

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 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.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

20th August, 1969

My dear People,

In my last letter I summarised a letter from the Bishop about the situation arising from the vote of the Conventions about Anglican-Methodist re-union. That letter contained interim guidance, awaiting the meeting of Bishops which was to take place in July. Since that meeting the Bishop has sent another pastoral letter to the clergy, with the following instructions:

1. Where individual Methodists who are communicants in their own Church desire to communicate in our Church, they should be welcomed.

2. Under certain conditions a whole Methodist congregation may be welcomed to communicate in an Anglican church. This is where the two congregations are working together in sustained efforts.

3. Where individual Anglicans sincerely desire to receive Communion in a Methodist church, this has always been regarded as a matter for their own conscience, and the Church of England has not made any pronouncement on the matter.

With regard to No. 1, I take this opportunity of saying that our Methodist friends in Badsey and Wickhamford are very welcome to partake of Holy Communion with us in our churches.

The Retreat, Sept. 26-28

This has been planned since two years ago, and the time is now drawing very near. I wrote about it at some length in the July number, but will gladly give further explanations to anyone who is interested. Several parishioners have now given me their names, and I hope further bookings will be made in good time. Make every effort to arrange things so that you can come. The busier you are, the more you need it.

Here are the details once again. Weekend retreat at the Diocesan Retreat House, Cropthorne, Friday evening, Sept. 26th to Sunday afternoon Sept. 28th. Conductor: Canon W. A. Trippass. Inclusive charge £3-5-0 a head. (Anyone who would like to go but is unable to afford the full rate, please see me privately). Those who book will be given fuller details later.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Sept.

- 3 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 7 **Trinity 14.** As for 1st Sun. 6-45 Evensong (see Jottings).
- 10 Wed. 10-0 H.C. M.U. Wave of Prayer (see M.U. Notes).
- 14 **Trinity 15.** Holy Cross Day. As for 2nd Sun.
- 17 Wed. Ember Day 10-0 H.C.
- 21 **St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist, Trinity 16.** As for 3rd Sun.
- 24 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service.
- 28 **Trinity 17.** As for 4th Sun.
- 29 Mon. **St. Michael & All Angels.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.

Sunday School. The new session begins with the Family Eucharist on Sunday, 14th Sept., at 10-15. Classes begin on Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. Boys and girls over 8 meet in the church, and the younger children in the Meeting House and the Parish Room.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., Sept. 9th, at 7-15 p.m.

Mothers' Union. The Wave of Prayer reaches us on Wed., 10th Sept., and the time allotted to our branch is 10-0 to 10-30 a.m. The monthly Corporate Communion

will accordingly be at 10 a.m. on this day, the 2nd Wed., instead of the 1st Wed., and intercession will be offered for the Mothers' Union in the dioceses to which we are linked.

Tues., 9th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Moody, Invalid Members' Prayer Circle Representative. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Thompson, Floyd and Braby.

Wed. 10th Corporate Communion and Wave of Prayer, 10-0 to 10-30. (See above).

Tues. 23rd 7-30 Speech Competition. The judge will be Mrs. Richards. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Hartwell (Committee), Mesdames Collis, Clark and Hatcher.

J.B.

Holy Baptism

July 27 Dawn Louise Pritchard; Carol Elizabeth Beasley; Julie Anne Taylor.

Holy Matrimony

Aug. 2 Clive Edward Hall, of Bretforton, and Carol Jennifer Stewart, of Badsey.

" 9 Colin Bartlett, of Honeybourne, and Gillian Margaret Redgewell, of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

Aug 12 Bertram Alfred Jones, aged 84.

Our sincere condolences with the family. Bertram Jones had been a lonely man since the death of his wife just over a year ago, and we can be thankful that his earthly sorrows are over. But a notable and delightful personality has been removed from our village scene. A small, unpretentious figure, and rather shy, he was an outstanding craftsman in ivory, producing fine delicate work which at one time was very much in demand. Bombed out of their house and the workshop in Dalston in the blitz, Mr. & Mrs. Jones came to make their home in Badsey, and, with their warm friendly natures, made themselves at once socially acceptable. Mr. Jones, among his other accomplishments, was a teacher of ballroom dancing, and could claim that several happily married couples first came to know each other at the school of dancing which he held in the Wheatsheaf. His great hobby was fishing.

Aug. 22 Amy Louise Sadler, aged 73.

Amy Sadler was a beloved person, a splendid example to us all of cheerful courage and unflinchingly Christian faith. She at one time looked after her husband's father and 3 bachelor brothers as well as her own family. A great worker in parish life, she developed diabetes over 20 years ago, and for the last 16 years has been completely blind. Undaunted, she learnt to read braille, and continued to take part, with undiminished zest, in many parochial activities. She was a keen member of the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute and the British Legion Women's Section. She was much in demand at parties for her accompaniment of community singing, having a good ear and a wonderful memory for the favourite old melodies. May perpetual light be hers. Prayerful sympathy with the family.

Arthur Frank Hawlins died on 3rd August, and was cremated on the 6th. We extend our prayerful sympathy to Mrs. Hawlins and the family. Frank Hawlins had not been very well for some time, but his death was rather sudden.

Jottings. Mr. L. Mustoe, after being installed as President of Evesham Rotary, will attend his parish church at Badsey, with other officers of the Rotary, at the evening service on Sunday, 7th September. The service will be Evensong.

Mr. Harry Robinson is in Cheltenham Hospital at the time of writing. He has been very ill but is now im-

proving. Mr. Bob Gregory has had a very bad time with his asthma for some weeks. Mrs. Kinchin has been unwell and is waiting to go into hospital. We are glad to say Mr. Bill Sears is now back and doing very well. It is good to see Mrs. Gertie Churchill about again, also Mr. Albert Jelfs. Other convalescents making steady progress are Mr. E. Mitchell, Mr. T. Major, Mrs. Frank Reeves, Mrs. Florence Knight, Mrs. W. Bennett Senior, Mrs. Godwin, Mr. Fred Wheatley.

Servers for September. 7th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 A. Clements; 6-45 M. Exon. 14th, 10-15 T. Bell (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 21st, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 C. Hartwell. 28th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 D. Barrand (Server), R. Keen (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Sept. 7th, Mrs. G. Marshall. 14th, Mrs. C. Stewart. 21st, Mrs. W. Ballard.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Suns., Sept. 7 (Trin. 14), 14 (Trin. 15), 21 (St. Matthew), 28 (Trin. 17). As for 1st 2nd, 3rd 4th Suns. (See Cover).

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Sept. 24th at 7-30 p.m.

Holy Baptism

Aug. 10 Jeremy Stuart Tweney.

Holy Matrimony

Aug. 16 Paul Anthony Wood, of Arnold, Nottingham, and Rachel Elizabeth Astley, of Wickhamford.

Jottings. We are very much saddened by the death in a motor accident of Mr. George W. Diston, a comparative newcomer to Wickhamford.

Mr. N. Haines is making good progress after his slight stroke. He has been a great worker all his life, and we wish him a happy retirement.

Mr. Ted Cooke has been rather unwell, but he and Mrs. Cooke face their infirmities with great pluck.

HARVEST SUPPER

We want to make this a really big village occasion, and an opportunity to welcome some of our new parishioners. It has been arranged for Saturday, 11th October, and tickets will be on sale shortly (5/-).

DON'T TELL MAUD!

The Maud Report proposes such a drastic centralisation of local government that the word "local" will become a misnomer. The process of centralisation has been going on for about 150 years, beginning with the Poor Law Reform Act of 1834, and continuing with the Local Government Acts at the end of the 19th century, setting up County Councils, then Rural District and Parish Councils.

From Tudor times till then, each village had its own parochial officers, elected annually at the Easter Vestry, and they controlled nearly all matters affecting the life of the community. Their masters to whom they were immediately answerable were the local justices of the peace meeting in Quarter Sessions.

The most important of these parochial officers were the churchwardens, then the parish constable, the overseers of the poor, surveyors of the highways (or waywardens), and surveyors of the common fields. The money needed for their work was raised by compulsory rates, levied annually at a sum agreed at the Vestry. In practice the chief farmers and yeomen held all the offices in turn. In Badsey at one time they had an arrangement by which the two waywardens one year would be the man

at the top of the "towne street" and the man at the bottom, i.e. the miller; the following year the next one from each end; and so on each year till they met in the middle, then they would start at the mill again. It did not always work out quite like this. If a man could not undertake the office allotted to him, someone else would deputise for that "stint". Aldington had its own churchwarden and constable, and paid a third of the rates. Wickhamford, of course, had its own vestry and set of officers, but it was much more feudal, and here the manorial organisation was more important than the parish till well on in the 18th century.

Badsey has an almost complete collection of churchwardens' and other officers' accounts, from 1525 to the present day. Besides the vestry book, with the names of those elected each year and summary of the accounts presented and passed, there are many detailed statements of miscellaneous payments, on loose sheets or scraps of paper. These were found in a box in the Vicarage by the Rev. W. H. Price, and were all deposited in the Worcester County Record Office, after careful transcripts had been made by Mr. Price and Mr. C. A. Binyon. The only big gap is for the years between 1748 and 1818. I hope in a series of articles to entertain you with some of the more interesting extracts from these miscellaneous payments. Let us begin with the churchwardens. The earliest accounts down to about 1580 were published in a book in 1913, and are fairly well known. The later ones have not yet been published. The functions of the churchwardens in connection with the fabric and furniture of the church are pretty generally known. What about some of the other duties that came their way?

High Living on the Expense Account

Some churchwardens seem to have found it unnecessary to draw any hard and fast line between official and private expenditure. This one in 1623 had a rare old time. It is noticeable that somebody else (in another hand) takes over the accounts later on.

"Item for a hors	xxiii d
Item for a peckeawotes (peck of oats)	xl d
Item for the osler	iiii d
Item for the cambarmaid	iii d
Item for a pynte of wine	vi d
Item for a voule (fowl)	
Item at the white hart when I was arested	xii d
Item to the Gailer	iiii d
Item for my diner	xiii d

I like this entry in 1685: "for our ministers dinner 1 - 8".

A few years later: "our dinners & the minsters 4 - 2", "our dinners & the old ones 6 - 0". The "old ones" were the outgoing churchwardens, and the dinners charged to the accounts were eaten when the minister and wardens had to present themselves at the bishop's visitation. Till quite recently we used to keep up this admirable custom, though we did not charge our dinners up to the parish! In the last few years however the archdeacon himself has entertained us to refreshments at his visitation.

This entry sounds rather gay:

1725 "Dinner for two Churchwardens & boating over ye water" (to Handel's Water Music)? Actually it was probably a not very romantic crossing of Hampton Ferry.

Kindness to strangers

One year we get: "For our dinners 3s", and an entry very near it: "Given to two poore women 1½d."

You might think they would have sent the latter to the overseers of the poor. But in Badsey there seems to have been an arrangement whereby the overseers looked after the needs of the poor, while the churchwardens relieved vagrants. It was wise policy for the overseers not to accept responsibility for these. On the whole the churchwardens seem to have given fairly freely for this purpose from their funds, and not questioned too closely

2 added

the 'hard luck' stories related to them. Here are some examples:

- 1635 "Item for pore pasingers 3d"
1677 "Given to poore men, loss by fire 8d. to others that had loss by fire 1 - 0"
1691 "Given to a Ministers wife 6d"
1711 "Gave to a man that was Shipwacked sent to us by the Neighbours 6d"
1714 "paid to traveleers 1 - 6"
1714 "Gave to a poor officer 2 - 6"
Gave to two poor women 3 - 6"
1720 "paid to a man yt had a loss 1 - 6 gave to a nother man yt had a ship cast away 1 - 0 gave to a woman yt her husband was in prison 1 - 0 gave to two more people yt were in great want 3 - 0"
1745 "Gave to 4 poor Jack Tarrs 4d"
What then do you make of the following entry?
1731 "for an urchin 4d"
Was this to relieve a little ragged child?
No. It was for a hedgehog, and a dead one at that.

Pesticide

By an Act of 1561 for the destruction of "Noyful Fowles and Vermyn", the churchwardens were obliged to pay a penny for every 3 heads brought to them of old "Crows, Chowes, Pyes or Rockes", 1d. for every six young owls, etc. None of these birds are mentioned in the Badsey accounts, but sparrows are frequently paid for, by the dozen. In the overseers' accounts for 1723 there is an entry "for caching twenty four dozen of sparrows and four birds 6 - 1".

Why the overseers' accounts and not the churchwardens'? In Badsey they had adopted another very sensible arrangement. The churchwardens took over the care of the vagrant poor, and the overseers of the poor took over the responsibility for the destruction of vermin. Do you see the reason? They could pay the unemployed out of the rates for doing a useful job for the community. Occasionally the churchwardens pay for it, but more often the overseers.

Besides hedgehogs (which surely are not very 'noyful' vermin) there were 'woonts' (Worcestershire for moles) to be disposed of, and in 1716: "Gave to George Jones for killing a fox 1 - 0". The heads of the victims had to be laid before the churchwardens to be counted, and it must have been a grisly sight when there were big quantities. The rates for vermin seem to have varied from time to time, as well as from county to county. In Badsey, 1746 3 - 3½d. was paid for 27 dozen sparrows, but in the next year 8 - 2 for 44 dozen. In 1702 the churchwardens are paying at the rate of 4d. a dozen, but ten years later the overseers are paying 3d. Incidentally, the rate in a Hampshire parish was 1 - 6 a dozen!

In the 1830s Badsey churchwardens were paying a young man from Wickhamford £1 a year (probably by contract) to catch moles.

Was the following item connected with the destruction of vermin? 1635 "for sending in the Terryer 1 - 0".

I am afraid not. The terrier in this case was a list of land and buildings belonging to the glebe..

(to be continued).

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham

TELEFLOWER SERVICE

PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

F. MASTERS

Painting, Decorating
General Repairs . . .

5, The Poplars,
BADSEY

Tel. Badsey 456

"AVON ELECTRICS"

DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS

72, HORSEBRIDGE AVENUE, BADSEY.

TEL. BADSEY 500

Wheeler & Mansell Ltd. - Lime Street, Evesham

are now engaged on, or will shortly be developing sites at :

ALDINGTON, BADSEY, BLEDINGTON, BROADWAY,
HAMPTON, EVESHAM AND MONMOUTH.

- all types of Building Work undertaken

TELEPHONE - EVESHAM 6262 (3 lines)