

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JULY, 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

18th June, 1968

My dear People,

Don't you think all this talk about the importance of the secular and unimportance of the sacred is being rather overdone? I suspect it is because Christians (especially the clergy) have a sort of guilt complex about being a bit off-beat in the significant movements of the day. The City of God no longer seems to be the world's great terminus, but just one of those places by-passed by the motorway. "There is only one thing worse than being talked about", wrote Oscar Wilde, "and that is not being talked about". 'People don't seem to have any use for the Church', thinks the frustrated Christian. 'Never mind, let's justify our existence in some other way. We must have a theology of the Secular.'

### Conferences

An off-putting sub-title, I dare say, but please try to read further. Yes, conferences. From the 4th to 20th July the World Council of Churches will be holding its 4th General Assembly at Uppsala in Sweden, the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops will meet in London from 25th July to 25th August, and the Mothers' Union comes together for a worldwide conference from 22nd to 26th July. All wrong, says the secularist Christian. Instead of having these church conferences about their own affairs, they ought to be joining with Marxists, Mahomedans, Humanists, Atheists, anyone of goodwill, in ameliorating some of the social and economic evils of the world. Those Christians again, says the cynic, applying themselves heartily to the business in which they excel: talking - while the world goes on its way regardless.

But Christians are not the only people who hold conferences. The word 'conference' means literally 'bringing together' (onion-tying is a 'conference' of onions, even if they don't talk). If a big commercial organisation has representatives all over the world engaged in market research or opening up new lines of business, the executives at the top cannot formulate a workable overall policy simply on the written reports of these men. They have to bring them together sometimes in conference. The T.U.C. has just been celebrating its centenary. Every political party or professional association or welfare society has its annual conference: a bringing together of people engaged in a common task or fired with a common ideal. The importance of these conferences lies not in what is said, but in the meeting of human personalities to 'confer', i.e. to bring together their varying ideas, experiences and 'know-how', out of their separate isolation into the common pool. It is all summed up in the modern catchword 'Dialogue'.

### Something different

But a conference of Christians is something more than this. They are all with one accord in one place in order that they may receive the Holy Spirit. They come together not to build up a common mind, but to learn the mind of Christ. He has promised that where a number of people are gathered together in his name, He is in the midst of them.

So a Christian conference is first and foremost a partnership in prayer. The majority of people taking part are not even physically there. It meets not for the sake of making pronouncements on matters of the day (though that may well be one of the things the Spirit moves it to do); not for the sake of improving its image before the world (though that might happen unconsciously if it is really Spirit-possessed); not for the sake

of having a natter or meeting old friends or keeping things on the hum. It meets primarily to put itself at the disposal of the Holy Spirit. For that reason such conferences ought (as I was saying last month) to start with a whole day spent in silence together.

An agenda of course they must have. "For", as St. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church, "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints". The Christian conferences meeting this summer have to deal with several pressing problems. They will need all the more a general sense of direction and purpose from the Holy Spirit if they are not to get bogged down in particular issues.

### Our part

And that is just where you and I come in with our prayers. Church conferences are co-operative enterprises in which every member of the Church is involved. We have not got to bother about the details of the agenda in our prayers, but just hold up the Church's representatives in the beams of light and love streaming from the Divine Presence.

They and we need above all a sense of the sacredness of our calling in Christ's Body. If that consecration is there, God can do anything with his Church. If God thought the world could save itself by simply being the world, it is strange that He should have sent his only-begotten Son into the world to redeem it, called a people to witness to that salvation, and filled them with the power of his Spirit.

Can it be that God really does want to use his Church for the purpose for which He created it?

We need to renew our hope and trust in God's promises for his Church, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light".

### A prayer to use

Here is a prayer which has been issued by the Missionary and Ecumenical Council of the Church Assembly, and which many Church members will be using this summer:

O God, whose matchless power is ever new and ever young, who didst create all things by thy Word and art redeeming them through the incarnation, passion and resurrection of thy Son: Pour thy Spirit upon thy Church, that with renewed faith, vision and obedience we may joyfully testify to thy new creation in Christ, more selflessly serve thy new order amidst the old, and more hopefully await the new heavens and new earth of thy promise; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

**Lambeth Conference Service in Evesham, Sunday, Aug. 18th.** On that Sunday different bishops will be preaching at various centres throughout the diocese. In Evesham, Bishop Mort of the Northern Provinces, Nigeria, will be at a service in All Saints for the whole rural deanery at 3-30 p.m. We are asked to cancel our evening services in the parishes that day, and for clergy, church choirs and congregations to take part in the central service. Holy Baptism at Badsey will be on the 4th Sunday, Aug. 25th, instead of the 3rd Sunday.

**Christian Aid Week, May 13th to 18th.** Congratulations to all collectors. Total for Evesham, £354-12-8. Our local result for Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford was £65-8-6, an increase of £12-9-0 on 1967. Out of the total, £7-19-1 was collected in Aldington, and £10-13-8 in Wickhamford. The latter was a new district for this collection, and we hope to increase the number of collectors there next year.

Mrs. Churchill wishes to thank all who have helped her in the local effort.

**Missions to Seamen.** Coffee Evening at the Vicarage, June 11th. Result: £15-12-6. Mrs. Braby wishes to thank all supporters and helpers.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### July

- 2 Tues. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. M.U. Day of Prayer. (See M.U. notes). 10-0 H.C.
- 3 Wed. No H.C. (See Tues.).
- 7 **Trinity 4.** As for 1st Sun.
- 10 Wed. No H.C.
- 14 **Trinity 5.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 17 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 **Trinity 6.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 22 Mon. **St. Mary Magdalen.** 7-30 H.C.
- 24 Wed. No H.C. (See Thurs.). 3-0 Pram Service.
- 25 Thurs. **ST. JAMES THE GREAT, APOSTLE & MARTYR. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** 10-0 a.m. & 7-30 p.m. H.C.
- 28 **Trinity 7. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Family Festival Service. 6-45 p.m. Sung Eucharist. Preacher: Canon W. A. Trippass, Vicar of Bengeworth and Rural Dean.
- 31 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

On the Sundays when the Vicar is away, the officiant will be the Rev. S. J. Hailes.

There will be a special family service at 10-15 a.m. on the Sunday of the Patronal Festival (July 28). **Sunday School** will then close till Sept. 15th, and parents are asked, as far as possible, to bring their children to church services.

**Holy Baptism in August.** Owing to the special service in Evesham on Aug. 18th (see above, after Vicar's Letter), Holy Baptism will be administered on Aug. 25th instead.

**Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Flower Show** is on Saturday, 27th July.

#### Mothers' Union.

July 2nd Tues. Day of Prayer. 10-0 Corporate Communion, at which intercessions will be offered in preparation for the M.U. Worldwide Conference week, July 22nd to 26th.

July 23rd Tues. Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Watkin (Committee), Mesdames Allan, C. Davies and Evans. J.B.

### Holy Baptism

June 16 Susan Isobel Knight; Elaine Margaret Keward; Clayton Paul Scarrott; Fiona Mairi Cox; Lee Marshall; Mark Leslie Harris.

### Holy Matrimony

May 25 Stuart Anton Olsson, of Toddington, and Sandra Mary Smith, of Blackminster, Badsey.

### Burial R.I.P.

June 13 William Henry Knight, aged 62.

May he rest in peace. Our profound sympathy and prayers for the family, in the tragic circumstances of their loss.

**Jottings.** We are very sorry that Mr. Edgar Mitchell, our parish clerk, after fighting for a long time against bronchial trouble, has now had to go to hospital. The rest and treatment are already doing him good, and his breathing is improving. Mrs. C. Baker has undergone a very big internal operation, which she has faced with great faith and courage. Mrs. Frank Reeves is also in hospital after a stroke, and is making steady progress—other members of her family have been under the weather lately. She is in the same ward as Mrs. Langstone, who is, as always, brave and patient. Mr. G. Nightingale is in hospital after a heart attack; he is making progress, and taking it philosophically, as one would expect. Mr. Blunsom is now also in that ward, having been moved there from Avonside, with diabetes. Mrs. M. Brotherton is waiting to go into hospital for a further operation to her arm. The following are now convalescent and we wish them steady restoration and complete recovery: Mrs. F. Edwards, Mr. G. Malins, Mr. T. Harris, Mr. V. Knight, Mrs. J. Enstone, Mr. R. Thomas, Mrs. C. Pratley (she and her husband are now living in Bengeworth). Stephen Owens, one of the choirboys, has pluckily endured a double fracture of the elbow. Susan Knight, of Blackminster, fractured her hip on Badsey School playing field.

It has been good to see both Mrs. W. Ballard and her brother Mr. W. Hardiman back at church.

We shall miss Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Bowen, who are leaving Badsey to live in Bucks. Mrs. Bowen has been an invaluable member of the band of ringers.

**Servers for July. 7th,** 8-0 C. Hartwell; 11-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 C. Tucker. **14th,** 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. **21st,** 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 T. Bell. **25th (St. James)** 7-30 p.m. (H.C.) D. Hatherley. **28th,** 8-0 M. Clements; 10-15 (Crucifer) C. Hartwell; 6-45 T. Bell (Server), A. Clements (Crucifer).

**War Memorial Flowers, July 7th,** Mrs. N. Cooke; 14th, Mrs. S. Ingram; 21st, Mrs. G. H. Stewart.

**Birthday Half Crown:** Mrs. C. Haines.

**New Altar Frontal.** From the fund made up of mid-week services, sick communions, wedding offerings, churchings, and sundry donations handed to the Vicar, we have been able to purchase a new tapestry frontal for ferial seasons,

made for us by Mowbray's. The old all-purpose frontal, which had seen good service, has unfortunately worn out. The new frontal is reversible, the other side being of plain material with narrow purple strips, for use in Advent and Lent.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services

July 7 **Trinity 4.** As for 1st Sun.  
" 14 **Trinity 5.** As for 2nd Sun.  
" 21 **Trinity 6.** As for 3rd Sun.  
" 28 **Trinity 7.** As for 4th Sun.

On the Sunday when the Vicar is away, the officiant will be the Rev. S. J. Hailes.

**P.C.C. Meeting.** Wed., July 24th, 7-30 p.m.

#### Holy Baptism

May 26 Jonathan Roberts.

**Jottings.** We have to say goodbye to Michael and Sheila Jones, who are leaving Wickhamford, with much grati-

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tude for their work among us, especially the leadership of the Youth Club. Your prayers are asked for the sick. Mrs. J. Stanley has had to undergo another operation, which she has faced with great faith and courage. Mr. J. Colley has returned from hospital after some setbacks, and we hope he will now make steady progress. Mr. Cyril Roberts is in Evesham Hospital with a slipped disc, which he has accepted very patiently. His son Harold is at present sitting his M.B. finals at Leeds University.

**Acknowledgment.** We are very grateful to Miss N. K. Pethard for a new 'fair linen' altar cloth and corporals which she has made for the church.

With the Vicar's fund from offerings at weddings, sick communicants, etc., we have been able to purchase some new alms bags, and a purple burse and veil for Advent and Lent.

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