 4th, 8-0 P.Moran; 11-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 M. Clements. 11th, 10-15 C. Hartwell (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 18th, 8-0 T. Bell; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 25th, 8-0 D. Crane; 6-45 A. Clements (Server), S. Gresty (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. June 4th, Mrs. L. Reeves; 11th, Mrs. Edwards; 18th, Mrs. W. H. Reed; 25th, Mrs. Betteridge.

Acknowledgments. Birthday Halfcrowns, Mrs. G. Danks. In memoriam: Dorothy Stella Anderson, A. Leslie Byrd, Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Hart, 10/-.

Churchyard. It would be appreciated if people disposing of litter would use the refuse sacks provided and removed by the local authority.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Suns., June 4 (Trin. 2) 11 (St. Barnabas), 18 (Trin. 4), 25 (Trin. 5). Services as on cover.

Sat., June 24. **Nativity of St. John Baptist** (Patronal Feast). 7-30 a.m. H.C.

Church Fête for Organ Fund. A reminder that this is to take place on Saturday, 5th August. This year it will be held in the Village Hall and the field opposite (by kind permission of Mr. D. Daffurn). Offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Holy Baptism

April 24 Elizabeth Poulter.

Burials, R.I.P.

Mrs. Clara Taylor died in hospital at the end of April and was buried at Dumbleton.

May 3 Nellie Camden, aged 76.

Mrs. Camden had been ailing for some time. Our prayerful sympathy with the relatives of both these parishioners.

The Sick. Mr. Beacon is still patiently and cheerfully awaiting his call to hospital. Mr. G. Robbins Junr. and Mr. H. W. Griffiths have been in hospital.

Presentation to Mr. Cooke. On Sunday, 30th April, after Evensong, the Vicar and Mr. J. E. Parry, on behalf of the parishioners, presented Mr. Edmund Cooke with a garden seat for two, in recognition of his devoted service as churchwarden for 16 years. The Vicar said Mr. Cooke had been warden in the true sense of the word, as one who keeps watch and ward. He and Mrs. Cooke simply loved the church, and the people whose spiritual home it was. Mr. Cooke, thanking the people for their gift, said it had always been a pleasure to serve the Church, and he and Mrs. Cooke would continue to do so, even if not so actively as in the past.

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