

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

AUGUST, 1971

PRICE 20p. 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 Family Service and Holy Baptism 3 p.m. (all the year).
- Third Sunday Family Eucharist 11 a.m.
- 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.

22nd July, 1971

My dear People,

The first thing I want to do in this letter is to express my pleasure and thankfulness for the **Wickhamford Flower and Gardens Festival**. As Mrs. Astley, the Chairman of the Festival Committee, has written in her report in this issue, it was truly a parish effort. The keen and co-operative spirit shown by so many people in the village, and the assistance given in a wide variety of services and skills, was quite splendid. Mrs. Astley and the committee are to be congratulated, not only for their enterprise and successful organisation, but for the way they have helped to strengthen the corporate life of the community.

The publicity arrangements were also very good. Some of the visitors had come from a considerable distance. Most of them, whether local or from further away, expressed their enjoyment and appreciation. Surprise was often shown that the floral decoration was the work of amateurs. People commented not only on the floral arrangements, the beauty of the gardens, and the interesting exhibits, but on the friendliness they received, and the care with which church and churchyard are maintained.

674 people bought tickets for the gardens and village hall. This does not include senior residents, who had separate tickets at a special rate, and young children with their parents, who were admitted free. There were also a number of people who saw the church but did not buy tickets for the gardens, etc. So altogether there must have been well over 700 visitors over the three days.

Well done, everybody concerned, and many thanks.

The new Vicarage...

We have now moved into our new house, although there is still some work unfinished and (as you will have observed) the garden is yet to be laid out and started.

Many of the older parishioners are naturally regretful that the old vicarage is to be demolished. Let me say straight away that no one will be more sad to see it go than the Braby family. Whatever its inconveniences, it has been our happy family home for 13½ years. It has also been the home of six previous vicars and their families (and before that, in the days of non-resident vicars, of countless curates).

...and the old one

I expect you realise that, in order to pay for the new vicarage, it was necessary to sell the old house and grounds at a reasonable price. Grants from the patrons, Christ Church, and from the Church Commissioners, generous though they were, would only cover part of the cost. The Diocesan Dilapidations Board were advised that the old house would be unsaleable as it stands. Planning consent being granted for the demolition of the house, it was possible to offer the whole site for sale for housing development.

Although the house was built in 1786 (with Victorian extensions), it has little architectural interest. The interior is without elegance. The rooms are lofty and draughty. The complicated roof-plan meant that there was continual rainwater penetration (I once had a number of books ruined through water pouring down the wall), while the flooding of the cellar every time the ground water level rose, and the rising damp all the time, made it a very unhealthy place to live in, and dreadfully cold in winter. There are many servants' rooms in the attic, and in the later extension over the parish room; in fact, both house and gardens were designed to be run by a large domestic and outdoor staff. Even modern labour-saving devices could not solve the problems of day-to-day living in such a house.

The decisive factor was that it was an extremely costly building to keep in repair. The vicar who built the house, the Rev. G. W. A. Drummond, never lived in it himself, and architects who surveyed it for later vicars reported that it had been poorly built and on insufficient foundations. When the Rev. W. H. Price came as vicar in 1897, he wrote: "There are only 2 or 3 rooms in the Vicarage which are not badly disfigured by very serious cracks...the ceilings, with few exceptions, require to be re-plastered". This, he said, was not due to negligence by his predecessor, the Rev. C. G. Gepp, who had spent huge sums of money out of his own pocket in extensive decorations, "but the constant cracking of the walls has had such a disastrous effect...that it certainly appears as if nothing has been done".

That was ¾ of a century ago, and the house has not grown any younger! Mr. Price wanted the walls underpinned. But this was ruled out by the cost. In the old days the dilapidations were the responsibility of the incumbent, who paid an annual sum into the repair fund, according to the estimated cost of repairs over a 5-yearly period. When I came here this cost was being borne by the Parochial Church Council, and this was later taken over by the Diocese. It was running to about £200 a year, and this was never enough to cover the cost of the actual repairs when they were done. It simply could not go on indefinitely.

A difficult decision

When I came here I was told that the paddock on the N. side of the house was reserved for the building of a new vicarage. At the time we thought: "Oh well! that won't be for a few years yet". But it was quite clear that I would be the last vicar who would consent to live in the old house. We kept putting off the decision to take steps about having a new vicarage built, although under pressure from the diocesan authorities to do something about it. Eventually, about three years ago I was asked to allow Badsey to be included in diocesan plans for new parsonages, otherwise a block grant from the Church Commissioners would not be available again. So I allowed the process (a very long one) to set in train.

And now we are here, and very comfortable I think we are going to be. We have been fortunate in our architect, Mr. T. R. Bateman, and in our builders, Messrs. Maudsley and Jordan. The Bishop is coming to bless the new vicarage on 20th September. We regret that there is not sufficient room to invite more than the Parochial Church Councillors from both parishes on this occasion. But we do want you to regard the vicarage as a home where parishioners are welcome. Some people have said, "That's a big place they're putting up for you". I hope parishioners will feel able to say: "for us". Because of the uses to which it is put, a vicarage has to have somewhat larger accommodation than a private house, e.g. a study, for consultation as well as office work, a room large enough for committee meetings and for entertaining, etc. That is why we have to have a bigger house than usual, not just to keep up with the Joneses! Anyway, it is for the benefit of parishioners as well as the parson, and you are welcome. But please give us a few weeks to get straight!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Aug.

- 1 Trinity 8. Lammas Day. As usual for 1st Sun.
- 4 Wed. 10.0 H.C.
- 6 Fri. Transfiguration of Our Lord. 10.0 H.C.
- 8 Trinity 9. As usual for 2nd Sun.

- 11 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 15 **Trinity 10.** As usual for 3rd Sun.
 18 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
 22 **Trinity 11.** As usual for 4th Sun.
 24 Tues. **St. Bartholomew, Apostle.** 10-0 H.C.
 25 Wed. No H.C. No Pram Service this month.
 29 **Trinity 12.** Be-heading of St. John Baptist. As for 5th Sunday. 10-15 Family Service.

Sept.

- 1 Wed. St. Giles, Abbot. 10-0 H.C.

Notes: Sunday School does not re-assemble till Sept. It is hoped that parents will bring their children to the church services. The Choir also will be on holiday in August. No Pram Service this month.

Mothers' Union and Young Wives. No meetings in August.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

We hope that you will all have read Mr. John Bailey's interesting and thought-provoking article on this subject in the July issue of the Parish Review. He is giving us invaluable help in carrying out our Stewardship Renewal Campaign which will come to its peak in the autumn, with the Parish Meeting and Social on October 6, and Stewardship Services on Sunday, October 10, which is also Harvest Festival Sunday.

On July 9, Mr. Bailey met a group of parishioners who will help in the campaign and explained what assistance they are asked to give. After speaking to us and showing a film-strip he answered questions on the purpose of the campaign, the way in which it is being organised, and the practical help which is needed.

The Committee has drawn up a letter of invitation to the Parish Meeting and Social and to the Services, which will go out between September 10 and 14 to all who are known to have at least some direct connection with the church and should therefore like to be invited. Delivery of the letter will be followed up by visits from Hostesses who will call to find out whether you are interested and hope to attend, and if in some cases transport may be required. At the meeting on October 6 there will be short talks, refreshments and a social period. Literature will be given out to all present, including an Intention Slip to be filled up and handed in at one of the services by those prepared to enter into a Christian Stewardship undertaking, or renew their existing one, for giving in Time, Ability and Money what is due in the service of God and his Church. This is a question which everyone must answer for himself, in the light of careful and prayerful thought, but our whole Stewardship programme is planned with the object of helping everyone to come to a decision which is right in his or her particular circumstances. We hope that the literature, articles in the Review, and addresses in church will be used to help form these decisions. Opportunity will also be given to some who cannot attend the meeting or services to receive a Visitor in their homes for information about the purpose and meaning of Stewardship.

You will realise from this sketch of our programme that we need plenty of helpers to carry out the plans efficiently. We are grateful to those women who have promised to act as Hostesses and men to act as Visitors, but we should welcome more volunteers, for the village is large and we do not want to ask too much of any one helper. If any readers are willing to assist in the above tasks, or in providing and serving refreshments at the Social, will they please offer their services to Mrs. Daphne Bell, Hostess Leader (High St. Badsey) or Mr. Bill Berwick, Visitors' Leader (6, Old Post Office Lane, Badsey), or to me?

Juliet E. Sladden,
 Chairman, Stewardship Committee.

Overseas Committee, Coffee Evening, 2nd July. Once again we were able to enjoy the hospitality of Seward House, and this time we really were permitted by the weather to spend the whole evening in the garden.

Many thanks to all who helped and contributed in so many different ways to this successful and enjoyable evening. The sum of £40 was realised by it.

Dr. A. L. Spencer-Payne, of the S. African Church Development Trust, was our invited speaker. He told us of several urgent needs in the training of African teachers and nurses, particularly in Lesotho and in the Diocese of Lebombo (Port. E. Africa). After he preached to us also on the Sunday evening, the P.C.C. decided to adopt the project of paying for the training of an African nurse at a mission hospital at Maciene, Lebombo. She is a very promising student, and we agreed to find £30 p.a. for two years to help her qualify for matriculation, and after that £150 p.a. for three years for her nursing training. This parish used to support mission work in the Diocese of Lebombo many years ago, and it will be good to renew the link.

Holy Baptism

- June 27 David Alan Murray; Sally-Anne Murray; Kim Louise Johnston; Lee David Edwards; Jane Elizabeth Allen.

Holy Matrimony

- July 10 Christopher Jelfs and Shirley Christine Harvey, both of Badsey.

Burials, R.I.P.

- June 17 John Hirst, of Blackminster, aged 73. (cremation).

Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Hirst on the sudden death of her husband, a Birmingham man who had become popular with his neighbours in the place of their retirement.

- July 14 Hilda Watson, of Aldington, aged 62 (cremation, after service in Badsey Church).

Our sympathy and prayers for Mr. Watson and the members of the family. Mrs. Watson faced with great courage the knowledge that her illness would be prolonged and without hope of recovery. She was sustained throughout by a strong Christian faith and the comfort of the blessed Sacrament.

Jottings. We offer warm felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wasley, of Aldington, on the celebration of the 60th anniversary of their marriage on 26th July. A great record, and we are very proud of them and happy to share their joy.

Heartly congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Powis, who celebrated their Golden Wedding last month.

Your prayers are asked for the sick. At this time Mr. Albert Jelfs is in hospital with heart trouble. Mrs. Joyce Hay has returned from hospital, but is laid up at home. Mr. D. Latham is undergoing treatment at Ronkswood. Mr. George Crisp makes very slow progress. Mrs. March is now so much improved as to have left hospital, and is now residing at Durcott Lodge. Miss Banner is also out of hospital. Mr. L. Sharp has been in hospital after a severe heart attack, but is now home, convalescent. Betty Cleaver had to be rushed to hospital for an emergency operation, but is now home and much better. Mrs. Dyke had a bad fall and broke her femur, but is home from hospital, and with great determination is making excellent progress in walking. Mr. G. Keitley was quite seriously ill with chicken-pox. Mr. Jack Ford is recovering from one of his bad turns.

Servers for August. 1st, 8-0 A. Owen; 11-0 A. Clements; 6-45 K. West. 8th, 10-15 C. Tucker (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 15th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 T. Bell. 22nd, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 M. Exon; 6-45 T. Bell (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer); 29th, 8-0 G. Toney; 10-15 A. Owen; 6-45 K. West.

War Memorial Flowers. Aug. 8th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 15th, Mrs. R. Hartwell; 22nd, Mrs. A. W. Sparrow; 29th, Mrs. G. Marshall.

Birthday Thank-offering. Rev. P. Braby, 60p.

Mrs. P. Churchill wishes to thank all concerned for their kindness, generosity and good wishes on her retirement from Badsey School.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Sundays, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. As for 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Suns. (See Front Cover).

Holy Baptism

July 11 Sarah Jane Barnard; Joanne Patricia Smith.

Holy Matrimony

June 24 Martin John Houghton, of Norton, and Anne Mary Sutton, of Wickhamford.

Burials, R.I.P.

July 24 Lily Vera Smith, aged 58.

Our condolences and prayers with Mr. Frank Smith and the family.

For some years Mrs. Smith was hon. treasurer to the Wickhamford Mothers' Union branch, and was a keen and regular member. She was wonderfully patient during her long and painful illness, uncomplaining and always considerate, upheld by her Christian faith and receiving Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

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FLOWER FESTIVAL

What a wonderful weekend was experienced in Wickhamford!

The Festival Committee feels that the friendly co-operation of all who took part was largely responsible for the success of the occasion. This was a truly Parish effort. We should like to mention the Sanctuary Guild for the floral arrangements in the Church, the Young Wives for the decorations in the Memorial Hall, and to the Women's Institute for organising the refreshments. The exhibits in the Hall were provided by the Almonry Museum, the County Record Office, friends in Badsey and elsewhere, and our own parishioners. A big thank you for those who opened their gardens. Who were most entertained - visitors or hosts?

From all this pleasure, a profit to Church Funds of £200.

I should like to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to the Festival Committee and everyone who supported us. B. Astley.

Jottings. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hill, who celebrated their Golden Wedding at the end of June.

At the time of writing Mr. J. Spragg is still in hospital. Mrs. R. Franklin, in Avonside Hospital, has not been very well, but is better now.

Birthday Thank-offering. Mrs. L. Nott 25p.; Rev. P. Braby 60p.

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