

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

JULY, 1969

PRICE 4/- PER ANNUM

Vicar (& Rural Dean): 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). People's Service 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. Mattins and Holy Baptism 11 a.m. Sung 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	...	...	See 4th Sunday. (Parents must see the Vicar personally at least seven days before).
Sunday School	...	...	10 a.m. Over 8, in church. Under 8, Parish Room and Meeting House.

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

Churchwardens	...	...	Mrs. N. Clark, Pennyfields, Aldington. Mr. D. W. Hartwell, 35, Willersey Road.
Clerk	...	...	Mr. E. Mitchell, 68, Synehurst.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

First Sunday and Festivals	...	...	Holy Communion 9 a.m. Evensong 5-30 (3-0 Nov. to Feb.).
Second Sunday	...	...	Evensong and Holy Baptism 3 p.m. (all the year).
Third Sunday	...	...	Holy Communion (with hymns) 11 a.m. Evensong 5-30 (3-0 Nov. to Feb.).
Fourth & Fifth Sundays	...	...	Evensong 5-30 (3-0 Nov. to Feb.).
Holy Baptism	...	...	See 2nd Sunday. (Parents must see the Vicar at least seven days before).
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, C.B.E., Gallisport Farm, Broadway. Tel. Badsey 395.
Clerk	...	...	Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

17th June, 1969

My dear People,

I am writing this letter from the Diocesan Retreat House at Crophorne, where I am conducting a retreat for laypeople. What better subject could I have for my letter than the Retreat which has been specially arranged for you here, during the weekend Sept. 26th to 28th? The original idea was to book it for Badsey and Wickhamford parishes only, but so as to make sure of a complete use of the house, we have asked other parishes to share with us, and make it a retreat for the people of Evesham Deanery. The conductor will be our former Rural Dean, Canon W. A. Trippass.

I appreciate that some of you will not know what I am talking about, while others may have heard references to retreats, but be put off by what they imagine them to be like. So I will try to explain what a retreat is, in the form of answers to five questions.

Qu. 1. Isn't a retreat something for parsons or for the extra pious? Would not a plain ordinary Christian feel out of place?

Ans. Every Christian has to acknowledge the claims of God upon his life. In everyday life you are all the time, in the presence of God, but how often do you recognise this? On an ordinary day a few, rather hurried, prayers, made difficult by all sorts of harassing distractions, may be your only acknowledgment of God's claims upon your life. Yet you were created to know and love and serve God, to enjoy Him and be a joy to Him for ever. If you go to a retreat, you are placing yourself during those few hours wholly at God's disposal, to learn to know Him and to get to know yourself as God sees you. You are there to enjoy God and to let Him enjoy your company. It is a mistake to suppose that God only enjoys the company of the clergy and the very good. In fact Our Lord Jesus Christ used to spend so much of his time with the other sort, that He got called "the friend of sinners".

Qu. 2. The very name "Retreat House" sounds like a home for elderly people at the end of their days. Surely it is no fit place for the active and the young in heart?

Ans. A retreat house is not a place of retirement for people who can no longer respond to life's demands, but a spiritual generating station. It is where you go to recharge the batteries. Or, if you like, it is a stopping-place on the road, for studying the map, reading the signs, and getting your bearings. It is no good speeding heedlessly along the road if it happens to be leading in the wrong direction. The more active and busy you are in your life, the less time you have for "holding it" to see what it is all for. So you have to make a special halt for this purpose. The whole atmosphere of a retreat house helps you in this. It is in beautiful surroundings (the garden at the Old House, Crophorne is one of the loveliest in England); the place is sanctified by prayer; and you are in the company of others engaged in the same quest. Many people of varying ages have testified that the first time their lives made any real sense to them was when they went to a retreat.

Qu. 3. Isn't a retreat simply an escape from the responsibilities of life, and a lazy form of self-indulgence?

Ans. Is your nightly sleep an escape from responsibility? Yes, in a sense it is; but a very necessary one. You need it for restoration and renewal; otherwise you could not live at all. When you water plants in dry weather, is that an unnecessary indulgence of them? When Jesus took his disciples into retreat with Him to a quiet place, saying, "Come ye yourselves apart and rest awhile", was He asking them to be lazy and self-indulgent? We are told it was because the pressure on their time was so great; "there were many coming and going". When you go to a retreat, you draw aside from your usual activities and interests, to give your individual attention to

God. It is a putting aside all else in order to wait on Him, and realise his purpose for you. This is not a soft option, because when you return from a retreat you have a more (not less) urgent sense of the demands of life; you also have a sense of greater power and calmness to face those demands. For, in your temporary withdrawal from ordinary life and its distractions, you have been able to see it in true proportion; you have left behind the sense of rush; and the fretting anxieties have fallen away like scabs from a healing sore.

Qu. 4. I understand you have to keep silent all the time, like a lot of Trappist monks. How could I do this without feeling embarrassed and unsociable at saying nothing to the other people there?

Ans. Yes, silence is a very important part of a retreat - in fact, you cannot have a genuine retreat without it. I will not deny that, to people who go on retreat for the first time, it takes a bit of getting used to at the start. But you have come, and so have the others to talk to, and listen to God. We do quite enough talking and listening to other people for the greater part of our lives. As a matter of fact, after a very short time you will be surprised to find what a relief it is not to have to make conversation or to keep up a chatter. When there is deep communication between people they do not have to use words. After a few hours you find the silence growing upon you in a wonderful way - or rather, you grow into it. After all, it is not a solitary silence: it is something shared. God speaks to us in a still, small voice. You can't hear a still small voice when you are surrounded by natter and racket, as we are in our everyday lives.

If you feel you must talk to somebody, there is always the conductor. It is one of the things he is there for.

Qu. 5. What actually happens at a retreat?

Ans. When you arrive, you will be welcomed by the Warden, and shown your room. The retreat begins after supper on the Friday evening, so there is an opportunity for people to meet each other first and talk as much as they like before entering into the silence. The Conductor gives his introductory talk in the chapel, with guidance on how to make the best use of the retreat. He will also tell you about the times he is available for any who would like to see him personally. The short service of Compline ends the day, with a hot bed-time drink to follow.

Each of the remaining two days begins with Holy Communion. During the day the Conductor gives two or three addresses (not like ordinary sermons, but providing points for thought and prayer, as you spend a quiet time in the chapel afterwards). There will perhaps be midday intercessions and Evensong together, and Compline again at the close. On Sunday the retreat ends at tea-time. During the time of recreation you can sit or stroll in the garden, go for a walk, or read a book in the comfortable lounge. There are plenty of books in the Retreat House Library.

The simple routine, the corporate worship, the silence, the undistracted mind, all help you to rest in God and to realise his presence and his purpose for you.

So, unless you have unavoidable family commitments, do not miss the opportunity. I advise you to give me your name as early as possible, to make sure of a place. There are a few double rooms for husbands and wives. The cost for each person for the whole retreat is £3-5-0, payable at the time of booking. Bed linen, towels, etc. are all provided. Any who cannot come on the Friday evening may like to join the retreat on Saturday, in which case there would be a reduced rate. If there is anybody who would like to come but cannot afford it, please let me know confidentially. I can help you from funds at my disposal. No one else will know.

It is never easy to make a decision of this kind. But you will not be with strangers. There will be other people you know. And remember it is Jesus who invites you to come apart with Him and rest awhile.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

- July
- 2 Wed. Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary, 10-0 H.C.
- 6 **Trinity 5.** As for 1st Sun. Day of Prayer for the decisions to be taken on July 8 by the Convocations & Methodist Conference.
- 9 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 13 **Trinity 6.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 16 Wed. No H.C.
- 20 **Trinity 7.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 23 Wed. No. H.C. No Pram Service.
- 25 **Fri. ST. JAMES THE GREAT, APOSTLE & MARTYR. PATRONAL FEAST.** 10-0 H.C.
- 27 **Trinity 8. (PATRONAL FESTIVAL).** 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Mattins & Holy Baptism. 6-45 Sung Eucharist. Preacher: Rev. P. D. S. Blake, Vicar of Crophorne with Charlton.
- 30 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

Notes:— There will be no Pram Service in July or August. Sunday School classes will not be held during the school holidays, but there will be the usual family services.

Decoration of the church for the Patronal Festival will be on Thursday, 24th July at 2-30 p.m. Flowers and helpers welcome. Flowers before 2-30, please.

Mothers' Union. Wed. 2nd July. 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues. 22nd. 7-30 p.m. Practice for Speakers' Competition. Tea ladies: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Sladden, Richards and Cole.

At the June Corporate Communion, Mrs. Gladys Kinchin was admitted to membership.

On June 17th at 1-0, 29 of us set off in very dull and blustery weather to visit St. Mary's Convent at Wantage. After an enjoyable coach ride we arrived to be met by the Mother Superior, and were taken in parties to tour the Convent. We were all impressed by the quietness of the buildings and garden, and felt that we ought to be wearing rubber soles instead of clopping heels. We felt that we were intruding. The chapels were lovely, especially a new one where we saw the 14 stations of the cross and a 15th added recently, of the Resurrection. These were all most beautiful wood carvings, worked by a sister, now over 80, still living there and still carving. Also a cross above the altar fashioned by the architect after he had seen an atom under a microscope. We admired the lovely polished cloisters and thought of all the hard work entailed.

We visited the laundry and kitchens and saw beautiful vestments worked by the sisters. After tea we attended Vespers with the sisters and were impressed by the beautiful singing, although the music was strange to our ears. It was lovely just to listen and to watch their beautiful faces, so serene and happy. They were so pleased to have us there, and later in the evening this sparked off a deep discussion as to whether we could live a life like theirs. Most of us agreed it would be very difficult. But it was a wonderful experience to visit the Convent and to learn a little of that life.

After a wet and dreary tour of the countryside, we arrived at a hotel at Stow-on-the-Wold where we met up with 4 more members and enjoyed an evening meal, delightfully cooked and served. Leaving there we arrived back at Badsey about 10-45, and all agreed that despite the weather we had had a very successful summer outing.

J.B.

The Fête, 31st May. Considering that "rain stopped play" at about 4 o'clock, the result was a great credit to all who worked so hard to achieve success. Congratulations to all workers and helpers, especially to Mr. Derek Jepson who was responsible for the overall organisation, and his wife and family who also played a big part. Besides the stallholders, sideshow organisers, and those who served teas, a special word of appreciation is due to Mr. Harry Hatcher, who as usual did a good deal of the administrative work, and to Messrs. Don Hartwell, Chas. Stewart, Phil Sparrow and others who did so much running around with the transport and portage of equipment. We also owe much to Mr. Harvey for once again acting as treasurer, and to Mr. Michael Woods who assisted him. And a 'well done' to those who sold programmes and draw tickets.

Below is the final statement from Mr. Harvey:—
Draw £36-8-0; Programmes, £16; Gate Money, £7-13-0; Teas, £6-13-0; Cake Stall, £10-14-0; Produce Stall, £15-16-6; Gift Stall, £20-5-6; 'Village Shop', £18-13-6; White Elephant Stall, £10-18-5; Handkerchief Stall, £3-13-2; Bottle Stall, £6-17-6; Minerals & Sweets Stall, £7-6-4; Children's Novelty Stall, £2-16-6; Lucky Dip & Balloons, £3-13-0; Draws for: Ham, £12-14-0; Cushion, £1-14-6; Doll, 17/6; Sideshows: Bowling, £4-16-6; Darts, £1-15-6; OrangeShy, £1-10-3; Crazy Golf, £1-16-6; Aerial Runway, £1-2-9; Ball in Bucket, £1-4-0; Donations, £1-5-0. Gross Takings, £196-8-2. Less Expenses, £14-19-5. **NET TOTAL, £181-8-9.**

We are most grateful to all who gave so generously for the stalls, draws, teas, prizes, etc. Our thanks also are due to the Brownies and St. John Ambulance Cadets for entertaining us with displays, as well as the children who came in fancy dress for the competition. All this added to the gaiety of the occasion.

The Parochial Church Council have allocated the proceeds as follows:— U.S.P.G. (Kamdara Project), £60; "Shelter" £60; Church Belfry Repairs, £61-8-9.

Choir Outing, June 7th. The outing for members of the choir, servers, and Sunday School teachers was blessed with truly wonderful weather this year, such a contrast to last year, when it rained without a break for the whole day. This time we had a longer coach ride than usual, but no one felt ill! We went to Portsmouth and Southsea, and the drive, first over the Cotswolds and then the series of rolling chalk downs, was superb. Our first objective was the Royal Naval Dockyard, where we were shown over H.M.S. Victory. We had very good meals at a restaurant in Southsea, and spent the afternoon in various pursuits at that excellent resort, where there is so much to do and see for people of all ages and tastes.

Holy Baptism

May 25 Michael Simon Burford.

Burials, R.I.P.

May 30 (cremation) Ada Annie Douse, aged 81.

Mrs. Douse showed great courage in facing increasing infirmity during the years she lived in Badsey. When she eventually had to go to hospital, she accepted it with exemplary Christian patience and good humour. Anyone who got a first impression of her as severe would soon have it dispelled when they saw her smile, and appreciated the delicious irony in her conversation.

June 6 Florence Jubilee Gittos, aged 72.

Mrs. Gittos, formerly of Blackminster, died at Cardiff, where she had gone to live her daughter and son-in-law, Una and Ted Taylor. We have missed her and them since their departure. Mrs. Gittos was buried with her husband, who died in 1961. Our prayerful condolences with all members of the family.

Jottings. Mrs. Edith Smith, so very alert and active for her age, and always cheerful, has had to go to hospital for an operation to an abscess on her arm. Mrs. Florence Knight has also been in hospital after straining the heart, but has now returned. She will have to be careful not to overdo things. It is good news that her son George has now left hospital at Oxford after his serious operation. Mr. Tom Major Senr. has had a major operation in Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mrs. Gertie Churchill is now receiving treatment at Worcester Royal Infirmary for her sciatica after several weeks on her back. From the same hospital Mr. Fred Wheatley has now returned home for a break after receiving one artificial hip and before having the other. Mr. D. Dennick was taken to Ronkswood dangerously ill with meningitis, but we are thankful to say he has been cured and is now home. Mrs. B. M. Russell, a newcomer to Badsey, has returned home after an operation, and Mr. Edgar Mitchell is now at home after several weeks at Avonside Hospital. From the same hospital Mrs. M. Keyte has also been discharged. Mrs. Cicely Jones has now recovered after a long bout of bronchitis. To the great pleasure of all Midland Red customers, Miss Nancy Greening is back at the office after an illness of some weeks. Mrs. Edith Reeves has been laid up again with a recurrence of her heart trouble.

Servers for July. 6th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 M. Clements; 6-45 T. Bell; 13th, 10-15 D. Barrant (Server), C. Hartwell (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Clements. 20th, 8-0 T. Bell; 6-45 M. Exon. 27th, 8-0 C. Hartwell; 11-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 A. Clements (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. July 6th, Mrs. L. Reeves; 20th, Mrs. N. Cook; 27th, Mrs. G. H. Stewart.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

July

6 **Trin. 5.** As for 1st Sun. Day of Prayer for the decisions to be taken on July 8 by the Convocations & Methodist Conference.
13, 20, 27 (**Trin. 6, 7, 8.**) As for 2nd, 3rd & 4th Suns.

Holy Baptism

June 8 Heather Cumming.

Jottings. The P.C.C. at its June meeting, made plans for a new heating installation in the church, and for a Harvest Supper on Oct. 11th.

Your prayers are asked for Mr. Jim Stanley, in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, and for his wife Melvia. Parishioners who have been in hospital last month and now returned home are Mr. R. Taylor and Mr. G. Taylor.

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