

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 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

17th August, 1968

My dear People,

The daily news from Nigeria is agonising, with thousands of refugees dying for want of food, while relief supplies and willing helpers are only a short distance away, unable to reach them. As I write, another hope of a relief air corridor has been dashed. It becomes very difficult to sing words like: "He comes with succour speedy To those who suffer wrong". But we always have to remember that our Father, in his respect for what He has created, will not undermine human personality by intervening with arbitrary power. He did not do so even to rescue his Son from torture and death. Human wickedness and folly are crucifying the Son of God afresh in the persons of his brethren, and salvation will only come through humanity possessed by his Spirit of love. One thing we can all do. When we have our comparatively small crosses to bear, we can offer them to be used by God on behalf of our suffering brethren. This is far more effective than protests or criticisms. But we do pray that someone in a position to do so will take bold action.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY & ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Sept.

- 1 **Trinity 12.** St. Giles, Abbot. As for 1st Sun. 6-45 People's Service.
- 4 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 8 **Trinity 13.** Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. As for 2nd Sun.
- 9 **Mon.** 2-0 M.U. Wave of Prayer (See M.U. Notes).
- 11 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 15 **Trinity 14.** As for 3rd Sun. 10-0 Sunday School re-assembles.
- 18 **Wed.** Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 **Sat. St. Matthew, Apostle.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 22 **Trinity 15.** As for 4th Sun.
- 25 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.
- 29 **St. Michael & All Angels. Trinity 16.** As for 5th Sun. 10-15 Family Service.

The Sunday School session begins with the Family Eucharist on Sept. 8 at 10-15. Classes begin on Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. Boys and girls over 8 will now meet in the church instead of the Meeting House. Younger children will meet in the Meeting House (not the Remembrance Hall) and the Parish Room.

Confirmation Classes begin again on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 7-30 p.m. in the Parish Room.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Sept. 3, at 7-30 p.m.

Mothers' Union. Wed., 4th 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Mon. 9th Wave of Prayer 2-0 - 2-20. I do hope that members will join together in church for this short time, but if this is not possible will you pray in your homes for M.U. work at home and overseas.

Tues. 10th 2-30 Branch Meeting. Bring & Buy Stall. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Bell (Committee), Mesdames Allan, Collis & R. Hartwell.

No Branch Meeting on Tues. 24th.

Thurs., 26th 7-30. Deanery Overseas Meeting in the Walker Hall, Evesham. Speaker: Miss Ruth Martin. Transport will be provided. Please give me your names as soon as possible. J.B.

BOYS & GIRLS - SOMETHING NEW!

You will be interested to hear that the Junior Boys' Club has now been merged into the St. James's Junior Youth Club. The new club, comprising boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 inclusive, starts on Tuesday, Sept. 10th, from 7 to 9 p.m.

We hope you will support this new Tuesday evening club, with its fresh ideas, by joining us on the first night for a party, which we feel sure you will never forget.

More will be explained at the Meeting House in Chapel Street on Sept. 10th. Don't forget! D.J.H.

Jottings. Miss Katherine Sladden sent us greetings for the Patronal Festival in July. In her work of training teachers in Poona she has been very busy, but seems to be taking no real holidays as she has been spending vacations at a language school learning Hindi. She writes of the excellent ecumenical co-operation in Christian education, especially from the R.C. Bishop of Poona, who is attending the Lambeth Conference as one of the R.C. observers.

Christopher James Jepson died on 24th July, aged 72, and was cremated at Cheltenham. Our profound sympathy with Mrs. Jepson and the family. Mr. Jepson Senr. had not lived in Badsey long, but had made a number of friends, as he was a cheerful person to meet.

It is a matter for great thankfulness that Christopher Tustin (7) was rescued from drowning in Badsey Brook. Special acknowledgement is due to Mr. Malcolm Stewart and Mr. Clinton Evans for their part in this.

Our best wishes for the happiness of Miss Pat Keen who has left Badsey to live at Acocks Green, Birmingham.

Home from hospital, but convalescent, are Mrs. Edith Reeves, Mrs. Margaret Merriman, Mrs. Bearcroft, Mr. T. Hodgkins, who has suffered another leg injury. Mrs. Brenda Hall's recovery is very slow and she would welcome our prayers. Mr. Bob Gregory has been very ill with his asthma but now seems recovered, we are glad to say. Mrs. Tomkins has been suffering with an ulcerated leg.

Servers for September. 1st, 8-0 M. Clements; 11-0 A. Clements. 8th, 10-15 C. Hartwell (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 15th, 8-0 D. Hatherley; 6-45 T. Bell. 22nd, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 D. Barrand (Server), C. Tucker (Crucifer). 29th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-15 M. Exon; 6-45 C. Hartwell.

War Memorial Flowers. Sept. 1st, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 8th, Mrs. C. Stewart; 15th, Mrs. Ballard; 22nd, Mrs. A. Cyril.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Sept.

- 1 **Trinity 12.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 Holy Baptism. 5-30 E.
- 8...(**Trinity 13**), 15 (**Trin. 14**), 22 (**Trin. 15**), 29 (**St. Michael & All Angels, Trin. 16**). As for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Suns.

Confirmation Classes start again on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 5-30 p.m. in the church.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Sept. 25, 7-30 p.m.

Holy Baptism

Aug 4 Ross Daniel Gerring; Helen Louise Corbett; Paul Anthony Carter; Mark Britain Elliott.

Burial, R.I.P.

Aug. 17 Annie May Heritage, aged 67.

This is a sad loss to us all, and the family may be assured of our prayerful sympathy. When Mrs. Heritage went into hospital we remembered how she had recovered before, after rest and treatment, so the fatal stroke a few days later was unexpected. She was a good and kindly woman. May God grant her light and peace.

The Sick. We are sorry that Mrs. Eva Cooke is suffering from a slipped disc, and that Mrs. M. E. Hall has been in hospital again. Mrs. Mason is considerably better than a few weeks ago, under her husband's un-failing care.

Sunday School. On the 14th August we took the children, for their annual outing, to Bourton-on-the-Water, where they much enjoyed visiting Birdland and the Model Village. Our new venture of providing a picnic tea proved a grand success, chiefly owing to the splendid co-operation and help of Mesdames Whiting, Sturt & Camden and Miss Irene Thomas, and also of Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Hall who came with us and cared so wonderfully for the safety and comfort of the children. We sadly missed Miss M. Willis who was unable to come owing to illness, and the Misses Sturt and Whiting who were working.

May I here pay a tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Hall, through whose great kindness and interest the Sunday School has been presented with Bibles to replace the ones lost in the recent flood. These gestures on the part of the children's parents are indeed very heart-warming.

Stamps for the Missions to Seamen. Many thanks to the kind friends who collect so regularly for me. The Rev. W. S. Tyler is extremely grateful and can sell all the stamps for this cause. Thus by a little effort and no cost a good cause can be helped. A.L.C.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY (OLD STYLE)

A story used to be told that when the Rev. Thomas Henry Hunt came to Badsey and Wickhamford as Vicar in 1852, parishioners unharnessed the horses from his carriage and dragged it themselves in triumphant procession to his new home. (Mr. Hunt's own account many years later, was that he got off the public coach at the Sandys Arms, and walked to the Vicarage with William Barnard the parish clerk. It is unlikely that in those days he could have afforded a private carriage). It may be that memories were confused with what happened at his marriage five years later. But the arrival of a resident parson, with the care of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford as his sole charge, was something unknown to that generation or even their grandparents.

They had been given some raw deals. It pains me to have to admit that Christ Church, such model patrons today, were in those times very largely to blame for the unhappy neglect of these parishes, though the situation was far from uncommon.

Cut-price Clergymen

The trouble went back a long way. Somewhere about 1590 we find the inhabitants of Badsey and Aldington sending a petition to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, complaining that they had let the tithes, glebe and other property of the living to laymen, notably Richard Hobbie (Hoby), who was making about 20 marks a year out of it, while the parishioners were deprived of continuous pastoral care. "We think it strange that Christchurch should give means or coun-

tenance to the alienation of the rightful portions belonging to the ministers of Christ, tending to the decay of Godliness and Christian religion, for ever since they (Ch.Ch.) have held it we have been served with such ministers as might be gotten best cheap, our selves and our families being untaught, and many times we have been without service of minister, because our ministers could neither have sufficient wages nor yet convenient room in our vicarage house to lodge and diet in, but have remained here and there as they might, sometimes six or seven miles from us, so that we know not how or where to have them what need so ever we had, neither could we ever have any man that we did well like of to continue over long time among us, and yet our tithes taken to the uppermost, whereby you may perceive and think that we have been very evil served and not like Christians, and our vicarage houses go to decay, our glebe lost, and other profits mingled we know not how". They go on to request that their present minister Mr. Spenser be granted the living which is his due: he "hath for the space of these two years behaved himself discretely and painfully in his vocation, to our greater contentment and liking both of his doctrine and conversation".

We do not know what answer, if any, was given to this petition. There is no trace in our parochial records of the praiseworthy Mr. Spenser. We must assume that he also passed quickly on his way. In the next century the Vicar of Badsey himself, John Samon, wrote to Christ Church in similar strain.

Maisonettes

A frequent complaint was that neither parish had a decent parsonage. The Rev. John Rawlins in 1778 wrote of Badsey: "The House is in good Repair, but is a low Tenement little better than a Cottage". Wickhamford vicarage house was "a cottage & Shop inhabited by a Weaver". Mr. Rawlins, though he was buried at Badsey, does not seem to have resided here, or at any rate not continuously, for he let Badsey vicarage house with a barn and small orchard at £5 per annum. He was also Rector of Leigh, between Worcester and the Malvern Hills, and of Haselton in the Cotswolds, both of which he held in plurality with Badsey and Wickhamford for 53 years!

Scottish Enterprise

The next appointment after his death was of another pluralist: George William Auriol Hay Drummond, a member of the aristocratic Scottish family which founded Drummond's Bank. His grandfather was the Earl of Kinnoul, and his father, the Archbishop of York, had died when he was 15. Earlier that same year young George had gone up to Christ Church as an undergraduate. He was now 24: he already held the living of Brodsworth near Doncaster, and was later to be a prebendary of York Minster. Christ Church appointed him to Badsey and Wickhamford where he probably never had any serious intention of residing. He let the whole of the glebe and tithes in both parishes, even the Easter dues, to William Collett, a Badsey farmer (who already leased the Ch.Ch. tithes) for £111 p.a., out of which he paid a curate the princely sum of £35 a year. He did however allow him to take the surplice fees and to reside in the vicarage.

Yet it was Drummond who built the present Badsey Vicarage and Wickhamford "Old Vicarage". It is his coat-of-arms which is carved in stone over the Vicarage door.

In 1801 he wrote: "On taking possession of the Curacies of Badsey & Wickhamford in 1785, I found the Parsonage at Badsey little better than a Cottage, and in such wretched repair, that after a great part had fallen in, I was induced to pull it down and build a new Stone house, which I sashed and slated, and it is now a neat and commodious dwelling. At the same time, I dug a well in the premises, which was very much wanted, and repaired the Barn used by the College Tenant for the reception of the Great Tithes. The Parsonage House at Wickhamford was a mud Hovel inhabited by a Weaver; this also I rebuilt and made it a comfortable Cottage". It was let at £1-11-6 a year!

After Drummond's death in 1807, another absentee, the Rev. Charles Phillott, rector of Kingston Deverill, Wilts., held the livings for 43 years, surviving the great era of Church reform. During that time successive Acts of Parliament limited parishes held in plurality to two, which must not be more than 3 miles apart, and compelled the parson to reside in one of them. Unfortunately existing holders were exempted, so nothing could be done till Mr. Phillott resigned or died. A rapid succession of curates looked after Badsey and Wickhamford. When Phillott died in 1851 he was insolvent, and the curate's stipend was six months' overdue.

In residence

At last Christ Church appointed the right man, T. H. Hunt, and they backed him up all through. But what

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PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

a mess he inherited! He was busy at once with plans for building a school, recovering Badsey churchyard for the parish, and restoring both churches. A commission of two neighbouring incumbents appointed by the Bishop of Worcester reported that Badsey parsonage house had "by the neglect of the late non-resident incumbent been suffered to go to decay, and has sustained damage from a want of concern and ordinary repair to the account of £647-18-10". No Diocesan Dilapidations Board in those days to keep a watch on things! An architect, Mr. Abraham Edward Perkins of Worcester, drew up designs for altering and re-planning the house, but these were not fully carried out, for the repairs alone, with some slight alterations, came to £900. It was some years later that Mr. Hunt added the extension now forming the parish room and flat.

He stayed 36 years, and was so much beloved that village children were named after him. (One such Thomas Henry is with us now, and also much beloved). His parishioners' forbears had described their minister's behaviour as discreet and painful. The words would not have seemed complimentary in Mr. Hunt's day or in ours. But like Mr. Spenser he was certainly to the "great contentment and liking" of his flock.

Note: The writer is grateful to the authorities at Ch. Ch. for allowing him to make researches among their records, and much of the information in the above article is taken from these.

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