

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

OCTOBER, 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.
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## 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 p.m. 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

"People who move more than six miles from their place of worship are likely to stop being churchgoers", according to a survey at Dawley, Shropshire, by a senior lecturer at Birmingham Polytechnic and a post-graduate student at Birmingham University.

It did not need a survey to reveal that to any minister of religion (of any denomination, except perhaps the R.C.s.).

The truth is that most people's religious outlook derives from associations rather than spiritual conviction. Many who say they have lost their faith never really had any. What they thought was faith was a matter of routine and sentiment. Only a few habitual churchgoers, on moving to another place, become dependable members of the local congregation. Some may go once, but stay away on finding that the services are at different times from their old church, or the hymns are not the same as the ones they sang in their childhood. Most will not even venture to try the church or chapel in their new home place.

How many of these have ever really known the living Christ in the midst of his people, wherever 2 or 3 or more are gathered together in his Name?

When the parson calls and they go on about how they went to church 3 times a Sunday and sang in the choir and taught in Sunday School, and what dear old Rev. Smith used to say about mother doing the flowers so beautifully ('I expect you knew him, because he was our vicar'), - little do they realise how the man is groaning inwardly and probably labelling them as Baal-worshippers.

Of course he is too polite to speak such thoughts aloud, and he hopes to win them by complaisance rather than the denunciatory methods of the old prophets. But he understands more and more why the prophets were so hot against Baal. Baal was not one god; there were lots of them - in fact there was a Baal in each place. The name means 'landlord'. You had to pay your rent in propitiatory sacrifices and fertility rites. If you defaulted - no babies, no crops.

If you moved elsewhere (not common in those days), you found yourself in the territory of a different Baal, which was very trying, because it meant you would have to change your religious allegiance. The Baal you had left behind was no further use to you.

The prophets seem to have made little headway in getting it across that the real God is Lord of the whole earth. It needed the traumatic experience of wholesale national deportation to bring the realisation that God is not localised to a particular bit of ground.

Is not the decline in 'religion' due to the extreme mobility of our age rather than to genuine unbelief? People whose 'religion' is a matter of associations (the smell of the hassocks or the same old harvest anthem) cannot be expected to do more than drift, when the moorings are gone and they find themselves on the open sea. To those with a living faith it can make no difference where they are: they can set a course.

Jesus, where'er thy people meet,  
There they behold thy mercy-seat;  
Where'er they seek thee thou art found,  
And every place is hallowed ground".

### The Mod Missionary

The Church Missionary Society, concerned because the public still have an outdated idea of what missionaries are like, very wisely commissioned two agnostics to do a tour of East Africa, living with missionaries, and to write a report on what they found. The C.M.S. committed themselves in advance to publishing the report, however critical it might be.

Mr. & Mrs. Exley in their report "In Search of the Missionary" (C.M.S. 5/-) did have some criticisms to make. But they were profoundly thankful that they had

been "able to explore one of the richest, most interesting fields of human endeavour".

Some of the missionaries they met were "like jewels in a sea of sand". They interviewed 87 missionaries altogether; and found most of them modern, forward-looking, tolerant and selfless. They were particularly surprised to discover that most of them were in their twenties or thirties. One missionary agriculturalist turned down a £14,000 a year job rather than give up the work he was doing. Some had gone to Africa because the Church of England "spent too much time worshipping the death-watch beetle".

Well, we don't exactly worship it, any more than missionaries worship white ants (do they have committees to sit on them?). Anyway, we understand what they mean. Sometimes in England we get our priorities of evil wrong as well as our priorities of good.

### Unwanted Litter

I read recently in the Times: "The annual report of the Nuffield Foundation landed with a thud on more than 1,000 desks in Britain this week. The fate of such weighty volumes is the subject of speculation by the foundation. 'How many people read it?' the introduction asks. 'Publications which are distributed free to a regular mailing list tend to make their way quickly to a library shelf, or sink gradually beneath a pile of documents due to be read in the moment of leisure which never comes'".

How true! Visitors to my study must have noticed that table littered with reports, circulars, missionary magazines, journals, occasional publications of all sorts. Will they ever be read? Will the leisure moment ever come? As a matter of fact, in August or thereabouts, when pressures temporarily ease off, I generally do a tidy-up. Most of them have become so out-of-date as to be discarded with an easy conscience. Some of them I actually read. Come September, and they begin to pile up again.

Anyone in professional or business life needs some mind-fodder connected with his work. But if he wants a balanced mental diet, this over-production of between-meal snacks is becoming a problem. In this Conservation Year the mind boggles at the thought of whole forests being pulped to produce all this waste paper. If one studied them all, there would be no time to read a book, let alone the really important things like watching the telly. So I really do sympathise with anyone who finds it necessary to skip the Vicar's letter in the parish magazine.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

**Confirmation Classes (Junior).** Mons., Oct. 5th, 19th, Nov. 2nd, at 6-30 p.m.

The Vicar will be glad to hear of any adults who would like to be prepared for Confirmation. Please let him know by the end of October if you are interested.

**"Live and Let Live".** In connection with European Conservation Year, there is to be an exhibition in the Cathedral Cloisters and College Hall, Worcester, with meetings, talks and films in the evenings, from Sat. Oct. 3rd to Thurs., Oct. 8th.

**Family & Social Service.** The annual People's Offering service for parishes in the Deanery of Evesham will be held in St. Peter's, Bengeworth on **Thursday, Oct. 15th, at 7-30 p.m.** Representatives from the parishes will present their contributions. The preacher will be the Right Rev. John D. McKie, Asst. Bp. of Coventry. There will be refreshments after the service, in Bengeworth Church House.

**Evesham Deanery Synod.** Mon., Oct. 26th, Evesham High School, 7-30 p.m.

**BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES**  
**Church Services**

- Oct.**  
 4 **Trinity 19.** St. Francis of Assisi. 8-0 & 11-0 H.C. **Wickhamford Harvest Festival Evensong 5-30 p.m.** No evening service at Badsey. Cars will be at Chapel Street entrance to churchyard 5-10 to 5-20 to take any Badsey people without transport to Wickhamford.  
 7 Wed. 10-0 H.C.  
 11 **HARVEST FESTIVAL** (See Note below). 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Family Eucharist (with Children's Harvest Offerings). 6-45 Evensong, Preacher: Rev. J. D. Morris, Vicar of Broadway.  
 14 Wed. 10-0 H.C.  
 15 Thurs. 7-30 p.m. People's Offering Service, Bengeworth (See Note above).  
 18 **St. Luke, Evangelist. Trinity 21.** As for 3rd Sun. The lessons at Evensong will be read by Dr. M. J. Cox.  
 21 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 7-30 p.m. William Seward Commemoration Service at Evesham Methodist Church. See Note below.  
 25 **Trinity 22.** SS. Crispin & Crispinian, Martyrs. As for 4th Sun.  
 28 Wed. **SS. Simon & Jude, Apostles.** 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service.  
**Nov.**  
 1 **ALL SAINTS' DAY. Trinity 23.** As for 1st Sunday. 6-45 Evensong. Names for remembrance at H.C. to be given to the Vicar in writing by Sat. evening.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING & SOCIAL**

Church Services on Oct. 11. See above. Gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables, eggs, preserves and other produce will be welcome, and should be brought to church late on Friday, or **not later than 10 a.m.** on Saturday, when decorating begins. Helpers will be welcome.

We shall be glad of helpers on Monday morning, 12th, beginning at 9-30, to sort out the goods, and arrange and deliver baskets to the sick. Cars will be useful if available.

The Harvest Party will be on the previous **Tuesday, 6th October**, in the Meeting House, 7-30 to 10-30 p.m. Tickets (4/-, children at school 2/6), including special buffet supper, are available from any member of the P.C.C. All are welcome.

**P.C.C. Meeting**, Tues., Oct. 20th, 7-15 p.m. Special meeting on Stewardship.

**WILLIAM SEWARD  
 COMMEMORATION SERVICE, Oct. 21**

Last year we had in our church the 1st commemoration service for William Seward, the Badsey man who became one of the earliest Methodist lay preachers, and died a martyr's death at Hay-on-Wye, Oct. 22nd 1740. At that service the minister of the Methodist Church and a large number of the congregation joined us in Holy Communion at the altar which Seward gave to our church.

This year we are invited by the Methodists to a United Communion Service at Evesham Methodist Church on Wednesday, 21st October, at 7-30 p.m. The Methodist Archivist and historian the Rev. John Bower, M.A., B.D. will speak about William Seward's life and work. I do hope that a good number of Badsey Anglicans will come, for the Methodists responded very warmly to our invitation last year. P.B.

**Church Clock Appeal.** The treasurer, Mr. A. W. Eyre, reports that to date just under £80 has been received. This does not include what has been put into collecting boxes. The appeal will shortly be closed, so any further contributions should be made as soon as possible.

One splendid effort by children came in too late for mention in the last number. A rummage sale made £5-12-0. It was organised by Elizabeth & Joanna Mag-

owan, Elizabeth & Jenny Goldstraw, Katie Aldington, Judith Hardiman and Ian Goodrich.

- Mothers' Union.** Wed., 7th. 10-0 Corporate Communion.  
 Tues., 13th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. "Any Questions". Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Cleaver, Crisp & Eyre.  
 Tues., 20th. 2-30 Prayer Group Meeting, at Mrs. Bell's house, High St.  
 Tues. 27th. 7-30 Branch Meeting. Talents Evening. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Harwood (Committee), Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Dale & Miss Davies. J.B.

**Holy Baptism**

- Aug. 23 Laura Louise Willett; Adrian William Wilde; Jennifer Kedward; Gareth James.

**Holy Matrimony**

- Aug. 29 Malcolm Stanley Wood, of Canterbury, and Janet Elizabeth Wheatley, of Badsey.  
 Sept. 12 Paul John Dudley, of Redditch, and Yvonne Frances Jones, of Badsey.

**Burials, R.I.P.**

- Aug. 26 Olga Perry, aged 68.  
 (service in Badsey Ch., followed by cremation)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry had not lived in Aldington very long, and so it is sad that Mrs. Perry has died before we had more time to know her. Mr. Perry may be assured of the warm and prayerful support of friends here.

**Jottings.** We wish a happy and successful year to all students, especially those starting at college for the first time. Congratulations to Glyn Lewis on getting his commission as Pilot Officer in the R.A.F.

At the time of writing Alan Reeves is about to go into hospital for a leg operation, and Mr. G. Crisp is also going into hospital for treatment. Also in hospital at this time are Mrs. Danks (getting slowly better), Mr. M. Chapman (making a splendid recovery), Mr. H. Robinson, Mr. F. Haynes, Mr. A. Woodedd, Mr. A. Oliver (of Aldington). Mrs. Pethard has been transferred to Avonside Hospital, where she is very happy, and plucky as ever. Others who have been in hospital but have now returned home are Mrs. Harry Stewart, Mrs. W. Bird, Mrs. Bedenham, Mr. Hardwick.

**Servers for October.** 4th, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 M. Clements. 11th (Harvest) 8-0 G. Toney; 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 18th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 K. West. 25th, 8-0 A. Owen; 11-0 M. Exon; 6-45 T. Bell (Server), N. Wild (Crucifer).

**War Memorial Flowers.** 4th, Mrs. A. C. Sears. 11th, Mrs. P. Sparrow; 18th, Mrs. D. Bonehill. 25th, Mrs. K. Cleaver.

**Birthday 10/-.** Mr. R. Hartwell, Mr. J. F. Braby (21st).

**WICKHAMFORD NOTES**  
**Church Services**

- Oct.**  
 4 **HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 9-0 Holy Communion (with hymns). 5-30 Evensong, with Children's Harvest Offerings. Preacher: Rev. G. C. Smith, Assistant Priest, Evesham.  
 11 **Trin. 20.** 3-0 Holy Baptism. **Badsey Harvest Festival Evensong, 6-45 p.m.** Cars will pick up at Sandys Arms 6-20 to 6-30.  
 15 Thurs. 7-30 p.m. People's Offering Service, Bengeworth (see Note after Vicar's Letter).  
 18 **S. Luke, Evangelist. Trin. 21.** As for 3rd Sun. The lessons at Evensong will be read by Dr. W. C. Astley.

25 Trin. 22. As for 4th Sun.

Nov.

1 ALL SAINTS' DAY. Trin. 23. 9-0 H.C. Names for remembrance to be given in writing to the Vicar by Sat. evening. 3-0 Evensong (Nov. to Feb.)

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING & SUPPER

Church Services on Oct. 4. See above. Gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables, eggs, preserves and other produce will be very welcome, and should be brought to the church on Friday, Oct. 2, or before 10-0 on Sat. morning. All parishioners (not only members of the Sanctuary Guild) are invited to bring harvest offerings.

The Harvest Supper & Social will be in the Memorial Hall on Sat., 10th October, 7-30 p.m. for 8-0 sharp. Tickets 5/- each are now on sale. All are welcome.

Confirmation Classes. See Note after Vicar's Letter.

Young Wives. Meeting, Wed., 7th October in Memorial Hall, 8 p.m. A.G.M.

### ROAD STEWARDS

The Vicar and Parochial Church Council want to make their pastoral care of parishioners more effective, and road stewards have been appointed in every road or area of the parish. They will inform the Vicar of any case of sickness, death, or urgent need in their area, and of any new residents who have arrived. The Road Stewards are as follows: Manor Road, Mrs. Astley, Brookfield; Manor Close, Mrs. Stanley, 2; Coombeheld Rd., Mrs. Spragg, 7; Washington Rd., Mrs. I. Sutton, 2; Sally Close (1-9, 2-14a) Mr. & Mrs. M. Hartwell, 12; Sally Close (11-25), Mr. & Mrs. Beacon, 11; Sally Close (16-36), Mrs. Jones, 36; Drysdale Close

(1-14), Mr. & Mrs. G. Clinton, 10; Drysdale Close (15-19, 30-42), Mrs. Evans, 18; Drysdale Close (20-29), Mr. & Mrs. Brown, 23; Evesham Rd., (Sandys Arms to Longdon Hill), Mr. & Mrs. G. Poulter, 5; Pitchers Hill (odd Nos. Sandys Arms to Sandys Ave.), Mrs. Figgitt, 17, & the Post Office; Sandys Avenue, Mrs. Whiting, 59, Pitchers Hill; Pitchers Hill (odd nos. Sandys Ave. to parish boundary), Miss Cox, 93, Pitchers Hill; Pitchers Hill (even nos. 2-34), Mr. & Mrs. J. Poulter, Mill Farm; Pitchers Hill (even nos. Mill Farm to no. 34), Mrs. G. Halford, 36, Pitchers Hill (even nos. 36 to Murcot Turn).

### Holy Matrimony

Sept 4 Paul Gelling, of Stockport, and Stella Rosemary Terry, of Wickhamford Manor.

„ 5 Keith Gordon Campbell Cook, of Banbury, and Betty Brotherton, of Wickhamford.

Jottings. We shall be very sorry to lose Miss 'Bunty' Strong and her brother Mr. Robert Strong, who are shortly moving to Elmley Castle. Miss Strong has been an invaluable worker for the parish and Evesham Deanery.

Brian Martin who has been our organist for the last two years, is leaving to go to college, in which we wish him a happy and successful career. We are very grateful for all his help. At present Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Collett are playing for us when available, but we need to find someone who can undertake the post on a regular footing. Anyone with some skill at the piano should be able to play our little electronic organ.

Mrs. Shirley Habbitts has now been home some time, hobbling around. Mr. Gaskell is in hospital, but seems to be doing well.

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