

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

APRIL, 1970

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

17th March, 1970.

My dear People,

The publication of the complete New English Bible has been heralded with a great flourish; no one could complain of lack of coverage in Press and Television. And indeed it is a notable achievement. For this is a completely new translation from the original texts, and not a revision of former ones.

From the literary point of view, also, I personally find it quite pleasing. The first thing I did, when I bought my copy, was to look up some favourite literary gems in the Old Testament and Apocrypha. On the whole I was not disappointed with the rendering. (The Psalms when used in worship certainly read better in the Revised Psalter - a revision of the Prayer Book version done in 1963 - than in the N.E.B.).

We have now therefore a greatly improved translation of the whole Bible, more accurate, more intelligible, and in a modern English which is not too transitory or undignified.

Yet I must confess that I'm worried.

A dangerous best-seller

What disturbs me is the thought that, for the first time since their childhood, many people will be reading the Old Testament, and much that they find there will disgust and repel them. There is no problem for adults who are well instructed in the Christian faith. But to the uninstructed the Bible is the Bible. It makes no difference for him whether he is reading in the Book of Numbers about the stoning to death of a man for gathering firewood on the sabbath, or in the Acts of the Apostles about the stoning of Stephen. It is all part of the Holy Bible, the text-book of the Christian Church. Here it is, offered in its entirety without comment, or distinction between the Old and New Covenants, and blazoned forth as the best-seller which everyone ought to read. How is the ordinary man or woman who buys it to distinguish between what Christians believe to be significant, and what they consider secondary or super-seeded? It's all in the Bible.

To give an example. More than once in the course of my ministry I have heard people (whom I had thought to be enlightened) assert: "But it says in the Bible, 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth'". If you refer them to what Our Lord said about it, in the Sermon on the Mount, they reply: "But it's there, in the Bible - you can't get away from it".

The words and the Word

The instructed Christian, when he reads the Bible, knows that there is no divine authority attached to the words. God's message is to be found in the Word. The words are human, not divine. The writers thought up the words, as a craftsman selects the tools for a particular job. The job these writers had in hand was to declare the Word of God as they believed it had been revealed to them. In reading the Old Testament, it is not always easy to discern the Word in the words, or to distinguish between what is of divine inspiration and what is the product of the writer's own limited vision.

With the New Testament it is very different. In Jesus Christ we believe the Word was enfleshed. What had been discerned only partially and with difficulty through lawgivers and prophets was now not only uttered in words but proclaimed in a Life ("the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life").

The New Testament writers (even if their words are still human and sometimes fallible) had the advantage of experiencing the Word made flesh. "When in former times" they declared, "God spoke to our forefathers, he spoke in fragmentary and varied fashion through the prophets. But in this final age he has spoken to us in the Son whom he has made heir to the whole universe". (Hebrews 1, v. 1. N.E.B.)

Why then read the Old Testament at all?

What use is it to us who believe the Word of God is revealed completely in Christ?

We read the Old Testament as holy scripture for two reasons.

First, it is obviously wrong to suppose that God had nothing to say to the human race before his Word took human flesh in Christ, any more than to suppose that God has nothing to say through non-Christian religions. You can't rule a heavy vertical line dividing mankind today into two separate kinds of human being - Christians and non-Christians. In the same way, you can't rule a heavy line between B.C. and A.D., and say that the people above the line were a different kind of being altogether from the people below it. We believe that God did choose a people through whom to utter his Word to all peoples, and that we are members, through Baptism into Christ, of that people. It doesn't make us a different species of human being, any more than Abraham was a superman or demigod. But we are one with Abraham and all his spiritual descendants in having had committed to us the Word of God, with the duty to proclaim it.

Christ the Key

The second reason why the Old Testament is sacred to us is that it was what Jesus Christ said he had come to fulfil (or fill in). Martin Luther aptly said the Old Testament is like the swaddling clothes in which the Infant Christ was enfolded. The clothes are not the treasure. The treasure is the Christ who lies within them. The important thing is that Christ is there, enwrapped in the Old Testament, if we can but find him. That is what he told his disciples on the first Easter Day. "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself".

When Christ does this for us with the Old Testament, we can find our hearts burning within us, as those first disciples did. When another Christian disciple came across a stranger reading the Old Testament, and "starting at this passage, he told him the good news of Jesus", the man "went on his way rejoicing".

The Gospel, or Good News of God, is not confined to the New Testament. It is there, in the Old. From the beginning Christ is the Word enlightening every man. But the Gospel is not equally to be discerned in all parts of the O.T.

'Do it Yourself' no help

At one stage of my childhood I got a craze for reading the Bible, and set out to begin with Genesis and go all the way through, quite unselectively. (Of course I got bogged down somewhere in Leviticus). Lots of children do this, and sometimes it has a disastrous effect on their religious development. When we read the Old Testament it is most important that we should be selective, and we all need guidance as to what to select. Here I cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of belonging to the Bible Reading Fellowship, with its quarterly booklets of readings for each day, explanatory notes and helps as to how to use what we read in our prayers. There are notes for different age groups, including extraordinarily good ones for children. Our branch secretary is Mrs. Ives, 45, Brewers Lane, Badsey, who will gladly give information and supply specimen notes.

But even such aids as these are not enough to help us to find the Word in the words. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He will take of mine, and show it to you". So when you open your Bible, before you read any of the words, ask the Holy Spirit to show you the Word.

A happy Eastertide to you all.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Christian Aid Week, April 13 to 18. This interdenominational effort is our opportunity of showing that we really do care, as Christians, about the sufferings of the undernourished and underprivileged people of the world. It is not too late for more people to volunteer as collectors. We need many more. Will anyone able to collect in Badsey or Aldington contact Mrs. P. Churchill, 14, Chapel Street; and in Wickhamford Mrs. J. Lees-Milne, Weatherwane Cottage. That is, if you have not already given your name to one of these or the Vicar.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

April

- 1 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
5 **Easter 1.** As usual for 1st Sun. The question for discussion at the People's Service 6-45 will be: "How can any reasonable person in these days be expected to believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead?"
7 **Tues. Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary.** (transf. from Mar. 25) 10-0 H.C. 3-0 M.U. Deanery Festival Service, St. Andrew's, Hampton.
8 Wed. No H.C.
12 **Easter 2.** As for 2nd Sun. Preacher at Evensong: Rev. E. P. Crowther-Green, B.D.
15 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
17 Fri. 8 p.m. Bishop's Visitation, All SS., Evesham (for clergy and churchwardens, but others may attend).
19 **Easter 3.** St. Alphege, Abp. & M. As for 3rd Sun.
22 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service.
25 Sat. **St. Mark, Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.
26 **Easter 4.** As for 4th Sun.
29 Wed. No H.C. (See Fri).

May

- 1 Fri. **SS. Philip & James, Apostles.** 10-0 H.C.

Evesham Ruridecanal Synod, Mon., April 20. Four Pools School, 7-30 p.m. (Last meeting of old Synod, for all Parochial Church Councillors). The Bishop will address the Synod.

No meeting of P.C.C. in April. The Committees will meet.

Mothers' Union. April 7, Tues. Lady Day. 10-0 Corporate Communion and Admission Service. 3-0 Deanery Service, Hampton Church. Coach leaves Badsey at 2-30.

Tues. 14th, 2-30. Branch Meeting. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Richards, Sladden and Thompson.

Tues. 28th. 7-30. Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Cleugh, on "The Work of the Central Council". Tea hostesses: Mrs. Bell (Committee), Mesdames Chaplin, Owen and Watkin.

Burials, R.I.P.

Mar. 11 Graham Salter, aged 5.

The whole village was shocked by this tragic death in a road accident, and Mr. & Mrs. John Salter and the grandparents are assured of the prayerful support of us all. We also feel deeply for the driver concerned, who was completely exonerated from blame, and those who were with him in the car.

We commit this little child into the loving arms of the Good Shepherd, and the mourners to his consoling grace.

Mar. 18 Charles Knight, aged 79.

Mr. Charlie Knight had for some years been residing in a home for the elderly at Pershore. He was a quiet, gentle character, not very robust, but well loved in Badsey. Our prayerful sympathy with the relatives, especially Mrs. C. Haines, who used to look after him.

Jottings. It is with great regret that we have heard of the death of Mr. Jack Wheatley of Chipping Campden. He had been ill for some time, and we offer our condolences to his wife and the members of his family. He was one of the large family of the Wheatleys of Badsey, and as an electrical contractor had rendered considerable service to Badsey church and village.

Several parishioners have had unlucky accidents lately. Mrs. Danks had a fall which resulted in a broken pelvis. She is in hospital, a cheerful and undaunted patient, at the time of writing beginning to walk the first slow steps to recovery; Mr. R. A. Porter had serious injuries in a motor accident, including a crushed kneecap and several broken ribs. He is hoping to be out of hospital in time for his daughter Marlene's wedding. At present in hospital are also Mrs. Owens, Senr., with bronchial illness and exhaustion following her care of the family during her daughter-in-law's being laid up after her fall; Mr. E. Tyszkow, who has had an operation to remove an obstruction in the bowel after several weeks of illness; Mr. F. Haynes with severe bronchial illness resulting from influenza. Mrs. Gladys Hall has been in hospital and is still undergoing tests to decide on future treatment. Mr. Harry Stewart has returned from hospital after his second stay this year. He is suffering considerably from trouble with his feet, and we hope that curative treatment will restore him to reasonable activity. Mrs. Stewart has returned from convalescence at Torquay, looking refreshed. Mrs. L. Tomkins has been ill with heart trouble, but seems to be on the mend, we hope. Others who have returned from hospital include Mrs. Daphne Bell, Mrs. Elsie Jelfs, who with great spirit has gone back to her house at Bowers Hill; Mr. Frank Knight (of High Street); Mr. Eric Jelfs (of Synehurst); Mrs. B. Tustin; Mrs. M. Vann. Mr. 'Sonny' Wheatley is about again after having his 2nd artificial hip. Mrs. P. Baker hopes soon to be back in her house damaged by fire a few weeks ago. She is now recovered from the nasty shock she sustained.

Servers for April. 5th, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 M. Exon. 12th, 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), M. Exon (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Clements. 19th, 8-0 D. Norden; 6-45 T. Bell. 26th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 M. Clements (Server), A. Clements (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. April, 12th, Mrs. L. Reeves; 19th, Mrs. S. Goldstraw; 26th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Acknowledgement. Birthday Memories of E.D. & P.G. 10/-.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

April

- 5 **Easter 1.** As for 1st Sun.
12 **Easter 2.** As for 2nd Sun. 3-0 E. & Holy Baptism.
19 **Easter 3.** St. Alphege, Abp. & M. As for 3rd Sun.
26 **Easter 4.** As for 4th Sun.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday, 8th April, in the Memorial Hall,
at 7-15 p.m.

The meeting is of special importance this year, inaugurating Synodical Government, the aim of which is to give a new opportunity for **partnership** in the life of our Church.

First, the new system is intended to be more complete, straight-forward and effective, so that churchpeople at every level may feel that they are in touch with the Church as a whole and can play their part in decision making. Secondly, the laity are now to have their place in every aspect of church government, including the doctrine and services of the Church.

Everyone who is on the Church Electoral Roll will be receiving a letter inviting them to nominate representatives and to come and vote at the meeting.

The first business is the election of churchwardens. Then, after the outgoing Parochial Church Council has reported on its work for the past year and rendered its accounts, the election of representatives takes place: to the Deanery Synod, for three years (these are ex officio members of the P.C.C.), and to the P.C.C. for one year.

After the elections, there is general discussion on Church affairs, and anyone may raise any question of parochial or general church interest. Let us have your ideas. Bring them to the meeting.

Evesham Ruridecanal Synod. Mon., April 20. Four Pools School, 7-30 p.m. (Last meeting of old Synod, for all Parochial Church Councillors). The Bishop will address the Synod.

Christian Aid Week, April 13 to 18. See Note after Vicar's Letter.

Young Wives. Wed., April 1st, 8 p.m. Memorial Hall. Wig Evening.

Jottings. It is with regret that we have heard of the death of Mr. John Drysdale, of Totteridge, Middlesex. He has always shown a great interest in the affairs of the village, and like his mother was a real friend and benefactor, especially to the Sunday School.

A truly tragic loss has been the death, in a motor accident, of William Daffurn, aged 17. Mr. & Mrs. Austen Daffurn left Mill Farm a few years ago to live in Devon. We extend to them, and to Mary and Jane, our deepest sympathy. William, with his sisters, was a faithful member of our church Sunday School.

Mrs. Summers has now returned home after a second spell in hospital. We hope she will be completely restored to health. Mrs. Franklin, in hospital, had the misfortune to break her wrist a few weeks ago, but this has now mended, though she is in constant pain from arthritis. Mrs. Pethard has now recovered from her illness of last month.

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)