

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

DECEMBER, 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 November, 1968

My dear People,

Mrs. Braby and I are quite overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of so many friends on the occasion of our Silver Wedding last month. We did not know the news had got around. We not only had some lovely flowers, greetings cards and gifts from individuals, but a beautiful set of cut glasses from Wickhamford P.C.C., and a surprise greetings cheque for 18 guineas from a number of anonymous friends in Badsey and Aldington who had clubbed together to make this present. We are buying a pair of fireside chairs with the money (this seems suitable, though retirement is yet a long way off, we hope!) Anyway, do come in and try them out.

All this unexpected kindness has made us very happy. I feel this is an opportunity also to express our gratitude for the contribution made to the happiness of our home by the bride's mother - who does her wonderful best to keep us young; and to two people who were unmentionable 25 years ago, Jonathan and Mary.

Christmas is for all time and for all men

That sounds obvious enough to any Christian, and not particularly significant. Why then have Christian Aid adopted this slogan for their appeal this winter?

It would indeed seem commonplace enough beside a traditional Christmas picture of a chubby pink-faced baby in the arms of a prosperous-looking lady in a gorgeous blue robe. But it is just this sort of picture which makes nonsense of Christmas. So the Christian Aid poster which carries the slogan has a pictorial design which at first sight does not seem to relate to Christmas at all.

In the foreground a pop group is seen on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral. The leader - a young man with a tambourine - is jerking and jiving before a microphone. Behind him, between the classical columns of the portico, is a huge enlargement of a photo of an African mother and her naked baby.

Whatever has this to do with Christmas? I quote part of the answer which the designer of this poster, Mr. Hugh Ashton, wrote in the "Church Times": "What we have done in the first place is to get off the overcrowded Christmas bandwagon which has creaked along for years under a load of commercial exploitation and tinselly religion, obscuring our view of Christ's birth into a sordid world. Today the world is as sordid as ever, but we preserve the Nativity scene in a two-thousand-year-old frame, embellished and romanticised by generations of sentimentalists. Thus is Christmas becoming for many a pretty legend rather than a historical fact. ... Let me now interpret this visual parable. Many people are becoming gradually aware - though still more need reminding - that most children born in Africa, Asia and Latin America are born into poverty. In the photograph the poverty is implied by the nakedness and colour of the child and his mother. Two thousand years ago it was implied by the stable and the oxen. And as with the Child of Bethlehem this child of the "Third World" is born to die prematurely - of an entirely curable disease or a wholly preventable mal-nourishment. These are the inevitable products of poverty; and that poverty is the product of Western selfishness, perpetuated by Western apathy. How can we pretend otherwise when we of the Western world, representing only twenty per cent of the human race, are sitting on 90% of the world's income, 95% of its scientific knowledge, 80% of its protein and 70% of its meat? It is salutary, to say the least, that the world's affluent 20% minority are mostly Christian, and that the impoverished 80% majority are mostly non-Christian...

"What about the boy with the tambourine and a 1968 hairstyle? Do we have to have this sort of thing at Christmas? If he were a shepherd with his pipe, or if

feathered wings sprouted from his shoulder blades, he would not be considered irrelevant. To me he is a good deal less anachronistic than angels in nighties, flying against all the principles of aero-dynamics. ... It would have been more fitting, wouldn't it, if the lad and his tambourine had been turned towards the nativity scene to indicate respect or even worship? Certainly it would. As it is, that nativity scene is no more than a backdrop for his merry making. And is that not precisely what the birth into poverty two-thousand years ago has become at Christmas?"

Learning the hard way

So much for the setting. Now for the substance of the appeal. This is what is said in the official Christian Aid pamphlet: "Neither the Churches, nor Christian Aid which they created to meet human need, have anything to be proud of. But we try, and must go on trying, to relieve suffering regardless of its cause or the colour and creed of its victims. And also trying to learn the hard way what Christmas is really all about. That is why, as yet another Christmastide approaches, we ask all Christians and all our friends to give all they can afford to Christian Aid - so that we may do more, and do it better.

"Your gifts to this Christmas Appeal are for the whole of our work: training farmers, teachers, mechanics and traders; settling refugees into homes and jobs; providing material relief to the victims of disasters, natural and political, as for instance in the Nigerian-Biafran region; making small grants to hard pressed minority churches; giving ecumenical scholarships to broaden the minds and outlooks of tomorrow's church and community leaders; sponsoring young men and women through VSO for work in developing countries; paying the salaries of skilled workers and administrators in the field.

"We send you our best wishes and our grateful thanks for your support in the past. Will you please again help us to express Christmas goodwill in practical ways to yet more of mankind?"

The Vicar's Christmas Appeal

So my special Christmas Appeal this year is again for Christian Aid, as it was two years ago. The people of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford then gave me, in many contributions large and small, £100 to send to Christian Aid. The world's need has not grown any less since then, but rather greater. I know also that for us money seems to be tighter. But devaluation has made it even more difficult for the people who administer these funds abroad, and we must give more than before in nominal value even to equal what we gave before.

I am sure however that each one of us is going to spend a fair amount of money this Christmas. Let us try, as before, to plan our Christmas spending so that our money is going where it will do most good. Give presents to your family and friends, of course, as tokens of your affection. But for every shilling you spend on a present, give me a shilling for Christian Aid. You are then associating your friend with you in this act of sharing. Isn't that a lovely thought? If you can't afford a bob for every bob, then spend 1/6, the tanner on your friend's present and the bob for Christian Aid. Please let me have the money by Christmas Day at the latest. There will be some special gift envelopes available for your contributions. Take one from church or ask me for one. Please make cheques payable to me (you have trusted me in the past!), so that I can send the total up to Christian Aid as a lump sum from us all.

The House of Bread

That is the meaning of the name Bethlehem. As we come to Bethlehem to adore, and hold out our hands

for the Bread of Life, may they be hands which have already been laid open to give.

A truly blessed Christmas to you all.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Note that Holy Baptism is administered on the 4th Sunday now, with Choral Mattins, at 11-0. No Evening Eucharist on 4th Sun. this month.

The Christmas Carol Service this year will be on Epiphany Eve, Jan. 5, (People's Service) instead of the 1st Sunday after Christmas.

There will be no Pram Service this month.

Dec.

- 1 Advent I. As for 1st Sun.
- 4 Wed. St. Clement of Alexandria, Dr. 10-0 H.C.
- 8 Advent 2. Conception of B.V.M. As for 2nd Sun.
- 11 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 15 Advent 3. As for 3rd Sun. (Baptism Service on 4th Sun.).
- 18 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 Sat. St. Thomas, Apostle. 10-0 H.C.
- 22 Advent 4. 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Mattins (Sung) and Holy Baptism. 6-45 Evensong.
- 24 Tues. Christmas Eve. 11-30 p.m. Midnight Eucharist. (Carols sung by quartet before Service from 11-0).
- 25 Wed. CHRISTMAS DAY. 8-0 Holy Communion. 10-15 Family Service. 11-0 Holy Communion. 4-0 Evening Prayer (said).
- 29 Christmas I. 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Children's Service. 11-0 Mattins (said). 6-45 Evensong.

Jan.

- 1 Wed. Circumcision of Christ. 10-0 H.C.

For all who seek "the benefit of absolution, together with spiritual counsel and advice", in accordance with the Prayer Book Exhortation to Communion, the Vicar will be in church at 7 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 21 and Tues., Dec. 24.

Decoration of the church for Christmas will be on Christmas Eve, beginning at 2 p.m. Helpers will be welcome. Flowers and evergreens will also be very acceptable, and should be brought to the church before 2-0

The collections at Midnight Eucharist and on Christmas Day are for the Church of England Children's Society.

The Vicar will be glad to take Holy Communion to the homes of those who through sickness or infirmity are unable to get to church. If you are not already on his regular list, please let him know.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Dec. 3rd, 7-15 p.m.

Mothers' Union. Tues. Dec. 3rd. Coffee Morning at Mrs. Bell's house, 10-0 to 12-0, in aid of M.U. Funds. Bring & Buy Stall. Come with all your friends and neighbours.

Wed. 4th 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues. 10th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Miss E. Lane Smith, Council for Women's Church Work. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Sladden (Committee), Mesdames Sparrow, Wright and Miss Tizard.

There will be no meeting on the 4th Tuesday, but I do hope you will all have a very happy Christmas.

J.B.

Brownie Activities. The 1st Badsey Brownie Pack, formed earlier this year, is proving a great success. There is now a full pack of 24, and a waiting list.

In June an outing to the Model Village at Bourton was followed by a picnic tea at Upper Slaughter.

Brownie Revels were held at Littleton in July, taking the form of a Sports Day. Your Pack competed, and Badsey, the most recently formed pack, were outright winners.

A SALE OF WORK & RUMMAGE SALE will be held at the Meeting House on Sat., 7th December, at 2-30 p.m. It is hoped that you will give your support. If you have any rummage, the Brownies will be pleased to collect.

Brown Owl.

St. John Ambulance Brigade. On Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day, the Badsey Nursing Cadet Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under their Divisional Superintendent, Mrs. J. Ramsbotham, received their flag, and 12 cadets were enrolled.

After presentation of the flag in the Meeting House by Mr. J. Philip-Sorensen, a service was held in the church at which the flag was dedicated by the Vicar as Divisional Chaplain, and the cadets enrolled by the County Commissioner, Lt. Col. C. P. Vaughan, D.S.O. The lesson was read by Cadet Wendy Porter. The Vicar in his address reminded the cadets that they were now associated with the Order of the Knights of St. John's Hospital, which was founded to care for the needs of poor pilgrims to Jerusalem. 'Brigade' meant a group of disciplined people with a common purpose; 'hospital' meant a place of welcome, and 'ambulance' a walking hospital. They were pledging themselves each to be an 'ambulance' in this sense, like the Good Samaritan who not only cared for the wounded stranger, but knew what to do.

The cadets enrolled were Susan Apperley, Helen Ballard, Susan Brazier, Hazel Franklin, Jane Goldstraw, Rachel Jones, Susan Perkins, Kim Strangwood, Linda Watt, Martin Haines, Ian Hardwick, Michael Millward.

After the service the Division held a reception in the Meeting House for parents and friends.

Holy Baptism

- Nov. 17 Russell Knight; Christopher Jonathan Jones; Tracey Anne Bryant.

Holy Matrimony

- Nov. 2 Tony Steward, of Boscombe, Hants., and Margaret Patricia Wheatley, of Badsey.

Burial, R.I.P.

- Nov. 20 Andrew Frederick Padfield, aged 62

It was sad to see Fred Padfield in this last year of his earthly life, literally wasting away with heart disease. He bore it all very patiently and uncomplainingly. Now we commend his life to the Giver's loving keeping. To Mrs. Padfield and the family, who have suffered so much, we tender our warm sympathy and the assurance of our prayers.

Jottings. We look forward to congratulating our G.O.M., Mr. Tommy Knight, on his 90th birthday on Dec. 9th.

Your prayers are asked for the following sick people, either in hospital at the time of writing, recently returned from hospital, or waiting to go in: Mr. Edgar Cull, Mrs. H. Taylor, Mr. Billy Hardiman, Mr. Albert Jelfs, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. E. Wilde, Mr. Tom Sears, Mr. Bill Sears, Miss Annette Hewlett, Mr. David Welch, Mr. Frank Wheeler, Mr. Fred Wheatley, Mr. George Grove.

Servers for December. 1st, 8-0 M. Clements; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 D. Hatherley. 8th, 10-15 C. Hartwell (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 15th, 8-0 D. Hatherley; 6-45 R. Keen. 22nd, 8-0 T. Bell; 11-0 (Mattins & Baptism) D. Barrand; 6-45 (Evensong) A. Clements. 24th, (Christmas Eve), 11-30 p.m. M. Betteridge. 25th, (Christmas Day), 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-15 M. Exon; 11-0 (H.C.) A. Clements. 29th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 C. Hartwell.

War Memorial Flowers. Dec. 1st, Mrs. J. Hewlett; 8th, Mrs. L. Reeves; 15th, Mrs. K. Cole; 22nd, Mrs. H. Hatcher.

Anniversary Donations. Birthday Half-crowns: Anon.; Mrs. E. G. Braby; Miss M. E. Braby; In loving memory of Philip Edward Brailsford.
Wedding Anniversary 5/-: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Keen.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Note that Sunday Evensong is at 3 p.m. in the winter months. Holy Baptism on 2nd Sunday at 3-0.

Dec.

- 1 **Advent I.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 Evensong.
- 8 **Advent 2.** 3-0 Evensong & Holy Baptism.
- 15 **Advent 3. 11-0 H.C.** (with hymns). 3-0 Evensong & Sunday School Prizegiving.
- 22 **Advent 4.** 3-0 Evensong.

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TELEFLOWER SERVICE



PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

25 Wed. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 9-0 Family Eucharist (hymns). Collection for Church of England Children's Society.

29 **Christmas I.** 3-0 Evensong & Carols.

Communion of Sick. See Badsey Notes.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Dec. 11th, 7-30 p.m.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 3 Karen Elizabeth Harman; Lorraine Alison Cox.

Jottings. We are most grateful to Mrs. Parry for recovering the cushion on the old chair in the sanctuary with a very pleasant tapestry material.

Congratulations to Tim Harrison on getting his cadetship in the Merchant Navy. He has been flown out to Durban to join his first ship there.

Your prayers are asked for the sick, especially Mr. Ernest Brotherton who has been seriously ill and is in Ronkswood Hospital, little Alan Brotherton (son of Cecil and Margaret), who is in the Worcester Royal Infirmary, Mrs. Cuttler who is now in hospital and parted from Jack (who is being cared for elsewhere), Mrs. Cooke who has been laid up with her bad back, and Mrs. Collett who is now suffering from the same trouble. Mrs. Newbury and Mr. George Robbins Senior have also been ill.

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