

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

MAY, 1968.

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

20th April, 1968.

My dear People,

Mrs. Braby joins me in many thanks for your kind Easter Offering, which from both parishes together amounted to £46. Although for taxation purposes it is regarded as part of benefice income, the Easter Offering is nonetheless a free gift of the people to their minister, and as such is an expression of their fellowship with him in Christ. It is now just over ten years since we have been with you, and it is a privilege to serve you in every way that we can.

### Summer Visitors

Now begins the season for visitors to our churches. They are of course very welcome. One could wish however that more people would come into a church to pray there, as well as to look around. Perhaps we do not set a good enough example ourselves. How wonderful it would be if visitors could see the church being used by the local people! They would then realise that it is a living temple and not just a repository of antiquities.

### "How old is your church?"

That is the question I most commonly get asked. I must confess it irritates me, though. I hope I am not so rude as to show it. The answer that it was built and furnished at a number of different periods does not seem to satisfy the questioner. He (or she) wants me to say: "It is so many hundreds of years old", so that he may then exclaim: "Fancy that! how simply marvellous!" But there is nothing marvellous at all about a village having an ancient church. If one can say of a church, "It was built only last year", that is something remarkable. This is not an age of church building, for reasons which we all know.

You will be amused at one thing that was said to me by a visitor to Wickhamford Church, when I told him the oldest part was the chancel, built in the 13th century. "Do you mean to say they built a church right out here as long ago as that, so far from London?"

Some visitors too are patronising about the mediaeval builders or 17th century craftsmen: "Fancy doing such good work in those days!", as if nobody before our time ever got beyond childhood in the use of their hands or brains.

### "Ripeness is all"

More common however is the other extreme, that the older a thing is, the better it must be. This attitude is understandable, though perverse, in Americans or Australians, whose own history does not go back very far. In English people it is inexcusable. Something made in the reign of William the First is not necessarily more satisfying than something made in the reign of William the Third, or William the Fourth, any more than a man of 80 is necessarily more handsome or virtuous than one of 18.

Yet there is something remarkable, to anyone brought up in the mid-twentieth century, in the sight of something which is several hundreds of years old. What divides the products of our age from any before us is that ours are not made to last. They are deliberately not made to last, because the process of invention is so rapid, that in a very short time the design or material of this product is going to be superseded by others. Or the product itself may go out of use. To make anything durable, which was wisdom in former generations, is folly in ours.

### Buildings or Bread?

One of the biggest questions, then, before the Church in our time is: Should redundant church buildings be

scrapped? Where a church is no longer used for worship, because the population which once surrounded it has moved elsewhere, or because the local people no longer attend it, or because (particularly in old towns) there are too many churches in the same small area, ought the resources and energies of Christian people to be devoted to keeping the old pile in being just because it is an interesting relic? Should they not rather be warding off hunger from Asians than beetles from the church roof? What is the mind of Christ on this?

It is not only the small village churches. The larger the church, the more costly the upkeep. Is the burden to go on being carried by the few (and dwindling) active church members? And what of the cathedrals? Bishop Dean, the Executive Officer of the Anglican Communion, has castigated the costly appeal for the restoration of York Minster as some sort of dreadful sin, in the face of world poverty. He is not alone in this attitude. Is the Church then like Dives, raising wealth to maintain his palatial residences, while Lazarus sits starving and shivering at his gate?

### Trusteeship

Looked at in general, in this stark sort of way, there seems to be only one answer. But when it comes to each local problem as it arises, it is another matter. If a parson and his parishioners, faced with the prospect of their church roof collapsing unless action is taken, do nothing about it because they've got an appeal on for the natives of Borrioboola-Gha, what sort of Christian stewardship is this? And what would be said of a dean and chapter who took no steps to save their cathedral because there was a war on in Viet-nam?

Unlike the owners of historic houses, the Church receives no help from the State in maintaining its ancient buildings. In the past, the reluctance has come, not from the State, but from the Church. On the whole it is not pride which holds the Church back from seeking or accepting such help. It is the fear that as society becomes more and more secularist, the State might eventually deprive the Church of control over the use of these buildings for her own purposes. Personally I think these fears are groundless, and if the English people value these buildings as part of their national heritage, the State ought to assist in maintaining them.

But why maintain them at all as places of worship? some would say. Let H.M. Ministry of Works take over the lot, and let the Church go back to the primitive simplicity of her early days, and meet in secular buildings, or erect cheap and temporary places of worship, even portable ones that could be moved around as population groupings shifted (like the tabernacle of the Israelites in the wilderness).

### Language of eternity

People would not ask any more: "How old is your church?" They would not want to know. When they go into a modern church they say: "It doesn't seem like a church". They feel they are being cheated, not because it isn't good architecture, but because it speaks to them of their own time. In church they want to be lifted out of the racket and fumes of the present day, not into another time, but out of time altogether. And in this they are right.

In an old church you do get a sense of timelessness which is not easy to feel in a new one. It is not because the Victorians or the Tudors or even the Normans were nearer to eternity than we are. They too lived in time; they were once 'contemporary'. But when you are praying in an old church, you know your prayers to be continuous with those of countless earlier generations who have worshipped in that building. This continuity is of course itself a temporal thing. But it does have the power to lift us out of ourselves and our petty concerns of the moment into the eternity of God.

It is the same with the language of church services. In the intimacy of our personal prayers it is right that we should express ourselves to God in whatever language comes most naturally to us. But in public worship there is a great deal to be said for retaining a more formal, stately, and aesthetically satisfying mode of speech, which not only links us up with past generations, but is dissociated from the passing fads and fashions of our own time. It is a quite false assumption, too, that all young people like prayers in modern speech, or that more people are going to come to church if they can address God together in contemporary idiom.

**"Be still then, and know..."**

Let not the Church lose touch with contemporary man - his environment and attitudes. Let her discover what makes him tick. But let her also remember that he needs sometimes to stop ticking, to hear the music of eternity. Whatever else he expects from the Church, he expects her to help him to do that.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

#### Family & Social Service (Moral Welfare).

**May Fair**, Friday, 3rd May, 10-0 to 12-30 in Evesham Town Hall. Gifts and helpers needed for our Badsey & Wickhamford Stall. Please contact Mrs. M. Sladden, Seward House, Badsey (Badsey 363). Or gifts may be brought to the Town Hall on the morning, before 10-0.

**Annual General Meeting**, Thurs., May 9th, 7-30 p.m. in the Walker Hall, Evesham. Details later.

**Sunday School Teachers' Diocesan Festival** at Worcester Sat. afternoon, May 11th. Any teachers wanting to come who have not yet told the Vicar, please do so immediately.

**Whit Monday Extravaganza, Hartlebury Castle.** Being held by the Bishop and Mrs. Charles-Edwards in aid of charities and to improve the facilities for visitors to the state rooms. A coach is being arranged with neighbouring parishes, so if you would like to come, please put your name on the list in the church porch as soon as possible, or inform the Vicar. Admission is 5/- and the coach fare will probably come out at about another 5/-.

### BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

#### Church Services

May

- 1 Wed. SS. Philip & James, Apostles. 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Easter 3. As for 1st Sun. 6-45 People's Service.
- 8 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 12 Easter 4. As for 2nd Sun.
- 14 Tues. M.U. Diocesan Festival Service, Worcester Cathedral.
- 15 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 Easter 5 (Rogation Sun). As for 3rd Sun.
- 21 Tues. Rogation Day. 9-0 H.C. (Evesham R.D. Clergy Chapter).
- 22 Wed. No H.C. 3 p.m. Pram Service.
- 23 Thurs. ASCENSION DAY. 10 a.m. H.C. 7-30 p.m. H.C. (with hymns).
- 26 Sun. after Ascension. As for 4th Sun.
- 29 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

June

- 2 WHITSUNDAY. 7-15 & 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Parish Eucharist. 6-45 Evensong.

**Decoration of Church** for Ascensiontide will be on Wed., May 22nd, at 2-30, and for Whitsun on Saturday, June 1st, at 10 a.m. Helpers welcome, also flowers (before decorating begins, please).

**No P.C.C. Meeting** in May, but the committees will meet early in the month.

**Confirmation Class** Wed., May 8th, 7-30 p.m.

**Christian Aid Week.** May 13th to 18th. Please support the house-to-house collection in Badsey. Aid is ever more needed, not only in the regular projects, but in Vietnam. Christian Aid, like other relief organisations, has been badly hit by devaluation of the pound, so that we must all try to give more than before to counteract this alone. Our organiser, Mrs. P. Churchill, 14, Chapel Street (Badsey 502), will be glad to have offers of help with collecting as soon as possible.

**New U.S.P.G. Project.** We were fortunate in having Mr. Anthony Hawley to talk to us on 9th April about the work of the Rev. E. D. & Mrs. Houston at Kamdara, in the Diocese of Chota Nagpur, India, and to show us many excellent coloured slides of the place and people. Mr. Hawley, an ordinand training at Westcott House, Cambridge, went last year as a V.S.O. worker with an Oxfam relief project in that district. We heard of the great poverty among these Munda tribesfolk, and how bravely they work against great odds to make a living from the soil by rice production. We also learnt of the need for our help, especially with regard to the boarding hostels for the children who come to the mission schools.

#### Mothers' Union

- May 1 Wed. 10-0 Corporate Communion.
- " 14 Tues. Diocesan Festival Service in Worcester Cathedral. Coach leaves Wheatsheaf at 1-30. Will all those wishing to go please contact me.
- " 28 Tues. 7-30 p.m. Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Marshall, Youth Employment Officer. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Sladden (Committee), Mesdames Clark, Cole & Sister Davies. J.B.

#### Holy Baptism

April 21 Valerie Diane Hale.

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

Mar. 29 Jane Lloyd Davies, aged 82.

Our prayerful sympathy with Sister Davies on her mother's death. Mrs. Davies was a devout communicant and a very sweet personality whom it was a privilege to know. She will be missed especially by members of the M.U.

Desmond Edward Emms, of Aldington, died on Mar. 25 after a very short illness, aged only 33. The funeral was at Worcester Crematorium on March 30. Mrs. Emms and her young children have our warm sympathy in their tragic loss.

April 8 Lilian Maud Jelfs, aged 72.

Mrs. Jelfs was a quiet sweet person who had suffered much in recent months after a crippling stroke which limited her active life. She will be much missed by her children and many grandchildren, to whom she was devoted, and indeed by all who knew her.

April 20 Thomas Marshall, aged 46.

Mr. 'Pom' Marshall's sudden death was a great shock to us all. We have Mrs. Marshall, Carol and Stephen very much in our thoughts and prayers. He is mourned by a large number of relatives, by members of the firm

of Marshall Brothers, and by a host of friends, business associates and members of the British Legion. There was a very big attendance at the funeral.

**Jottings.** It is good that the baby Catherine Clark is now home with her parents and doing very well. Others home from hospital are Mr. W. Keen, Mr. E. Salter, Mr. J. W. Nisbett of Aldington. Mrs. W. Addis and Mr. R. Hutchings are in Evesham Hospital and we are thankful that both are improving after being seriously ill. Mrs. A. Merrett Senr. is also there after an unlucky and painful accident to her foot. We shall have in our prayers Mrs. Daphne Bell who goes into hospital at this time for an operation, also Mrs. R. Knight who is waiting to go to hospital.

**Servers for May.** 5th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 A. Clements; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 12th, 10-15 D. Hatherley (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 19th, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 M. Clements. Ascension Day, 23rd, 7-30 p.m. (H.C.) T. Bell. 26th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 D. Barrand (Server), C. Tucker (Crucifer).

**War Memorial Flowers.** May 12th, Mrs. T. Keen; 19th, Mrs. L. Spencer; 26th, Mrs. Sears.

**U.S.P.G. Project (Kambara).** Meeting, April 9th, £2-14-11; Mid-week services, Lent and Holy Week £7-5-1.

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**Save the Children Fund.** Children's Lent Services £3.

**Anniversaries.** In Memoriam: Raymond Frank Stewart £5; Dorothy Stella Anderson, Arthur Leslie Byrd, Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Hart 10/-.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services

Suns., May 5, 12, 19 (Easter 3, 4, 5). As on front cover.  
Thurs., May 23. **Ascension Day.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.  
Sun. after Ascension, May 26. As for 4th Sun.

**Confirmation Class,** Wed., May 8th, 5-45 p.m.

#### Holy Baptism

April 14    Rebecca Lees-Milne.

**Jottings.** Mrs. Annie Sutton died in Avonside Hospital on March 26th after much suffering in recent months, patiently borne. Our prayerful sympathy with the members of her large family. The burial took place at Bengeworth.

Mrs. Haines has been in Ronkswood Hospital and has returned home after a successful operation. We are also glad to welcome home from hospital Mr. J. Colley and Mr. R. Boston.

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