

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 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

19th January, 1969

My dear People,

Do you believe in Prayer? Personally I don't.

I don't believe in prayer any more than I believe in the telephone or the post office. I believe in God.

Prayer is a means of communication with God, just as the telephone is a means of communication with a friend. In itself it does nothing; it influences no one. It is neutral.

When someone says to me, "I believe in Prayer", it sounds as though they are saying: "It's a wonderfully effective gimmick, a very useful dodge for manipulating the fruit machine in my favour". I know better than to suppose they mean anything of the kind. It is all part of our English self-consciousness about using the name of God (unless we are swearing). We prefer to talk about "the One above" or "the Deity". So when someone says: "I believe in Prayer", in nine cases out of ten they mean: "I believe in turning to God in my troubles".

For Emergency Calls only?

Now this is all right as far as it goes. But when you come to think of it, it is a rather limited idea of prayer; just as it would be a limited idea of the use of the telephone, to think it was only there for dialling 999 or the Samaritans.

Most of us who have a telephone do in fact use it for having a natter with a friend as well as for business or emergencies. The frequency and length of these friendly calls will depend on the amount of time we want to spend in that person's company. It is the same with prayer. If we really want to give time to God, we shall pray. We shall set aside time to talk to Him and listen to Him. When he calls us unexpectedly, we shall not hang up as soon as we hear whose voice it is the other end. It is as simple as that.

Simple but not easy. Let us face it. Concentration in prayer gets harder as we get older and scattier. It also gets more difficult for everyone, of any age, in the restless, jumpy, noisy world of today. Physically and mentally, we find it hard to keep still. Spiritually, we don't find it easy to believe in the reality of the supernatural.

Practical help

Prayer is so essential to the Christian life that we would be wise to avail ourselves of every opportunity to get help in this matter. So here are two things I want to tell you about:—

(1) On Friday evenings in Lent, beginning the 28th February, we shall be having a practical course on prayer for 20th century people, conducted by the Rev. A. Webb, Vicar of Evesham. These sessions will be in Badsey Church at 8 p.m.

(2) We have arranged, with some neighbouring parishes, a weekend retreat at the Old House, Cropthorne, from Friday evening, September 26th to Sunday the 28th. This seems a long time ahead, but the house is very much in demand, and I had to make the booking many months ago. I am giving you good notice now, so that you can plan for it if you want to come. Don't be put off by the whole idea. A retreat is simply a holiday with God, as when Our Lord said to his friends "Come apart, and rest awhile". People who have gone to a first retreat with butterflies in the works have come back full of enthusiasm, resolving to make it an annual 'must'.

The cost per person for the whole retreat will be £3-5-0. There are a few double rooms, for husbands and wives who want to go together. It is best to let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in coming. I have funds at my disposal to help anyone to go who would otherwise be prohibited by the cost.

Here then we have some opportunities for help in the practice of prayer. Why not make use of them? And please make use of me, if you think I can be of any help, in your own problems of communication with God. The resident technician may not always be as good at getting the lines clear as the outside specialist, but he is always willing to try, if asked.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Christmas Appeal Result. You will be pleased to hear that as a result of the special Christmas Appeal the Vicar was able to send £74-10-0 to Christian Aid. This was made up from donations from individuals in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford.

Christmas Day Collections for Church of England Children's Society: Badsey, £21-4-1; Wickhamford £10-14-4.

Austerity Lunches for Christian Aid. On Fridays in Lent, beginning 21st February, austerity lunches will be served in the Walker Hall, Evesham, at 2/6 a head, consisting of bread, cheese and coffee. Proceeds will go to famine and refugee relief, through Christian Aid. It was found also last year, when this was done for the first time, that the lunches provided an opportunity for Christian people in the Evesham area to meet together socially. This is one of the fruits of inter-church co-operation in Evesham, and deserves to be supported. If you are working or shopping in Evesham on a Friday, don't miss the opportunity. The lunches are served from 12-30 to 2-0.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

February

- 2 **Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Septuagesima.** Services as for 1st Sun.
- 5 **Wed. 10-0 H.C.**
- 9 **Sexagesima.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 12 **Wed. 10-0 H.C.**
- 16 **Quinquagesima.** As for 3rd Sun. Officiant and Preacher at Evensong: Rev. P. D. S. Blake, V. of Cropthorne with Charlton (exchange).
- 19 **Ash Wednesday.** 10-0 H.C.; 4-15 Children's Service; 8 p.m. H.C. (with hymns and sermon).
- 23 **Lent I.** As for 4th Sun. 8-0 H.C.; 11-0 M. & Holy Baptism; 6-45 Sung Eucharist.
- 24 **Mon. St. Matthias, Apostle.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 26 **Wed. Ember Day.** 10-0 H.C.; 3-0 Pram Service; 4-15 Children's Service.
- 28 **Fri. Ember Day.** 8 p.m. Rev. A. Webb "Practical Praying"—1.

March

- 2 **Lent 2.** As for 1st Sun.

Lenten Services

On Wednesday afternoons, after school, there will be a short children's service in the church, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 19th February.

On Friday evenings at 8 p.m. there will be a course in the church on "Practical Praying", conducted by the Rev. A. Webb, Vicar of Evesham. The first will be on 28th February.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Feb. 4th, 7-15 p.m.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 18th, in the Parish Room, 7-15 p.m.

All Electoral Roll forms should be in (to Mr. H. L. Hatcher or the Vicar) by Sunday, Feb. 2nd. The revised Electoral Roll and annual statement of accounts will then be posted in the church porch, for inspection by parishioners before the annual meeting on the 18th. We do hope that all who really care for their church membership will come to the meeting.

Churchwardens, Parochial Church Councillors and Sidesmen will be elected for the coming year. We hope we may have a good number of nominations for the P.C.C. they must be in writing, duly seconded, before the meeting, and forms are available at the church or vicarage. The nominations may be placed in the box so labelled at the church, or handed to Mr. Hatcher or the Vicar.

After reports and elections there will an opportunity for parishioners to bring up any matters of importance for discussion. A short colour filmstrip of the 1968 Iambeth Conference will be shown.

There will be corporate Communion for church councillors and officers on Sunday, 23rd February, at 8 a.m. and 6-45 p.m.

Sunday School Parties. Many thanks to all who contributed towards the cost of the parties and who assisted with the catering and running of the games.

Mother's Union for February.

- Feb. 5th Wed. 10-0 Corporate Communion.
" 11th Tues. 2-30 Branch Meeting: Mini Plays and Discussion.
Tea hostesses: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Cleaver, Caswell and Crisp.
" 25th Tues. 7-30 p.m. Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Saunders of Chipping Campden, "Homes not Houses".
Tea hostesses: Mrs. Perkins (Committee), Sister Davies, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Evans.
J.B.

Burials, R.I.P.

- Dec. 20 Edgar George Cull, aged 73.
(Notice of death in Jan. number).
" 24 Frank Jelfs, aged 76.
His sudden death was quite unexpected, for he was an active little man for his age, a familiar figure on his bicycle, doing many errands for his neighbours at Bowers Hill. Our profound sympathy with Mrs. Jelfs (who, as an invalid, was much dependent on Frank), and members of the family. The Golden Wedding 2 or 3 years ago was a happy occasion.
Jan. 1 (ashes buried in husband's grave, after cremation Dec. 30)
Beatrice Alice Sears, aged 89.

Mrs. Sears died peacefully in her sleep just before Christmas. In earlier days she had been very active in the social and church life of Badsey, being a woman of great charm, and a capable organiser. The lych gate was built in memory of her husband Arthur, the well-known market gardener, who died in 1946.

William Henry Churchill died on Dec. 26th, aged 91, and after cremation his ashes were later deposited in the Garden of Rest in Badsey Churchyard. As the Garden of Rest is a memorial to Charles Arthur Binyon, this was most fitting, since the two men were partners in market gardening in the nineties and early 1900's, and

lifelong friends. He was one of the great Badsey growers, a founder-member of the L.B.G., and active till a great age. Originally a member of the Church of England, he became a keen Methodist, and also a supporter of the Badsey Friends Mission.

Jan. 11 Amelia Louisa Crane, aged 87.

Truly a "Mother in Israel". She had 12 children, and the gathering of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the funeral was most impressive. Her husband George died in 1955. Mrs. Crane had been living for the last seven years at Norton with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Jobson; and the Vicar of Norton, the Rev. Leslie Guest, took part in the funeral service. Mrs. Crane, a member of the Mothers' Union, was a woman of strong Christian faith and indomitable courage.

Jottings. Heartiest congratulations to dear Mrs. Annie Collett, on her 90th birthday (Jan. 1st), which unfortunately she had to spend in hospital, having fallen and fractured her hip just before Christmas. She is now at home, though unable to leave her bed.

Congratulations also to Mrs. March, who has just celebrated her 92nd.

Mr. Cyril Sladden had to undergo a major operation on Jan. 10th and has since had a setback, but at the time of writing he seems to be improving slowly. Mr. Elgar Hartwell has just gone to hospital and is awaiting an operation. Mr. Tom Sears would have been home from hospital earlier, had he not contracted flu. Mrs. L. Yates is still in hospital. Mr. Edgar Mitchell, our parish clerk, had a slight stroke just before Christmas, and had to spend the festival in hospital. He is now home and convalescent: it was good to see him at the senior residents' party. Mrs. Pethard also was taken ill before Christmas: she is now up, and improving slowly. Others who have been in hospital are Mrs. Edgar Smith, Mrs. Pat Harvey, Mr. Alf Anker (another course of treatment at Droitwich). Mrs. Dyke and Mrs. Daphne Bell have been ill at home, but are now recovering. Mrs. C. Haines is poorly again. Kevin Briffet is now home, though still encased in plaster.

Servers for February. 2nd, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 M. Exon. 9th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Clements. 16th, 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 D. Hatherley. 23rd, 8-0 M. Clements; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 C. Hartwell (Server); R. Keen (Crucifer).

Acknowledgment. We are very grateful to Mr. J. F. Braby, for making a mahogany candlestick to be used at baptisms, and a hymn-board for the members of the congregation in the transept.

Wedding Anniversary. Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Hatcher, 5/-.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services

Note that Evensong is at 3 p.m. throughout this month. There will be Holy Communion every Sunday in Lent.

February

- 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Septuagesima. As for 1st Sun.
- 9 Sexagesima. 3-0 Evensong & Holy Baptism.
- 16 Quinquagesima. As for 3rd Sun.
- 19 Ash Wednesday. 7-30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 23 Lent 1. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.

March

- 2 Lent 2. 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Feb. 12th, 7-30 p.m.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 26th, in the Memorial Hall, 7-15 p.m.

All Electoral Roll forms should be in (to Mrs. Parry or the Vicar) by Sunday, Feb. 9th. The revised Electoral Roll and annual statement of accounts will then be posted in the church porch, for inspection by parishioners before the annual meeting on the 26th. We do hope that all who really care for their church membership will come to the meeting.

Churchwardens, Parochial Church Councillors and Sidesmen will be elected for the coming year. We hope we may have a good number of nominations for the P.C.C. They must be in writing, duly seconded, before the meeting, and forms are available at the church or from Mrs. Parry. The nominations may be handed to Mrs. Parry or to the Vicar.

After reports and elections there will be an opportunity for parishioners to bring up any matters of importance for discussion. A short colour filmstrip of the 1968 Lambeth Conference will be shown.

There will be corporate Communion for church councillors and officers on Sunday, 2nd March, at 9 a.m.

Burials, R.I.P.

Dec. 28 Henry William Evans, aged 64.

Mr. & Mrs. Evans, of Stratford, had bought a bungalow in Drysdale Close, Wickhamford, and would have been living here together in the near future. Mr. Evans' death just before Christmas was therefore extremely sad. He has been buried in Wickhamford, and Mrs. Evans can

be assured of a warm and friendly welcome when she comes to take up her abode among us. Her sister-in-law and aunt have already come to live here.

Jan. 3 Leonard Albert Jones, aged 74.

Our warm and prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Jones and family. Leonard Jones had been ill before he and his wife came here from Dudley a few years ago, and the sudden death of their son Douglas (also just arrived here) was a blow from which he never really recovered. He became subject to depressive illness, and suffered a good deal. He was a communicant member of the church, a man of quiet gentle nature who was liked much by those who knew him.

The Sick. In hospital at the time of writing are Mr. Ray Ballard and Mrs. G. Robbins, Jr., who has just undergone an operation. Earlier Mr. Bert Webb Senr. and Mr. Jess Colley had been in hospital (the former over Christmas, but as bluff as Santa Claus himself). Mrs. Cuttler has had pneumonia again, but has rallied. Miss V. Lawley has been rather poorly. Mr. E. Brotherton is a patient at home. Mrs. Stanley has not been very well, also Mrs. Sturt, Senr. and Mrs. Cooke.

Christmas Day communicants at 9 a.m. were 51, a record number. This was very gratifying, as the weather could not have been much worse. For the collection, and special Christmas appeal, see note after Vicar's Letter.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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