

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

MARCH, 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

17th February, 1969

My dear People,

Sunday, 23rd March will be a great day in the life of our two parishes. That morning a number of people, mostly young, will be confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time. (Candidates from Badsey and Wickhamford will be joined by some from Hinton and Sedgeberrow). They will pledge their lives to the service of Christ in the fellowship of his Church. I hope that many of you will be there to support and pray for them, and partake of the Sacrament with them. If you cannot be there, please remember them in your prayers at this time.

A new beginning

A Confirmation is a moment of great hope for the Christian community in any place. It is a new beginning, as fresh young lives bring renewed vitality into the organism of which they now become fully grown members. A day of great expectations! And in almost every parish, within months, even weeks, the hopes fade as the greater number of those who presented themselves on that day seem to absent themselves one by one, and fall away. Perhaps it will not be so this time. One hopes and prays it will not. The candidates have had a longer preparation than usual, extending over 18 months, which should give them a greater stability. I know they are keen; but like all who dedicate themselves to God, they will be subject to severe temptations to be disloyal. Do go on praying for them in those testing months that follow the Confirmation. But not only pray. There is something else I hope you will do.

Courage of the young

When young people begin to drift from regular Communion and Sunday worship, I wonder how many of the older parishioners realise how much of the blame may lie at their own door. During the time of preparation, the candidates are encouraged to form the habit of regular attendance at public worship. It requires a good deal of devotion to duty and real love of God to do this when you are young and there are so many attractions elsewhere, and most of your friends spend their Sundays in other ways. In earlier generations one was considered off-beat if one did not go to church. Now it is the other way round. It takes a lot of courage for teenagers to be churchgoers, and they deserve all the support and example that older church members can give them.

But what happens? The candidates are taught that they should offer God the worship of their lives each week on the Lord's Day, and be frequent receivers of Holy Communion. They see a few older people who are conscientiously doing this. But there are others whose attendance is spasmodic, and who put in an appearance only for some special occasion or when fancy moves them. The natural reaction is: If this is good enough for my elders (and perhaps betters?), why should it not be good enough for me?

The Parson's Grouse

I know very well what some of you who read this are thinking. The usual parson's grouse! 'They won't come to church. They won't support my show. I shall soon be out of business at this rate'. Perhaps we parsons deserve a good deal of this, but it really is a complete misrepresentation of what we are for. Personally I am not one for going round to parishioners and saying "Why weren't you at church last week?", for fear of encouraging this false impression of a parson's job. I expect people who really love Our Lord to want to be with Him in the midst of his brethren on the joyful day of his resurrection. I don't expect them to come to church to please me. Where I am at fault is not in leaving out the pep stuff but in failing to bring people to love Our Lord better.

It is by public worship that we declare the worth-ship of God, i.e. that God matters to us, and that He matters above all else. A come-as-I-please attitude to worship is frivolous and dishonouring to God. Either you care supremely about God, or you don't. If you don't care, it doesn't matter whether you worship or not. You can find more worthwhile things to do, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

A matter of love

I know all that stuff about "I can be a Christian without going to church". (I ought to know it well enough, for it is trotted out so often that it is quite clear some people have a guilt complex about it). Let us forget about what makes a Christian and what doesn't. 'Christian' is sometimes a divisive word, and 'unchristian' even more so. It simply boils down to this. If we love the Lord Jesus Christ we shall want to carry out the request He made before He died, "Do this in remembrance of me". We shall not be content with an occasional recollection of Him when a particular mood comes upon us. If we love the Lord Jesus Christ we shall also want to carry out that other dying request, "Love one another, as I have loved you". We shall not be so ashamed of our brothers and sisters in Christ as to refrain from assembling with them - sinners with fellow sinners - yet in the company of the saints and in the presence of our living Lord. This was the experience of the early Christians and it can be ours as well: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren".

I am aware that the form and conduct of our services leave much to be desired. They are not as worthy of God as they should be. Sometimes we may not find them personally satisfying or helpful. But if that is all we are looking for, we have come for a quite secondary purpose, and we shall go away as empty as we came. If we come primarily to offer ourselves to God, we shall surely receive his grace, and go on our way rejoicing.

Expectancy

So we can look forward to the Confirmation with expectancy and hope, as a new beginning for us all. May the Holy Spirit revitalise not only the young people who will be dedicating their lives, but the life of worship in the whole body of the faithful. If the love of many grows cold, and some disciples desert our Lord, and walk no more with Him, let us not close our hearts to his appeal, "Will ye go away also?", but reply, "Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life".

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Austerity Lunches for Christian Aid. As announced last month, on Fridays in Lent these lunches, consisting of bread, cheese and coffee, at 2/6, will be served in the Walker Hall, Evesham, from 12-30 to 2-0. The proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Over £60 was raised by this means last year. The lunches also provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship.

Good Friday Film. By special arrangement, the very moving Italian film, "The Gospel according to St. Matthew", will be shown at the Regal Cinema, Evesham, on Good Friday, at 3-15 and 7-15 p.m. We shall not therefore arrange any evening services at Badsey or Wickhamford churches on Good Friday.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Please note that, owing to a number of special Sundays and events, there are several **changes**, for this month only, in the usual pattern of services.

March

- 2 **Lent 2.** St. Chad., Bp. As usual for 1st Sun.
5 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 4-0 Children's Lent Service.
7 Fri. SS. Perpetua & Companions, MM. 8 p.m. Rev. A. Webb, "Practical Praying", 2.
9 **Lent 3.** As usual for 2nd Sun.
12 Wed. St. Gregory the Great, Bp. & Dr. 10-0 H.C. 4-0 Children's Lent Service.
14 Fri. 8 p.m. Rev. A. Webb, "Practical Praying", 3.
16 **Lent 4. Mothering Sunday.** 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Mothering Service. 6-45 Evensong.
19 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 4-0 Children's Lent Service.
21 Fri. St. Benedict, Ab. 8 p.m. Rev. A. Webb, "Practical Praying", 4.
23 **Lent 5. Passion Sunday.** 8-0 H.C. **10-15 CONFIRMATION** by the Bishop of Worcester and Parish Eucharist. 6-45 Evensong (not Sung Eucharist): Baptism on 5th Sun.)
25 Tues. **Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary.** 10-0 H.C. 3-0 M.U. Deanery Festival Service at St. Nicholas, Middle Littleton.
26 Wed. No H.C. 3-0 Pram Service. 4-0 Children's Lent Service.
28 Fri. 8 p.m. Rev. A. Webb, "Practical Praying", 5.
30 **Palm Sunday.** 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Family Service with Holy Baptism (and palm crosses). 6-45 Evensong.

Holy Week.

Mon., Tues., Wed., Holy Communion at 10-0. (also on Wed. at 7 a.m.). 7-30 p.m. Evensong and Devotional Reading.

Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion (with hymns) 8 p.m.

Good Friday. 10-15 Family Mattins (for children and adults). 2-0 to 3-0 An Hour by the Cross, conducted by the Rev. A. Webb, A.K.C., Vicar of Evesham. No evening service (see note after Vicar's Letter).

Other notices about Holy Week and Easter next month.

Easter Lilies. On the 2 Sundays before Easter, March 23 and 30, there will be a bowl in the church, for donations towards lilies of remembrance.

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

Mothers' Union. March 5th, Wed. 10-0 Corporate Communion.

11th Tues. 2-30 Branch Meeting, Speaker: Mrs. Partington, of Clent. Tea hostesses: Mrs. J. Hartwell (Committee), Mesdames R. Hartwell, Hall and Harvey.

25th Tues. Lady Day. 10-0 Corporate Communion. 3-0 Deanery Festival Service at Middle Littleton.

There will be a coach to Littleton. Will members please give me names as soon as possible J.B.

Holy Matrimony

Feb. 1 Raymond Knight and Linda Jennifer Davies, both of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

Jan. 28 (cremation, followed by interment of ashes in parents' grave)
Elgar Thomas Hartwell, aged 72.

He died in hospital, after a short illness. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Hartwell and the members of the family. Elgar Hartwell was from an old Badsey family. His parents lived at the Silk Mills. He had only recently retired from business. For many years he kept a butcher's shop in High Street, Badsey, recently next to Harrington House, and before that at the southern end of the street. He will be missed by many old friends and customers.

Jan. 31 Ethel Wilde, aged 61.

The family deserve our profound sympathy, having been bereaved of both parents in a short time. Mrs. Wilde struggled on bravely with bad health after her husband's death just over a year before. Both were only in their sixties.

Jottings. Two new choristers were admitted, after probation, to the choir just before Christmas: Martin Smith and Philip Brazier.

We shall be very sorry to have to say goodbye to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Allan and family, who will be leaving us to live in W. Sussex, where Mr. Allan has a new appointment. The Allans have not been in Badsey long, but have been regular worshippers and active workers for the church right from the week of their arrival.

At the time of writing, Mrs. Ovard is in hospital with bronchitis and anaemia. Mrs. Dyke, reported ill at home in our last issue, had to go to hospital, but has now returned home and is improving slowly. Also returned from hospital are Mr. Sladden and Mrs. Yates. Both may be convalescent for some time. Mrs. A. Collett had an attack of pleurisy after her return from hospital, but is now doing well. Mr. E. Mitchell is now well enough to resume his verger's duties, and we are very glad to have him back, but he has regretfully had to give up the church cleaning and the care of the Garden of Rest. He is succeeded in the former by Mrs. Core, and in the latter by Mr. Godwin.

Garden Seat. We are very grateful to the Senior Residents' Committee, who from their funds have presented a handsome garden seat for the Garden of Rest. This is being stored indoors at present, but will be placed in the Garden when the spring weather comes. We hope it will be of great benefit to elderly and convalescent people.

Servers for March. 2nd, 8-0 D. Hatherley; 11-0 A. Clements; 6-45 M. Clements. 9th, 10-15 T. Bell (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 16th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 23rd 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-15 (Confirmation & H.C.) D. Barrard (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 (Evensong) A. Clements. 30th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 11-0 (Fam. Service) D. Hatherley; 6-45 T. Bell.

Donations. Golden Wedding (Nov.) & 2 birthdays: Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Taylor, £1. Heartiest congratulations!

In loving memory of Alice Brailsford, 5/-.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Please note that, except on the 2nd Sun., Sunday Evening is now at 5-30 p.m. During Lent there is a celebration of Holy Communion every week.

March

- 2 **Lent 2.** St. Chad. Bp. 9-0 H.C. 5-30 p.m. E.
- 9 **Lent 3.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E. & Holy Baptism.
- 16 **Lent 4. Mothering Sunday.** 11-0 Family Communion (Mothering Service). Unconfirmed children may be brought to the altar rails for a blessing. 5-30 E.
- 23 **Lent 5. Passion Sunday.** 10-15 Confirmation & 1st Communion at Badsey Church. 5-30 E.
- 25 **Tues. Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary.** 7-30 a.m. H.C. 3-0 M.U. Deanery Festival Service at Middle Littleton.
- 30 **Palm Sunday.** 9-0 H.C. (with blessing & distribution of palm crosses). 5-30 E.

April

- 3 **Maundy Thursday.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 4 **Good Friday.** 10-30 a.m. Family Mattins (for children & adults). No evening service (see note after Vicar's Letter).

Easter Lilies. On the 2 Sundays before Easter, March 23 and 30, there will be a plate on the table in the church, for donations towards lilies of remembrance.

Holy Baptism

Feb. 9 Darren Miles.

Holy Matrimony

Feb. 1 Colin Eric Turner, of Pershore, and Maureen Joan Emms, of Wickhamford.

Burials, R.I.P.

Feb. 12 Theodore James Moisey, aged 88.

Mr. Moisey is remembered well in Wickhamford as a very fine old gentleman. He left about 10 years ago to live with his son Leslie at Brailes. He has now died in a ripe old age and been buried with his wife in the churchyard.

Jottings. Congratulations to Churchwarden John Dunkerley and Thelma on the birth of a son, and to David Boston on his marriage to Sandra Ellis at All Saints, Evesham.

Mrs. Robbins and Mr. R. Ballard have now returned from hospital. Miss V. Lawley has been better and able to get to church. Mrs. Collett has been poorly with her back and now with gastric flu.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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