

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

AUGUST, 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.

20th July, 1968.

My dear People,

Mrs. Braby and I were very sorry, on our return from holiday in North Wales, to find how much some of you had been through in the floods, certainly the worst in these parts that people can remember. The sudden overflowing of Badsey Brook to an unprecedented level at about 4 a.m. on July 11, took everybody by surprise, and the worst sufferers were the householders in Silk Mills, Badsey and Manor Road, Wickhamford. Mr. D. Daffurn lost livestock for the second time this year. Everyone concerned seems to be taking it cheerfully and with British pluck. The flood water, which was 3ft. deep in some homes, swept across Wickhamford churchyard but stopped short at the church tower, and only the vestry floor was slightly inundated. People on the banks of the Avon and the Isbourne had a worse time, but even this seems to have been slight compared with the Bristol Avon, and the rivers of the south-west.

The non-Lambeth Conference

Some are saying, "Will this be the last Lambeth Conference?" Actually it looks as though the one in 1958 was to be the last 'Lambeth' Conference. The whole thing has got so big that Lambeth Palace can't hold all the bishops, and this time they are meeting in Westminster. I am glad to see that (after the opening service in Canterbury Cathedral) the bishops are going to start with a whole 'day of recollection' in St. John's Church, Lambeth. That at least will justify its being called a Lambeth Conference, and it may well be the most important day of the whole month's assembly.

But when people say, "Will this be the last Lambeth Conference?", they mean, Will this be the last of the whole series of conferences, which began 101 years ago? Is there any point in continuing these expensive and time-consuming gatherings, which seem to accomplish so little, and in any case will there be much or anything left of the Anglican Communion in 10 years' time?

To take the first question. I don't really think that anyone looking back over the last 50 years, or reading the late Roger Lloyd's "Church of England 1900-1965", could say that the Lambeth Conferences might just as well not have taken place. It is true that the Conference has no power to legislate: none of its decisions is binding on the member churches. It is not like a Vatican Council. But its findings do represent a common mind on certain issues, and so are able to command more respect among many Anglicans than some merely national or provincial measures.

Streamlined Anglicanism?

Now for the 2nd and more vital question: Has the Anglican Communion any future? The Canadian Bishop of Huron says: Yes, but only if it is given a strong central executive, able to plan an overall strategy for mission which all regional churches would be committed to carry out. "The world", he says "has quite suddenly become too small and too swift for our crazy-quilt methods and horse-and-buggy approach". This vigorous attitude is what we would expect from Canada, who gave us the Stewardship movement, whose bishops were responsible for the calling of the 1st Lambeth Conference, and from whose episcopate we have the present executive officer of the Anglican Communion. It is at first sight very attractive: we would all like to see more punch and effectiveness, and less narrow parochialism, in the Anglican Communion. But it would mean accepting a central bureaucracy (involving greater expenditure on administration), which would decide for us, even in the parishes, what work to support and what enterprises to undertake. Without this, says the Bishop of Huron, "we shall soon see the disintegration of the Anglican Communion and its disappearance as a Christian force

in the world". One just wonders whether it is not the Bishop's plan, if implemented, which would have this effect - by quenching local initiative and taking the life and stimulus out of the small parochial fellowships which are the real cells of Christian activity.

But the likelihood of such a plan being accepted is very remote. It is too un-English. And the Church of England is still the biggest numerical factor in the Anglican Communion. I learnt recently, with a bit of a shock, that four-fifths of the membership of the Anglican Communion is to be found in the provinces of Canterbury and York. No doubt there is a greater proportion of merely nominal members in England than elsewhere. But who is to distinguish between nominal and effective members? All are baptised, and you can't say some are more baptised than others.

The thin red line

The fact is that outside England the Anglican Communion is spread very thinly on the ground. When I read the reports of missionary societies or overseas dioceses, I have a mental picture of the Anglican bishop as an important leader in the life of his country, with a church and congregation in every place in his diocese. In actual fact he is usually only the leader of a small minority, regarded locally as a minor sect, scattered unevenly over a minute corner of the territory which on the Anglican map is labelled as the Diocese of So-and-So. E.g. there is an Anglican diocese of Argentina and Eastern S. America with the Falkland Islands. This sounds very grand, but it does not mean that the whole population of this vast region regard themselves as 'in communion with the see of Canterbury'. Outside England, only in a few W. Indian islands such as Barbados and Jamaica do Anglicans form the majority of Christians.

It is not only English churchpeople, but the members of our Communion in the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa who would not take too kindly to centralised planning. It might seem to smack of an imperialism which they have been at pains to throw off. The name 'Anglican' is itself, not unnaturally, an embarrassment to them. They have to show that they can be good Christians and yet be ardent supporters of their own national revolutionary movements. It is perhaps this divisive nationalism which is going in the end to kill the Lambeth Conferences. In Burma, for instance, all foreign missionaries have been expelled from the country, but the Burmese Bishop of Rangoon has not been allowed by his government to attend the Conference. There will, of course, as in 1958, be no representatives from China.

Opting out

Then there is the great fact of ecumenical advance. Some years ago about 6 dioceses left the Anglican Communion when the Church of S. India came into being. All over the world, schemes of inter-church union are in preparation which will mean whole provinces detaching themselves from the Anglican Communion. If the C. of E. merges with the Methodists, shall we also cease to be Anglican?

Many people with overseas experience think it better that Anglican Christians in different parts of the world should unite with fellow countrymen of other Christian traditions than remain tied to a sectarian communion linked to Canterbury in distant England. Others say that membership of a worldwide communion does at least give them a wider vision and sense of world brotherhood than membership of a national church, however ecumenically composed. Whatever WE think good for them, I think they will increasingly want to throw off the connections with English Christianity as British influence wanes all over the world.

Does it matter?

So the eventual dissolution of the Anglican Communion seems inevitable. Does it matter very much? If the Anglican Communion ceases to exist as a distinct institution, but is gathered into the one great Church, we need not lament its passing. Perhaps there will still be 'Anglicanism', the best of the Anglican tradition carried over into the greater Church. It will be for Anglicans to bring into the City of God the treasures which God in his providence has entrusted our Church with, through the centuries of its history as a distinct Communion.

Meanwhile we have the present realities. There is an Anglican Communion, and a Lambeth Conference is meeting now. It is our duty to pray that God will use the Conference for his loving purposes, and bless and guide the bishops, our shepherds.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Lambeth Conference Service in Evesham, Sunday, Aug. 18. 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 on 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, August 25th.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

August

- 4 **Trinity 8.** As for 1st Sunday. 6-45 People's Service.
- 6 **Tues. Transfiguration of Our Lord.** 10-0 H.C.
- 7 **Wed.** No H.C. (See Tues.).
- 11 **Trinity 9.** As for 2nd Sunday.
- 14 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 18 **Trinity 10.** 8-0 H.C. 3-30 **Special Lambeth Conference Service in All Saints, Evesham** (See above). **Baptism transferred to 4th Sun., Aug. 25. No Evening in Badsey Church.**
- 21 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 24 **Sat., St. Bartholomew, Apostle.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 25 **Trinity 11.** As for 4th Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
- 28 **Wed. St. Augustine of Hippo. Bp. & Dr.** 10-0 H.C. No Pram Service.

September

- 1 **Trinity 12.** St. Giles, Abbot. As for 1st Sun. 6-45 People's Service.

Note special arrangements for Sun., Aug. 18, and that **Holy Baptism** will be administered on the 4th Sun. this month instead of the 3rd.

The **Sunday School** does not meet in August. It will re-assemble on Sept. 15th. Parents are asked (wherever possible) to bring their children to the church services, and if, away on holiday, to the local church where they are staying.

Mothers' Union. Tues., Aug. 6 (Feast of Transfiguration). 10-0 Corporate Communion.

On June 25th, at 1-45, 28 members set off on their summer outing. After a wet morning we were very lucky when the sun came out and we had a beautiful afternoon and evening. Arriving at Eastnor Castle near Ledbury, we enjoyed a tour of the building and grounds and found it all very interesting. There was a lake at

the back which made us all wish we could look out of our windows to see such beautiful scenery.

After tea at the Castle we went on to Ross, stopping on the way to look at Much Marcle Church. We had almost an hour at Ross to look around, and then on to Brockhampton Court Hotel, where we all enjoyed a meal in delightful surroundings. How nice it is for us mothers to be waited on and not to have to do the washing up. Back home along the motorway, getting home at 11-15, but everyone agreed that we had had a very enjoyable trip, and hoped that we would have many more.

There will be no branch meetings in August, but I hope that all members will enjoy restful and peaceful holidays.
J.B.

Result of Overseas Committee Coffee Evening, 20th June. This was held at Seward House. The total amount raised for the U.S.P.G. project, supporting the work of the Rev. E. D. Houston at Kamdara, India was £52-5-9, after deduction of printing expenses. This was made up as follows: Admittance money, £12-9-0; Bring and Buy Stall £7-9-3; Treasure Hunt £1-5-10; Miscellaneous Gift Stall £7-5-2; Fancy Goods Stall £18-3-3; Raffle for Whisky £6-17-0.

The Committee offers grateful thanks to all the willing helpers who made the event such a success.

Holy Baptism

July 21 Susan Kathryn Jones; Lesley Ann Jelfs; Stephen Michael Trotman; Mark Francis Meadows; Jeremy Ian Munday; Sadie Jayne Willett; Jennifer Anne Jelfs; Shawn Edward Southern.

Burials, R.I.P.

July 8 Ellen Marie Jones, aged 78.

Mrs. Jones died in Evesham Hospital after a short illness. Mr. Bertram Jones and his family are assured of our warm sympathy and prayers. We shall all miss her very much. A devout communicant and member of the Mothers' Union, she was a gallant and warm-hearted person who cheered and enlightened many with her cockney humour and unquenchable spirit. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good: Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Jones were the gift to Badsey of Hitler's blitz.

Maurice G. Savory died suddenly on 22nd June, aged 72, and was cremated at Cheltenham on the 26th. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Savory, Roger and family, and Mrs. March, in their loss. Maurice Savory was a remarkably vigorous man for his age. We shall always remember with gratitude the fine work he did for the parish in earlier days, particularly in connection with the Sunday School and the Men's Fellowship.

At about the same date Teddy Griffin, a pupil at Badsey School, was killed in a motor accident in Ireland. The funeral took place at Pershore Roman Catholic Church. Mrs. Griffin has the deep sympathy of us all in her sorrow.

Leslie Wilfred Purcell died suddenly of a thrombosis on July 11th, aged 62. He was cremated at Cheltenham on the 16th. Mr. and Mrs. Purcell came to us from Birmingham only last year, and have gained a number of friends in the short time they have been in Badsey. Our profound sympathy with Mrs. Purcell.

May God grant light and peace to his servants.

Jottings. Heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Dick Hartwell on their Golden Wedding.

At the time of writing, Mrs. Langstone seems to be peacefully slipping away, and we are glad to know that she is not in any pain. Mrs. Frank Reeves is recuperating slowly but bravely from a series of heart attacks.

Mr. Reeves has himself been unwell and confined to his home. Mrs Brotherton has been in hospital and is still receiving treatment. We are glad to welcome home from hospital Mrs. C. Baker, Mr. E. Mitchell, Mrs. Ovard, Mr. G. Nightingale.

Servers for August. 4th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 M. Exon. 11th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server) M. Clements (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Clements. 18th, 8-0 D. Barrand. 25th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 D. Hatherley (Server) T. Bell (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Aug. 4th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 11th, Mrs. R. Hartwell; 18th, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 25th, Mrs. K. Marshall.

Birthday Half-crown. Rev. P. Braby.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services

August

4 **Trinity 8.** As for 1st Sun. 3-0 Holy Baptism.
11 **Trinity 9.** As for 2nd Sun.
18 **Trinity 10.** 11-0 H.C. (with hymns). **3-30 Special Lambeth Conference Service in All Saints, Evesham** (See under Vicar's Letter). No Evensong in Wickhamford Church.

25 **Trinity 11.** As for 4th Sun.

Sept.

1 **Trinity 12.** As for 1st Sun.

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Holy Matrimony

June 29 Michael George Boniface, of Axminster, Devon, and Jennifer Newbury, of Wickhamford.

Burials, R.I.P.

June 25 Philip Barnett, aged 36.

The suddenness of his death at an early age was a tragic shock, and we all feel very deeply for Mrs. Barnett and her family and for Philip's parents and family. May they know God's comfort and strength.

John Leathers died on 12th July, aged 88, and was cremated at Cheltenham on the 16th. He was a very cheerful and pleasant old gentleman to know, and had been a hard worker in his time. He had just enjoyed the outing for old people a few days before his death. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Leathers and family.

Jottings. We are glad to welcome home from hospital Mrs. Stanley, who has made a good recovery from her serious illness, Mr. C. Roberts, whom we are so glad to see about again, Mrs. Latham, Mrs. Nott. We are sorry that the latter will have to return to hospital at a later date. It is a great pleasure to see Miss Vera Lawley home again.

Birthday Halfcrowns. Rev. P. Braby, Mrs. Nott (5/-).

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