

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

MAY, 1970

PRICE 4/- PER ANNUM

Vicar (& Rural Dean): REV. P. BRABY, M.A.

(Tel. Evesham 830343)

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, Meeting House.

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

- Churchwardens Mrs. N. Clark, Pennyfields, Aldington.
Mr. D. W. Hartwell, 35, Willersey Road.

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. (Evesham 830244).
Mr. H. J. Dunkerley, C.B.E., M.A., Gallipot Farm, Broadway.
Tel. Evesham 830395.
Clerk Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

17th April, 1970.

My dear People,

I have been delighted by the requests that have come from both parishes for the arrangement of some joint services in Badsey and Wickhamford churches.

It has been felt that it would be a great encouragement to both congregations if occasionally each were to forgo a service in their own church, and attend a service in the other.

As a matter of fact, until comparatively recent times, the morning services were held in the two churches on alternate Sundays. In late Victorian times there was a joint choir, and the Sunday School children walked in procession across the fields to join their fellows in the other village. Several dear old friends (mostly now passed on) used to tell me about those days.

Looking at written records before that time, I find that the morning and afternoon services alternated between the two parishes. So in former times one service a Sunday was considered sufficient for each parish. The population was much smaller, but most of them went to church. With people from both parishes attending the service, the church must have been always cosily full at times of worship.

Too many services?

Nowadays, with fewer people going to church, we tend to multiply the number of services (not just here, but in the Church of England as a whole). Have we gained anything? We see sometimes a scattered handful 2 or 3 times a Sunday, when a single service with a larger congregation would undoubtedly be more inspiring. We have all these services because, in the complexity of modern life, we try to suit everyone's convenience, instead of encouraging individuals to make the Sunday service (whatever time it is) their first commitment of the day. I suppose we are so afraid of losing people by not suiting their convenience that we forget one thing. Any so-called Christian who gets lost in that way is no loss to the Church Militant, whatever sad loss he may be to himself.

So it is not only to save wear-and-tear on the Vicar that it would be a good thing to have fewer services. It would give the people a much greater sense of 'togetherness'. Personally I don't mind how many services I take on a Sunday so long as they are really necessary. But it does not make for that calm and prayerful collectedness which the minister ought to possess - and diffuse to the congregation - if he comes panting in at the last minute from another service. Apart from major festivals, on at least on Sunday each month I have 6 (sometimes 7) services, 4 of them from 8 to 12 without a break. And this in two churches only a mile and half apart.

So near and yet so far

Why is it that in these days of supersonic travel two parishes so near each other, and with a close historic connection going back hundreds of years, have their own separate services every Sunday? The quick answer is that there is no public transport linking the two villages. In the old days when everyone walked or cycled, the distance was nothing.

Now that so many more people have private cars, need this state of affairs continue? Surely not. It ought to be possible to arrange our own transport system, to enable the congregations to interchange sometimes.

The following experimental arrangement has been suggested for this year. On the Sunday following St. John the Baptist's Day (June 24), there will be an evening Eucharist at Wickhamford, to which Badsey people are invited, but no evening service at Badsey. On the Sunday following St. James's Day (July 25), the one evening service will be the Eucharist at Badsey.

On the two harvest festivals (1st Sun. in October, Wickhamford; 2nd Sun. Badsey) there will be Evensong at the one church only, at which the other congregation will attend.

We shall work out details later. I hope this will be only a beginning towards further co-operation.

Many thanks for your kind Easter offerings, in both parishes.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

MAY FAIR, Friday morning, May 8th. In The Town Hall, Evesham. To be opened by Mrs. H. T. Sharp, at 10-30 a.m. This is the annual fund-raising morning for the Evesham Family & Social Service Association.

Badsey & Wickhamford will be running a cake and pastry stall. Please help us with goods. They may be brought to the Vicarage, Badsey, or to Wickham House, Wickhamford, before 9-15 a.m. on the day, or to the Town Hall before 10-30 a.m.

And please come to support the May Fair. There will be various stalls, with coffee and refreshments available.

This year there is a Grand Draw. Draw tickets (6d.) are available beforehand at the Vicarage or from various people in both parishes. All ticket money and unsold tickets must be brought to the Vicarage by 6th May.

Confirmation Classes. Parents and candidates have been notified. The 1st is on Monday, May 4th, at the Meeting House, Badsey, at 7 p.m.

Christian Aid Week Result. Badsey £56-7-5; Aldington £5-17-8; Wickhamford £22-11-9. **Total: £84-16-10** (an increase of £14-2-10 on 1969). Congratulations to Mrs. Churchill and all collectors.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

May

- 1 Fri. **SS. Philip & James, Apostles.** 10-0 H.C.
- 3 **Easter 5. (Rogation Sun.)** As for 1st Sun. Subject for discussion at People's Service 6-45 p.m.: "Has the Christian Church anything to say about the conservation of human environment"?
- 4, 5, 6. Rogation Days.
- 7 **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD.** 10-0 H.C. 7-30 p.m. H.C. with hymns.
- 10 **Sun. after Ascension.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 12 Tues. 2-30 Prayer Meeting at Vicarage.
- 13 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 **WHITSUNDAY.** 7-15 & 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Sun. Sch. (11-0 H.C. Wickhamford). 6-45 Evensong.
- 19 Tues. 3-0 M.U. Diocesan Festival Service, Worcester Cathedral.
- 20 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 24 **TRINITY SUNDAY.** As for 4th Sun. Special envelopes for Ordination Candidates' Fund.
- 27 Wed. 10-0 H.C. (Thanksgiving for Holy Communion). 3-0 Pram Service.
- 31 **Trinity I.** As for 5th Sun. 10-15 Family Service.

Decoration of Church. For Ascensiontide, Wed., 6th, at 2-30. For Whitsuntide, Sat., 16th, at 9-30 a.m. Helpers welcome both days, also flowers (before decoration begins, please).

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., May 5th, 7-15 p.m.

May Fair. May 8th. See Note after Vicar's Letter.

Organist. We welcome Mr. Michael King, who will take up his duties as organist and choirmaster on May 8th.

Mothers' Union. Thurs., 7th. Ascension Day. Corporate Communion 10-0 & 7-30.

Tues. 12th. 2-30. Prayer Meeting at the Vicarage (open to all).

Tues. 19th. Festival Service in Worcester Cathedral. The preacher will be the Very Rev. N. S. Rathbone, Dean of Hereford. Coach leaves Badsey at 1-40.

Tues. 26th. 7-30 p.m. Branch Meeting. The speaker will be Mrs. Vial, who will talk on, and demonstrate, church music. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Sladden (Committee), Mesdames Cole, Braby and Davies.
J.B.

U.S.P.G. Publications

To keep us aware of what is going on in other parts of the world, U.S.P.G. publishes "Network" (4d. monthly), and "Adventure", which is for children. Both these may be ordered from Miss N. Smith, Pool House, Badsey. There are specimen copies on the church table.

Holy Baptism

Mar. 22 Sarah Louise Hemming.

Holy Matrimony

Mar. 21 Peter Anthony Pouncett, of Evesham, and Daphne Grace Hurman, of Badsey.

April 4 Michael Stephen Dixon, of Ipswich, and Sheila Jeanette Knight, of Badsey.

„ 8 John Wilfred Peplow, of Catshill, and Marlene Joy Porter, of Badsey.

„ 18 Leonard James Appleyard, of Fairfield, Evesham, and Gail Irene Jelfs, of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

April 8 Harold Geoffrey Davies, aged 50.

His sudden death was a great shock to us all. Bob (as he was known to most people) was a great family man, but also one of the best known and loved men in the village. He was a very skilled and experienced motor mechanic, conscientious and thorough, who would consider nothing too much trouble if he could be of service to others. There is no doubt that he overworked himself, but he was not easily persuaded to think of himself.

To Mrs. Davies and her family, who have already experienced much sorrow, we extend our warm and prayerful sympathy.

April 17 (cremation). Ralph Bell, aged 68.

Mrs. Bell and the family have our prayerful support. Mr. Bell was a well-liked member of the market gardening fraternity, and of one of the old Aldington families.

April 18 Cyril James Bird, aged 67.

Mr. Bird never really recovered from his serious illness of last year. Of recent years he had faced increasing blindness with great courage and cheerfulness. He rendered a considerable service to the village in opening his bicycle repair and service shop and general store along the top road 43 years ago. We shall all miss him. Mrs. Bird, and the family by his first marriage, are assured of our prayerful condolences.

Jottings. In hospital at present, and in need of our prayers, are Mrs. D. Crump, Mrs. Edith Mitchell, Mrs.

Lottie Haines. Recently returned from hospital are Mrs. E. Ford, Mr. F. Haynes, Mrs. E. Owens, Mr. Jack Taylor, Mr. E. Tyszkow, Mr. R. Porter (who just made it for Marlene's wedding and was able to give her away), Mrs. Danks (who had another fall after returning home, but is now beginning to walk again), Mr. V. Wasley is better again after further heart trouble. Mrs. L. Tomkins is also improving. Mrs. Annie Sadler also has been ill. Convalescents whom one is glad to see walking about the village after long illnesses include Mr. L. Perkins and Mr. P. G. M. Marshall. Remember all these and other sick parishioners in your prayers.

At the time of going to press, we have just heard of the death of Mr. F. Amos, former headmaster of Badsey School. During his illness in Evesham Hospital, he loved the visits he had from some of his old pupils, for whom he had a wonderful memory. Burial to be in Badsey. Notice next month.

Servers for May. 3rd, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 D. Barrand. Ascension Day, 7th 7-30 p.m. H.C. A. Clements. 10th, 10-15 S. Gresty (Server), T. Bell (Cru-cifer); 6-45 M. Clements. 17th (Whitsun), 7-15 T. Bell; 8-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 M. Exon. 24th, 8-0 G. Toney; 11-0 M. Exon; 6-45 M. Clements (Server), T. Bell (Cru-cifer). 31st, 8-0 D. Norden; 10-15 D. Barrand; 6-45 A. Clements.

War Memorial Flowers. May 3rd, Mrs. T. Keen; 10th, Mrs. Hurman; 17th, Mrs. L. Spencer; 31st, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Acknowledgement. In loving memory of Raymond Frank Stewart, £5.

Special Collections. Save the Children Fund (Children's Lent services & Good Fri. morning), £2-10-7; U.S.P.G. Kamdara Project (Holy Week services), £5-11-2. Easter Offering £23-13-2.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

May

- 3 **Easter 5.** (Rogation Sun.) As for 1st Sun.
- 7 **Thurs. ASCENSION DAY.** 7-30 a.m. H.C. (See also Badsey services).
- 10 **Sun. after Ascension.** As for 2nd Sun. E. & Baptism 3-0.
- 17 **WHITSUNDAY.** 11-0 Family Eucharist. (See Badsey for earlier services). 5-30 Evensong.
- 24 **Trinity Sun.** As for 4th Sun. Special envelopes for Ordination Candidates' Fund.
- 31 **Trinity 1.** As for 5th Sun.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wed., May 27th, 7-30 p.m.

May Fair, May 8th. See Note after Vicar's Letter.

Holy Matrimony

April 4 George Winsor Irish, of Clifton, Shefford, Beds., and Maria Gail Charlotte Alford, of Wickhamford.

Jottings. Miss Ethel Colley has been in hospital, her arthritis having been much aggravated by delayed shock after her brother's death. She has now returned to her home. Your prayers are asked for her, for Mrs. Eva Cooke, and for all others recently bereaved.

Young Wives. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 6th May, in the Memorial Hall, at 8 p.m. The main subject is "Keeping Fit".

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Though the 4 representatives of the parish on the Deanery Synod were elected unopposed, there was keen competition for the remaining places on the P.C.C., and voting was by ballot.

Reporting on the past year, the Vicar regretfully admitted a still further decline in attendances at Sunday worship, in spite of a growing population. "It is not new that your parson does not reside in the village", he said, "nor that our church is in a picturesque back-water, while most of you live nearer the mainstream of life, which passes by on the A44 road". What was new was that the village lacked a community of interest, for only a minority of parishioners now earned their living from the land: most had their work and recreation outside the village. He felt the Church could play a bigger part in giving social cohesion to village life. Pointers to this were the successful revival of the harvest supper in 1969, and the formation of a vigorous young wives' group, which already has plans for serving the village in many useful ways.

Mrs. M. Parry, Hon. Sec., presented the report of the P.C.C. The revised Electoral Roll stood at 155. The accounts, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. V. Johnson, showed a balance of £84 in the general fund. Receipts had been £670, and outgoings had included £164 to Quota and £81 to missions and charities. The budget for 1970 showed an anticipated deficit of £73, if the greatly increased Diocesan Quota of £243 was to be met in full. Miss A. Cox reported receipts to the

Freewill Offering Fund (including income tax refund on the covenants) as £437. Membership stood at 28, and she appealed for new members. She also reported that the Sunday School had 40 pupils on the roll, and attendances were good.

Mr. J. E. Parry, reporting on the church fabric, said the main item in 1969 had been the provision of a new heating system, at a cost of £200, paid from the fabric fund, the greater part coming from the legacy of the late Charles Cox, of Canada. Improvements were needed for the elimination of draughts. The meeting expressed appreciation of the work of Mrs. M. R. Lewis and Mr. Robin Cox in their care of the church and churchyard respectively.

Elections: Churchwardens: Mr. J. E. Parry, Mr. H. J. Dunkerley.

Deanery Synod (& P.C.C.): Messrs. Dunkerley, Parry, Mrs. Parry, Miss D. M Strong. P.C.C.: Messrs. C. Beacon, G. Poulter, J. Sharp, Mesdames B. Astley, V. Johnson, J. Lees-Milne, P. Poulter, I. Sutton, Misses A. Cox, M. Willis.

Sidesmen: Messrs. C. Beacon, R. Harman, S. Lees-Milne, J. Newbury, J. Sharp, C. Willis. Auditor: Mr. W. Tullett.

(At a meeting of the P.C.C. afterwards) Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. J. Dunkerley; Hon. Sec. Mrs. M. Parry; Hon. Treas. Mrs. V. Johnson; Electoral Roll Officer: Mr. J. Sharp. Co-options: Mrs. G. Halford, Mrs. G. Harrison.

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