

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 1971

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 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

20th January, 1971

My dear People,

When I was a child there was a little party game the adults or older children used to play with any small child not already 'in the know'. It was called going up in an aeroplane. You were made to stand on an ironing board, blindfolded, and told you would go up ever so high. In actual fact, they lifted you about two feet off the floor, very slowly, making appropriate exclamations with their mouths near the ground, so that you had the sensation of being elevated to an enormous height. Suddenly you felt your head strike something. "Good heavens!" they would say, "he's reached the ceiling". Of course all that had happened was that someone had touched the top of your head with a book. But to a small child it was all very real.

I suppose I remember it well because, when it was tried out on me, I was thoroughly frightened. I cannot forget that experience of being in mid-air, blindfold, with nothing to hold on to.

"Nothing to hold on to"

This is a spiritual experience which many people undergo when the ground seems taken from under their feet by some calamity in their lives, and they find with a shock that they have no living faith to sustain them. "I have just got nothing to hold on to".

Most people, living their daily lives according to a more or less unchanging routine, do not bother their heads as to whether they have a religious faith or not. If they have been brought up in an outwardly Christian environment, and were taught Bible stories at school, they either continue to accept this as a sort of permanent backcloth without much relevance to their performance, or else they reject it as belonging to childhood days long left behind. Perhaps they had never been helped to find a faith for adulthood; perhaps they had never tried. Something happens, and they find they have 'lost' their faith. "I have just got nothing to hold on to".

What we all need is a faith for living, a faith for every day, which is not going to be shaken by the unexpected or unusual.

But it is hard, isn't it, to keep a living faith in God, even for those who pray regularly and receive the Sacraments? It is particularly hard in these times, when the whole environment is secular, and it is generally assumed that God is not there, or that, if he is, he is powerless to influence what goes on in the world.

The Church a chameleon?

There are people who say that the Church must adapt her doctrines to the times if she is to survive. If it is meant that the Church must deny or modify the truth of what she has always believed, her survival would be worthless. In any case the Church would not survive. As Dean Inge so neatly put it: "He that is wedded to the spirit of today will be a widower tomorrow".

Personally I find my understanding of Christian faith keeps on changing, and I could not possibly believe in the same way as I did only a few years ago. But I am sure I believe in the same truths as before, and which I was taught (though my parents and teachers would have expressed them quite differently if they had been living today).

A Faith for Today

We all need to have a faith in God which is not world-renouncing but world-conquering. We need a faith for today, which is not the same as a faith in Today. We need a faith which will not be disturbed by changing environment and mental outlook, but will be strong enough to welcome new insights of our time and be enriched by them. Our faith for today will be a faith in the living God, the Ancient of Days who makes all things new.

With this in mind, my suggestion for this Lent is that we try to work out what is our faith for today. I do not pretend to know the answers. If I did, it would not be faith, but knowledge. If we had perfect knowledge, we should not need faith.

Here is the programme:—

1. On Sunday evenings, beginning before Lent (see Church Services under separate Parish Notes), I shall preach a course of sermons trying to outline the Christian faith as I see it as a creed, not for the past, but for today.

2. On Friday evenings at 8 p.m. during Lent, we shall have a meeting in Badsey Church for discussion on these sermons, and try to transform our understanding into prayer. Wickhamford people will of course be very welcome to come and take part.

3. There will be a question box in each church, and I hope people will put in written questions on matters of faith (or anything arising out of the sermons) that we can try to answer in the sermons and the discussions.

I don't deny that this programme is going to demand some sacrifice of time and concentration, from you as well as from me. But God is the rewarder of those who seek Him. You may like to use this prayer of Archbishop George Appleton:

"O Christ our God, who art ever the same yet reveal-est thyself anew to every seeker: Thou art greater than our minds can grasp or our words describe. Knit us together in love and witness that men may see something of thy many-splendoured glory and may worship with us the one Eternal God, blessed for evermore".

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Christian Aid. Christmas Appeal in Badsey & Wickhamford £64.

Save the Children Fund. Carol Singing by 2 groups of children £1-1-3; donation £10.

Church of England Children's Society. Christmas collections, Badsey £23-17-0; Wickhamford: £5-11-10.

Leprosy Mission Phials, 1970. Badsey £13-10-6; Wickhamford £13-7-0.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Apologies that the prayer leaflets were not available as usual. The Vicar ordered 100 on Jan. 6. On Jan. 18, after the Week had begun, 17 arrived in a battered package which had been re-sealed by the Post Office.

Austerity Lunches in Lent. As in recent years, bread and cheese lunches will be served in the Walker Hall, Evesham, on Fridays in Lent from 12-30 to 2-0, the proceeds to go to Christian Aid.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Feb.

- 2 Tues. Presentation of Christ in the Temple. 10-0 H.C.
- 3 Wed. No H.C.
- 7 Septuagesima. As for 1st Sun. 6-45 People's Service. Some hymns old and new.
- 10 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 14 Sexagesima. As for 2nd Sun. 6-45 E. "A Faith for Today", 1.
- 17 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 Quinquagesima. As for 3rd Sun. 6-45 E. "A Faith for Today", 2.
- 24 ASH WEDNESDAY. 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service. 4-0 Children's Service. 8-0 H.C. (with hymns and address).
- 28 Lent 1. As for 4th Sun. 6-45 Sung Eucharist. "A Faith for Today", 3.

SERVICES IN LENT (See Vicar's Letter)

Ash Wednesday. See above.

Sunday Evenings. A course of sermons on "A Faith for Today".

Friday Evenings at 8 p.m. A meeting in church to discuss further the points raised and difficulties that people have in their minds, and to pray together. The 1st on Friday, 5th March.

Children's Lent Services on Wednesday afternoons after school, in church at 4 p.m., beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 24th.

Sunday School Parties. Many thanks to all who helped, or gave donations.

P.C.C. Meeting. Tues., Feb. 2nd, 7-15 p.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Tues., 16th Feb., at 7-15 p.m. in the Parish Room (Vicarage)

It is hoped that all parochial church electors will do their best to attend. There are important matters to deliberate on together, one being the Stewardship Renewal which is planned for this year.

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 presented its accounts, the election of a new Council takes place. Nomination forms will be found on the church table. Please place your nominations for the Council in the box provided in church, or let me have them in writing before the meeting.

Corporate Communion of P.C.C. and officers, Sun., Feb. 21st, 8 a.m.

Mothers' Union. Tues. 2nd. Feast of Presentation in Temple. 10-0 Corporate Communion. N.B. Tues., not Wed.

Tues. 9th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Miss M. Henderson, Deputy County Archivist. "Who cares about the past?" Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Hartwell (Committee), Mesdames Major, Sladden and Stewart.

Tues. 23rd 7-30 Branch Meeting. Talk and Demonstration of Jewellery Making by Mrs. Walker, Elmley Castle. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Bell (Committee, Mesdames Richards, Thompson and Watkin.

Subs. are due after Feb. 15th and Mrs. Watkin will be pleased to receive these. Subs. 30p. Magazine money 12p. J.B.

Young Wives' Group. Next Meeting Feb. 15th, at 8 p.m., in the Meeting House, Chapel Street. Subject: Discussion of Problems on the First Day of Decimalisation. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. B. Hall, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. Maberley, Mrs. Watkin.

The following meeting will be on 1st March, at the same time. D.B.

Burial, R.I.P.

Jan. 22 Hilda Alice Keen, aged 81.

Our prayerful sympathy with all the family, especially Ronald. Mrs. Keen was taken ill suddenly and died after three days in hospital. It was sad that she did not live long in her new home after waiting so many months. She had struggled very gallantly with bad health for some years, and will be missed by many friends.

Jottings. On 18th January the bells were rung in honour of Mr. & Mrs. William Knight, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding, a proud day for the village as well as their family. A gracious message was received from the Queen.

Mrs. March, our oldest parishioner, celebrated her 94th birthday on the 21st. She is still in hospital, but has been moved to the Avonside branch, where she is able to have physiotherapy treatment. She would be greatly cheered by visits from friends.

Mr. George Crisp continues to have hospital treatment. Also in hospital at the time of writing are Mrs. L. Willett, Mrs. Joan Major, Mr. Harold Wheatley, Mr. Alan Knight, Mr. Albert Evans, and, besides our other parishioners in Avonside, Mrs. Kate Taylor. Mrs. Crump has been rather poorly but has picked up again and continues to make progress. Mr. Fred Cleaver has been disabled for some weeks with displacement of the spine, but shows great courage.

Servers for February. 7th, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 K. West. 14th, 10-15 A. Owen (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer); 6-45 N. Wild. 21st, 8-0 M. Betteridge; 6-45 M. Exon. Ash Wed. 24th, 8 p.m. (H.C.) C. Tucker. 28th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 K. West; 6-45 M. Clements (Server), N. Wild (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Feb. 7th, Mrs. R. Harker. 14th, Mrs. N. Cook. 21st, Mrs. Sears.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

(Note that during Lent there will be a service of Holy Communion every Sunday).

Feb.

7 **Septuagesima.** As for 1st Sun. At 3-0 E. "A Faith for Today", 1.

14 **Sexagesima.** As for 2nd Sun. 3-0 E. and Holy Baptism.

21 **Quinquagesima.** As for 3rd Sun. At 3-0 E. "A Faith for Today", 2.

24 **Ash Wednesday.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.

28 **Lent 1.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E. "A Faith for Today", 3. See Vicar's Letter about Lent Course.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed. 10th Feb., at 7-30 p.m.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is to be on Wednesday, 10th March, at 7-15 p.m., not 3rd March as given in last Parish Review.

Application forms for the Church Electoral Roll may be had at the church, or from the Electoral Roll Officer, Mr. J. Sharp, 10, Manor Road. They should be returned to him (or handed in at church) not later than February 7th.

Jottings. Our sincere condolences with Mrs. Cockbill, of 97, Pitchers Hill, on the sudden death of her husband, William Cockbill, aged 51, on 17th January. Cremation took place at Worcester on the 21st.

Your prayers are asked for the sick. Mr. Derek Mitchell is undergoing treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mr. Kenneth Crump is very ill at the Radcliffe Hospital. Mrs. V. Smith has had severe bronchitis. Returned from hospital are Mrs. D. Allchurch and Mr. A. Wardle.

LAW & ORDER - OLD STYLE, 4.

In our last extracts from the Badsey parish constable's accounts in earlier times, we saw him relieving maimed or discharged soldiers and sailors, and helping them on their way. The constable had a duty to look after any travellers in difficulties, if they appeared within the parish boundaries. He was generally willing to do this, and (if they were poor) to hasten them towards their destination, lest they stayed long enough in the place to claim right of settlement, and subsequently became a charge on the rates. There were so many vagrants in Tudor and Stuart England, that laws were continually being enacted to keep the poor within their places of origin. The result was not only a great deal of individual hardship and injustice, but a severe restraint on the mobility of labour. The parish officers were very chary of allowing outsiders in, for even a temporary job, e.g. at harvest. If they stayed as long as forty days, they could claim settlement, and then they could not be moved on.

If a poor person entering a parish carried a pass showing that he was on his way to his place of settlement, the constable had to convey him to the parish boundary, and pass him on to the next constable. Should he be a tramp who carried no such pass, the constable would administer a whipping (at the village whipping post) "till his or her back be bloody", and drive him out of the parish. Examples of the latter do not appear in the accounts, as there was no expense involved. Here are some examples of assistance to pass-bearers, taken from one year's accounts (1700):

"to six pasingers for caring them to Bratforton and mony also I gave them 1-6
to one more pasingr. and a little child for taking them to Aldington and money as I gave them 0-5
for lodging to pasingers and one little child at John taylers he had 0-3
for caring one woman and 5 small children to Bratforton and mony as I give them 1-6"
There are many others for this year, but no such entries for the next few years, until 1706, when we get just one entry:
"for passing a passenger a way 0-10"
In 1741 we have this item:
"Jan. 9 gave to a Greatbelly'd Woman 0-6".

The poor woman had probably been driven out of her own parish, for bastards took the place of settlement where they were born. Other parishes would give her something to clear off as quickly as possible, lest she and her offspring became a charge on their rates. Note the time of year, and more than 200 years after this item in the accounts one feels a twinge of compassion. Many young people were driven to promiscuity in those days, not because society was permissive, but because of the acute housing shortage in the countryside. Cottages in perfectly good condition were sometimes deliberately demolished, lest the parish should have too many paupers to support. There was no one to champion the Cathy's of those days (except perhaps the novelist Fielding).

(To be continued)

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