

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JULY, 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

15th June, 1967

My dear People,

At the time of my writing this letter a great wave of relief has passed over this country at the astonishing outcome of the Arab-Israeli war. Relief because (1) the whole affair was over so quickly (2) we were not militarily involved (3) the aggressive plan of a dictator to crush the life out of a small country was foiled (4) the Holy Places have not been damaged.

### No solution

We ought to be thankful for these things. But not complacent. Nothing has been solved by this war. The distress and suffering it has inflicted are horrible. The hatreds and jealousies which were its cause have been further inflamed rather than quenched. We, with the other great Powers, are far from guiltless, through having supplied these States with the heavy armaments without which the conflict would have been impossible. And the worst of it all is that we seem powerless to do anything to help (in any direct way) - either to relieve distress or to bring reconciliation. Our own people in Egypt, Jordan and Syria have been driven out.

How dearly we would love to show that we bear no ill-will to Arab people, and to minister to the victims of war. But our political past is against us.

### 'Shoot the Referee!'

We had great responsibilities in the Middle East, and in the Palestine Mandate successive British governments had to try to fulfil two irreconcilable ideals: to protect the interests of the Arab population, and (on account of the Balfour Declaration) to provide a national home for the Jews. This was hard enough before the Hitler War. In 1936 a Royal Commission went out to Palestine to try and find a solution. "In the East the word 'compromise' seems to be unknown", remarked Lord Peel the Chairman, after one of the sittings. It is hard for us British to understand the strong passions of peoples in less equable climes, or to see why they can't just sit round a table and work out an agreement. T. E. Lawrence wrote in "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" of the Semite peoples (and we often forget that Arabs and Jews are both Semites): "Semites had no half-tones in their register of vision. They were people of primary colours, or rather of black and white... Their thoughts were at ease only in extremes. Sometimes inconsistencies seemed to possess them at once in joint sway; they never compromised".

### Land of Promise

At the end of the 1939-45 war, pressure on the British Government to admit millions of Jews to Palestine became acute. European Jewry had emerged from its cruellest and most thorough persecution in the whole 'Christian' era. The dream of many a hard-pressed Jewish family was to start a new life, without dread of the jack-boot, in the Promised Land. Now that dream could be realised. Only one thing stood in the way, so it seemed: the obtuseness of the hard-hearted British, who would only allow small dribbles of immigrants on a quota basis. How could they be so wicked as to keep the children of Israel out of their own God-given land? The British were quite as bad as Hitler. Some Jews said they were even worse.

### Terrorism

Alarm was spreading among the Arab inhabitants, as they saw more and more Jews coming in, being granted land, and developing it with a scientific efficiency which seemed to insult their own ancestral methods, hardly changed from Biblical times. They, the Arabs, had been in possession for hundreds of years. If the British held Palestine in trust, surely they ought to put the interests

of the existing population first. If they would not, the Arabs must take matters into their own hands. Discontent flared out in revolt, and the British Government had to contend with a campaign of violence, which it dealt with fairly effectively by commando methods. Under strong pressure from the United States, the Government increased slightly the quotas of Jewish immigrants, but this did not satisfy the Zionists, and the vast number of illegal immigrants who smuggled themselves into Palestine became almost impossible to control.

Then the extreme Zionist organisations resorted to terrorism themselves. This time we were faced with an extremely well organised and utterly ruthless network of terrorist gangs, financed and supported internationally. Our military forces on the spot were held back by authority from using the same strong-arm methods as with the Arab terrorists. The aim of the campaign was to wear down the resistance of a war-weary British people, and it succeeded. British servicemen billeted in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem were blown to pieces in the night. Captured British sergeants were hanged from trees. The British public had had enough. Six years of all-out war against Hitler, and now this! The Government of the day washed its hands of the Palestine Mandate, and passed the buck to the untried U.N. Organisation.

### Partition

The Jews declared a national State in Palestine, which they called Israel. The neighbouring Arab States now came to the aid of their brother-Arabs in Palestine Egypt and Jordan invaded the former mandated territory, and took what parts of the country they could. Eventually a cease-fire was arranged, and the United Nations recognised the new State of Israel within the frontiers formed by the battle lines at the time the war was halted. Hence the rather irrational boundaries, including e.g. the partition of the city of Jerusalem between two countries.

In the meantime thousands of Arab peasants were driven from, or abandoned, their lands in what was now the State of Israel, and sought refuge in the neighbouring Arab countries, particularly Jordan. The vast majority of these refugees are still in camps, refusing to be integrated in the life of any other country, and still hankering for their ancestral lands. These folk must now have been increased quite fourfold by the new influx of refugees after last week's events.

### Twenty Years After

All this is well known to many of you, but I am recounting it because in conversation the last few weeks I find that many people, even of my own age, have very short memories about these events.

It is important for us to understand why the Arabs find it hard to forgive us, quite apart from the Suez intervention and other events of the more recent past.

Do you think that even complete military defeat is going to bring them to sit down at a table with Jews and discuss terms? I certainly don't. The Arabs would accept utter economic ruin and starvation rather than acknowledge that Israel has won. And the human suffering which resulted would be laid, however unjustly, at Israel's door by an outraged world.

### Bismillah

Military success and military defeat settle nothing at all. Only a compassion which springs from the love of God can bring peace to this troubled area. Will the Israelis be great enough to re-settle Palestinian Arabs on their lands and give them the status of full citizenship? Will they be magnanimous enough to make the utmost sacrifices to aid the Arab victims of this war which they feel the Arabs brought upon themselves? Will the Great Powers have the statesmanship to agree not to supply more arms?

If British people are debarred from active help on the spot, we can send money through the international relief organisations. And we can pray.

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful, in the Name of the Lord God of Israel who through his servant Moses commanded his people to show love to the stranger in their midst, in the Name of the crucified Redeemer who bore the sins of Jew and Gentile, let us pray that the spirit of peace and reconciliation will prevail.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### July

- 2 **Trinity 6.** 8-0 & 11-0 H.C. 10-30 Mattins (said). 6-45 p.m. People's Service.  
5 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.  
9 **Trinity 7.** As for 2nd Sun.  
12 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.  
16 **Trinity 8.** As for 3rd Sun.  
19 **Wed.** No H.C.  
22 **Sat. St. Mary Magdalene.** 10-0 H.C.  
23 **Trinity 9.** As for 4th Sun.  
25 **Tues. ST. JAMES, APOSTLE (PATRONAL FESTIVAL).** 6-30 & 10 a.m. H.C.  
26 **Wed.** No H.C.  
30 **Trinity 10 (PATRONAL FESTIVAL).** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Festival Family Service. 6-45 p.m. Evensong. Preacher: the Ven. P. C. Eliot, Archdeacon of Worcester.

**Holy Baptism.** Note that in August Holy Baptism will be administered on the 4th Sunday (27th) instead of the 3rd.

**P.C.C. Meeting.** Tues., July 4th, 7-45 p.m.

**Badsey Flower Show** is to be on Saturday, 29th July.

**Spring Cleaning.** Many thanks to the small, hard-working teams who spring-cleaned the church so thoroughly at the beginning of June: Messrs. A. Bell, J. Ives, E. Mitchell, E. Portman, Mesdames Bell, Betteridge, Braby, C. Davies, Ives, Harman, C. Harwood.

**Mothers' Union.** Mrs. Betteridge was admitted to the office of Enrolling Member at Evensong on Sunday, 18th June. We all wish her a happy time as leader of our branch.

The members of the new committee are Mrs. Ives (Secretary), Mrs. Watkin (Treasurer), Mrs. Bell (Asst. Treasurer), Mrs. Caswell (Overseas), Mrs. Sladden (Journal Sec.), Mrs. D. Hartwell (Deneary Rep.), Mrs. Perkins (Golden Needle Rep.).

Corporate Communion will be on Wed., 5th July at 10 a.m. and on 25th July (St. James's Day) at 6-30 a.m. and 10 a.m. There will be a branch meeting on 25th July at 7-30 p.m. E.G.B.

### Holy Baptism

June 18 Robin John Barrand; Veronica Ann Wilde; Jennifer Carol Dore.

### Holy Matrimony

June 17 Michael Munday, of Bidford-on-Avon, and Marina Bonehill, of Badsey.

**Jottings.** At the time of going to press, we have just heard of the death of Mr. Arthur Stewart in hospital, after a severe illness, patiently borne. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Stewart and all members of the family.

Your prayers are asked for those in hospital at this time of writing: Mrs. M. Reed; Terry Jelks, who will be going to Birmingham for a course of treatment after an operation in Worcester on an infected gland; in Avonside, Mrs. Emma Cole, Mrs. Maude Geden. Mrs. Lardner after returning from hospital, is still being laid up at home. Also recently returned from hospital are Mr. Tom Hodgkins, Mrs. May Brotherton, Mr. Tutton, Mrs. Hardiman, Christopher Tucker (who unfortunately got appendicitis as he was just starting 'O' Levels), Mrs. B. A. Hodgkins. We are glad Mr. Harvey is back at the school after a slight heart attack last month. Mrs. Brady had a nasty fall from a ladder and dislocated her shoulder.

We look forward to congratulating Mr. William Churchill on his 90th birthday, July 5. Still a vigorous grower!

After a short interval, the monthly informal **Prayer Meetings** are to be resumed. Next meeting, Friday, June 30, 8-15 p.m. at the Vicarage. July meeting, Monday, July 31.

The July meeting of the **Bible Study Group** at Pennyfields, Aldington, will be on Tuesday the 18th.

**Overseas Links.** The Overseas Committee of the P.C.C. have arranged a **Coffee Evening** for Thursday, 13th July, at Seward House (by kind invitation of the Sladden family) from 7-0 to 9-0 p.m. There will be a Bring-and-Buy Stall. The Coffee Evening is to raise funds for our parochial overseas link at **Ba in Fiji (Diocese of Polynesia)**.

A recent bulletin quotes the Rev. Philip Thirlwell, the priest-in-charge, as writing: "The house is in building, and I hope it will be ready by the end of July". After much delay it is hoped that the church-cum-hall will soon be started. "The church at present in use is owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Geographically it is a long way from the town and socially even further, being known as the white people's church. This however, I am trying to overcome. Already white people are outnumbered by others (mostly Indian) at the services".

So far the Ba people have themselves raised over £500 towards the new church. This will furnish it with chairs, altar, lectern, font, etc.) The font is made from a giant clam shell from the waters of the parish.

Philip Thirlwell writes frankly: "I live with the frustration of the building delays. And we shall probably never have exciting news of mass conversions - the work here in Fiji is similar to that in India and Pakistan - one by one - if that".

**Miss Katherine Sladden** arrived in Poona early in March. She is lecturer at St. Mary's Training College for teachers. She lectures in English, but is learning Hindi. The Bishop of Bombay has also asked her to act as diocesan representative for religious education, and she is giving talks on the work of the Samaritans, now being developed in the Bombay area.

She writes: "A mongoose runs up and down the tree outside my bathroom ('bath' being euphemism for a bucket and tap which runs at times, but not at any set times!)

Life runs at a slow pace in India, and it takes weeks and months to get jobs carried out, but she is getting used to the slow tempo. There is plenty of traffic however. "I have had to use the 'college cycle' which is a very tall sit-up-and-beg variety with practically useless brakes - most nerve racking. I'm becoming quite skilled at manoeuvring among bullock carts, sacred cows, herds of goats, the occasional elephant, not to speak of

hordes of cycles and pedestrians and numerous army lorries, motor rickshaws and even ordinary motor cars, all of which observe in theory the British rule of the road but in practice may be anywhere. Even so, I think I'd rather cycle through Poona in the rush-hour than drive through the Birmingham rush-hour traffic".

We hope to print some entertaining extracts from her letters next month.

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

**War Memorial Flowers.** July 2nd, Mrs. N. Cook; 9th, Mrs. S. Ingram; 16th, Mrs. C. Crane; 23rd, Mrs. G. H. Stewart.

**Christian Aid Week,** Badsey £52-19-7, increase of £10-11-5 on 1966.

**Evesham May Fair (Fam. & Social Service)** £184, increase of £8.

**Trinity Sun. envelopes (Ordination Candidates' Fund),** £8-5-4.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

Suns., July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Trin. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Services as on cover.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., July 5, 7-30 p.m.

### CHURCH FETE - SATURDAY, 5th AUGUST

This year the Church Fête, in aid of the Organ Fund, is being held in the Village Hall and also in the field opposite in Manor Road (by kind permission of Mr. D. Daffurn).

It is hoped that as many as possible will come along and make this an enjoyable afternoon. The Fête will be officially opened by Mr. Richard Lees-Milne at 3 p.m. and various stalls and sideshows will be then "open for business". Once again we are holding a children's Fancy Dress Parade and also a Tug-of-War, so come along and cheer your particular team. There will be bowling for a lamb and other attractions, and teas will be served throughout the afternoon in the Village Hall.

A Grand Draw has been organised, and if you have not yet bought tickets they will be on sale at the Fête. Prizes are varied and numerous, but helpers would be welcome to sell Draw Tickets before the day, and should contact Mr. C. Beacon at 11, Sally Close, Wickhamford, who will be only too pleased to accept any help forthcoming.

Your support, to make this an even bigger success than the 1965 Fête, is asked for, so please make a note of the time and date - SATURDAY, 5th AUGUST, at 3 p.m. C.G.W.B.

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