

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JANUARY, 1969.

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

16th December, 1968

My dear People,

Mrs. Braby and I wish you all a happy New Year. The times are unsettled, and there is a good deal of gloom around, but there is no reason why it should not be a happy year, whatever we have to go through. Not a forced light-heartedness, but the deep bliss of possessing the light and glory and splendour of Christ, which no one and no circumstances can take from us.

No Ivory Tower

Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean that we can enjoy the 'consolations of religion' in a beautiful ivory tower, while the storm rages outside. It is astonishing that the revised edition of Hymns A. & M., as recently as 1950, can retain a hymn with the verse:

"The world may rage without, but we
Will only cling more close to Thee,
With hearts to thee more wholly given,
More wean'd from earth, more fix'd on Heav'n".

Studdert Kennedy warned us of the effect of this sort of attitude:

"I would buy me a perfect island home,
Sweet set in a southern sea,
And there would I build me a paradise
For the heart o' my Love and me.
I would plant me a perfect garden there,
The one that my dream soul knows,
And the years would flow as the petals grow,
That flame to a perfect rose.
I would build me a perfect temple there,
A shrine where my Christ might dwell,
And then would I wake to behold my soul
Damned deep in a perfect Hell".

In the World

The bishops at the Lambeth Conference expressed this, though more prosaically, when they wrote in their Report: "The Christian may not draw back from the world in which he lives, however much it may be a world of revolution and rapid social change. His Lord is in the world, and there he must serve Him and find Him".

All this is true, and emphasis is rightly being put nowadays on the 'sacredness of the secular', because for the last few hundred years the Church has been proudly conscious of dominating the culture of the western world, and rejecting as profane whatever it could not fit neatly into its own categories of value. We needed to be reminded that the world is God's world, and that Christ belongs to all men and not just to the Church.

Yes, it is all so true.
Yet not the whole truth.

But not of the World

We must not lose our sense of proportion. The Church has much to learn from the secular world, but it is surely not God's will that in 'identifying' with men and women in their secularity it should lose its own identity. In looking for Our Lord in the world, we must not forget that He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them".

In Graham Sutherland's great tapestry in Coventry Cathedral, of Christ seated in the glory of God the Father, He wears a carpenter's apron. We see Him there, in the House of God, as the focus of our worship, and we give thanks and praise that He has so sanctified our human labour. But we do not immediately recognise Christ in every carpenter we run across in the street or in the local. As the Athanasian Creed reminds us, Christ is a unified personality, "not by conversion of the God-

head into flesh; but by taking of the Manhood into God".

Jesus said that He had been sent into the world, but was not "of the world". So the most disloyal thing his Church can do to Him is to hand Him over to the world, by identifying Him wholly with this world that "knew him not". He said of his first disciples: "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world". How far does our fashionable doctrine of 'involvement' spring from our very human desire not to be hated by the world? And if we have gone out of our way to remove all danger of being hated, are we still on the side of the angels?

Pentecost or Babel?

I sometimes wonder whether Uppsala 1968 will be looked back upon as a turning point. From all accounts, here was a picture, not of the Church offering the Gospel to the world, but of the world's bitternesses and complaints flowing into the Church, not to be healed, but to swallow it up in a flood of words. There seems to have been a spate of prepared harangues—people saying their piece and then going away, or closing their minds to what anyone else was saying. Perhaps this is unfair: I am only going by what appears from reports. But one gathers that there was all the usual divisive stuff that comes up at any secular international conference: anti-Americanism, race-consciousness, condemnation of other people's political attitudes. If the World Council of Churches is to be a pale reflection of the U.N. Assembly, it had better pack up.

Gospel of Good Works

But Uppsala may have been the turning point. Reaction against the more extreme forms of secularist doctrine has already set in. Many Christians have woken up to the danger of proclaiming a gospel of good works instead of the Gospel of Redemption. The concern of our time with feeding the hungry, relieving the needy, making deserts blossom as the rose, is simply splendid and we should be full of thanks. The same applies to the demand for social justice. Our Lord tells us He will not acknowledge us as friends of his if we have failed in works of mercy. But the Christian Gospel is primarily about a Saviour, who can deliver men from themselves. Christians are not the only people who are feeding the hungry, etc., and they are not automatically proclaiming Christ by doing so.

Gospel of Salvation

When Jesus fed the hungry, He told them afterwards that this was only a sign. What they needed most was the Bread of Heaven, his own Body given for the life of the world. When tempted to turn stones into bread, He quoted, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God". When tempted to come down from the Cross, He would not, for it was by his lifting up on the Cross, He said, that all men would be drawn to Him and be saved.

The hungry must be fed. But the root cause of some men starving while others are misusing the good things of life is human selfishness and greed. That can only be cured from within, not by more 'know-how', nor by good advice. Men everywhere need a Saviour. And that Saviour it is the Church's duty to the world to proclaim. "For the love of Christ constrains us".

What we need then in this tottering world of 1969 is to regain our nerve, our sense of spiritual power, the faith in Christ's promise that the gates of hell cannot prevail against his Church. In that faith we can indeed look forward to a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

January

- 1 Wed. **Circumcision of Our Lord.** 10-0 H.C.
- 5 **Christmas 2. Eve of Epiphany.** As for 1st Sun. 6-45 Service of Lessons and Carols.
- 6 Mon. **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.** 10-0 H.C.
- 8 Wed. No H.C.
- 12 **Epiphany 1.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 15 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 18 to 25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**
- 19 **Epiphany 2.** As for 3rd Sun. (Baptisms on 4th Sun.)
- 22 Wed. St. Vincent, D. & M. 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service.
- 24 Fri. 8 p.m. United Prayer Meeting, Badsey Church.
- 25 Sat. **Conversion of St. Paul.** 10-0 H.C.
- 26 **Epiphany 3.** St. Polycarp, Bp. & M. As for 4th Sun. 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Sung Mattins & Holy Baptism. 6-45 Sung Eucharist.
- 29 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

February

- 2 **Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Septuagesima.** As for 1st Sun. 6-45 Evensong.

Confirmation Classes. These will be resumed after the Christmas holiday in the week beginning Jan. 5: Adults, Mon. 6th, 8 p.m. Juniors, Wed. 8th, 7-30 p.m.

Electoral Roll. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting this year will be on Tuesday, 18th February. Now is the time for the Church Electoral Roll to be brought up to date, and all regular worshippers at St. James's Church ought to be registered as church electors. We have had the pleasure of welcoming many newcomers to the parish in the last 12 months, and several of them are already playing their part in the life and work of our parish church. We hope they will now become church electors; there are also young church members who have now attained the age of 17. Enrolment forms are obtainable at the church or the vicarage. They should be returned to Mr. H. L. Hatcher, 53, Bretforton Road, or the Vicar, not later than Feb. 2nd.

Sunday School Parties. The annual parties will take place at the Meeting House, Chapel Street, as follows:— Under 8, Sat., Jan. 11, 3 to 5-30 p.m.
Junior Church Fellowship, Sat., Jan. 25, 4-30 to 7-30 p.m.

As usual, donations towards the cost of the parties will be very acceptable, and may be given to the Vicar. Welcome also will be gifts of food for the teas: cakes, trifles, made jellies (not packets), tinned fruit, sandwich fillings, butter, etc. It would greatly assist the catering facilities if those who are going to give food could kindly let us know a week or 4 or 5 days beforehand what they are going to give.

Senior Residents' Party. This will be held in the Remembrance Hall on Saturday, 18th January, at 5-30 p.m. All persons residing in Badsey, Aldington, Blackminster and Bowers Hill, who are 65 years of age and over, are invited, and transport arranged where necessary. If you think you have been missed out of an invitation, please let the Committee know.

Mothers' Union. Programme for January:—

Wed. 1st. 10-0 Corporate Communion.
Tues., 14th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Rev. P. Braby, "Church Life in Badsey in the 19th Century".
Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Caswell (Committee), Mesdames Floyd, Campion and Bell.

Tues. 28th. 7-30 Branch Meeting: Talents Evening. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Watkin (Committee), Mesdames Eyre, Braby and Clark. J.B.

Holy Matrimony

Nov. 23 John Richard Delasalle, of Basildon, Essex, and Jane Margaret Ann Hurman, of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

Dec. 7 Arthur Edward Langstone, aged 67.

It would be hard to find a nicer or kinder man than Arthur Langstone, and his death brought sorrow to the whole community. There is no doubt that grief for his wife Lilian, and the strain of the long weary months of her dying, were too much for his heart, which had been far from strong at the time of his retirement. He was a practical Christian who brought much cheer into other people's lives. Visiting his wife in hospital, he would have a kind word for other patients. It was characteristic of him that only a fortnight after Lilian's death, he was taking baskets to the sick from the harvest festival. He showed remarkable patience in his sufferings. May he enter into the joy of His Lord, and be reunited in Christ with his beloved. Our prayerful sympathy with Norman (and his wife and family), who has lost both his parents in such a short time.

At the time of going to press, we have just heard of the death of Mr. Edgar G. Cull. Many in Badsey will remember the bakery business which he and his brother Basset carried on after their father's death. Edgar Cull was severely wounded in the head while serving his country in the first world war, and the experience had a lasting effect on him. That must be borne in mind when his little eccentricities are recalled. He was an amiable and likeable man. He did not expect to return from hospital, and quietly prepared himself for death in a Christian manner. Our condolences with his daughter Mrs. Hope Franklin and other members of the family.

The Sick. The following are known to be in hospital at the time of writing: Mrs. L. Yates, Mr. Tom Sears (at Warwick), Mr. F. Chamberlain, Mrs. Douse, Kevin Briffett (a little boy from Aldington), and Mrs. Baker of Binyon Close. Others who have been in hospital since we last wrote are Mrs. Hilland, Mrs. R. Porter, Mrs. J. Salter, Mrs. David Caswell. III at home are Mr. Ron Harker, Mr. A. Jelfs, Mr. George Malins and Mrs. C. Haines.

Servers for January. 5th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 11-0 M. Clements; 6-45 A. Clements. 12th, 10-15 D. Hatherley (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 C. Tucker. 19th, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 6-45 T. Bell. 26th, 8-0 T. Bell; 11-0 (M. and Baptism) M. Exon; 6-45 A. Clements (Server), S. Gresty (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Jan. 5th, Mrs. W. Sparrow; 12th, Mrs. K. Cleaver; 19th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Birthday Halfcrown. Mrs. F. Knight.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Note that Evensong is at 3 p.m. all this month and next.

Jan.

- 5 **Christmas 2.** Eve of Epiphany. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 Evensong and Carols.
12 **Epiphany 1.** 3-0 E. & Holy Baptism.
18 to 25. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
19 **Epiphany 2.** 11-0 H.C. (with hymns) 3-0 E.
26 **Epiphany 3.** 3-0 E.

February

- 2 **Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** As for 1st Sun.

Confirmation Classes will be resumed on Wed., 8th January, at 5-45 p.m.

Electoral Roll. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting this year will be on Wednesday, 26th February, at 7-15 p.m. So now is the time for revising the Church Electoral Roll and bringing it up to date. We hope that some of our new parishioners, and young church members who have now attained the age of 17, will enrol themselves as church electors. Enrolment forms will be found on the table in the church, or may be had from the Vicar or Mrs. Parry. Please return them not later than Feb. 9th to Mrs. Parry, Wickham House, or to the Vicar.

Holy Baptism

Dec. 8 Richard John Poulter.

Holy Matrimony

Nov. 30 Malcolm Stanley Tweney, of Fairfield, Evesham, and Jennifer Jane Whiting, of Wickhamford.

The Sick. Mrs. Cuttler, in Powick Hospital, is rather ill at the time of writing. Jack is being well cared for in a special home at Ross-on-Wye. Mr. Bert Webb Senr. is in hospital with diabetes - a very cheerful patient. Mrs. Pemberton has been having a very bad time with gland trouble. Mrs. Cooke is still confined to home with a bad back. Mrs. Collett is better and back at the organ. Mrs. Fowkes has been in hospital for a foot operation. Mr. L. Jones is home from hospital and making a good recovery.

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