

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

OCTOBER, 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.
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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	...	...	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.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

15th September, 1971

My dear People,

"The Church of England must stop discussing Confirmation. It must make up its mind to go forward at once with bold experiment. Only so shall we find a new meaning in the old rite".

Thus a bishop is quoted in an important report published in June for presentation to the General Synod (and eventually to Deanery Synods and parishes): "Christian Initiation: Birth and Growth in the Christian Society".

One hopes this will be the last report on this subject to be discussed without action being taken. For the last 30 years there have been many of them. I have read them all. I have taken part in many discussions of them. They have only increased my discontent. For they have pointed out how unsatisfactory is our present practice, without recommending any one set of proposals on which the Church should act. I have found that most of my brother clergy feel the same about it.

Reversing the order

Briefly, this is what the present Commission propose about Confirmation and admission to Communion.

That it should be permissible, in any parish that so desired it, to reverse the present order of Confirmation and reception of Communion. The children of practising communicants, and other children who have been growing up in the life of the worshipping community, should be allowed to receive Holy Communion at the age of 9 or 10, but should not be asked to make the act of commitment that is involved in Confirmation till 17 or 18.

The wrong age

At present, where Confirmation is sought, it is "the gateway to Communion". The age at which most candidates come forward for Confirmation is not the right one for making a life-long commitment. They generally sincerely look forward to receiving Our Lord in the Holy Communion. But they are not sufficiently mature to understand the implications of adult commitment to Christ, and we treat them unfairly in expecting them to do so. In most parishes Confirmation is administered after a period of intensive instruction in the Christian religion. It is not surprising that many candidates regard the rite itself as "getting one's finals", a sort of graduation ceremony or "passing out parade". They receive Communion once or twice after the big event, and then lapse altogether.

Preparing candidates at 12 or 13, the usual age at which they come forward, is in my experience very difficult precisely because it is just before the age of questioning. Children before puberty are apt to be conservative, and quite ready to accept things as they are. They still crave for security rather than risk. Very soon afterwards they will be rejecting everything "given". At 12 you just do not see the problems, and they don't interest you anyway. Why should they? But by 15 or 16 you begin to see the problems all right, and you are convinced that solutions to them which seem reasonable to anyone over 30 are not worth listening to. From about 17 you are prepared to concede that what you were taught may be worthy of your attention, if only to show how far superior are the beliefs you have worked out for yourself.

All this is part of our natural human development, and the pity of it is that present procedure in the Church takes no account of it. A person cannot make a life-long religious commitment till he has found his way to faith - his own faith. This is not achieved by the intellect alone, and certainly not by memories of formal instruction in religious doctrines given at an earlier age.

Experience of belonging

To quote the Report: "The experience of belonging, expressed in being present at the Lord's Table and receiving nourishment sacramentally as it is received by the rest of the Christian community, becomes a valuable ingredient in the continuing training process towards spiritual maturity. The soundness of the educational method by which one learns by doing and by experiencing is well proved, and to have the experience of receiving Communion while undergoing training greatly enhances the spiritual content of the process".

The Report also gives another argument for early admission to Communion. "A child's capacity for worship and a sense of mystery and reverence is at its height at the age of nine or ten, while it is much less pronounced in the years of adolescence ... To postpone the experience of sacramental worship until the child's best aptitude for it has deteriorated is both theologically and pastorally indefensible".

Of course some simple instruction would be needed before a child could receive his first Communion, but this would not be a complete course on Christian doctrine and ethics.

The rite of Confirmation itself, as an act of Christian dedication, renewal of baptismal vows, and strengthening in faith, would become much more meaningful if administered at the age when a baptised Church member attains his 'majority', i.e. is qualified to be on the Electoral Roll and play his part as an adult in the life and work of the Christian community.

There is much else in this Report besides the proposals on Confirmation and Communion: the administration of infant Baptism in the present pastoral situation, the need to provide a new service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child (instead of the present "Churching of Women"), a historical explanation of the relation of Confirmation to Baptism, and the new understanding of the theology of Confirmation that has come about in the last few years. I conclude with two further quotations.

Congregational concern

"Increasingly we must find ways of encouraging people to 'opt in' rather than to 'opt out' of involvement in Church life and Christian witness. One such way is to recreate the care and concern which lead to spiritual growth, through a fresh understanding of Confirmation, which should become a vital part of the life of the whole congregation".

"We believe that our proposals could do much to build a real desire on the part of children and young people to retain their membership of the Church. We believe them to be one answer to the problem of lapsed communicants, because people tend to retain their contact with groups which support them, genuinely make them feel valuable and show respect for the contribution they make to the group life". These last two extracts emphasise the importance of the whole worshipping group in the process of Christian initiation.

Of one mind

How refreshing and unusual, in these days of lengthy minority statements of dissent, is the last line of this Report: "This Report has been approved and signed by all members of the Commission".

"Good for you!" says one grateful reader, viz.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

Church Repairs. Every five years our two churches are inspected by an architect and the necessary repairs are carried out accordingly. Earlier this year our architects, Messrs. Badger, Harrison and Cross, made surveys of both churches, and as a result repair work will be in progress during the next few weeks, at a cost of some

£300 each church. Most of the work is external, and will not interfere with Sunday services; but in Badsey Church the S. Aisle roof has to be treated against infestation by beetle, and this will mean that mid-week services will not be held during the week beginning Sept. 27.

Adult Confirmation Course. This will begin after the Badsey Stewardship Renewal, in the hope that further candidates may come forward as a result of it. Anyone interested is asked to contact the Vicar as soon as possible.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7-30 p.m. at the REMEMBRANCE HALL, BADSEY
PARISH MEETING & SOCIAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

at ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, BADSEY
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES:

8-00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10-15 a.m. Family Eucharist.

6-45 p.m. Evensong.

with Presentation of Stewardship Intention Slips.

We hope that readers have all received their letter of personal invitation to the above gatherings and are planning to attend. The meeting on Oct. 6 is an opportunity for parishioners, old and new, to come together to show their concern for strengthening the life and work of the Church in this parish; to hear what this means in terms of what is named Christian Stewardship; to enjoy a friendly social evening with refreshments; and to take away some explanatory literature to ponder over.

There will be about half an hour given to short speeches on different aspects of Christian Stewardship and an opportunity for questions and discussion. We are not laying on a programme of entertainment on this occasion, but want to give plenty of time for informal talk and sociability, during which refreshments will be served.

Please help us to cater adequately for the party by telling us that you hope to come. Our team of hostesses will call upon as many households as possible to get your replies, but if you have not had a call from one of them, it is because the village is now so large that they cannot manage to visit every house. In any case, be assured that you will be most welcome to the gathering, but as the invitation letter asks, give name(s) in not later than Sunday, Oct. 3, to the Vicar, or Mrs. Bell, or Mrs. Plant of Aldington.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, you are asked to join in worship at one of the services and to present there the intention slip which you will have received at the Social, on which you are asked to record what you are prepared to offer by regular giving of money and practical service in the work of God's Church. Do not be put off by any thought that you have too little to give to make it worthwhile. We all have some kind of contribution we can make to the fellowship of the Church and its work, through prayer and worship, by using some of our time and skill in practical service, and by giving money responsibly and regularly; however little we can truly afford, that small portion is the expression of our gratitude to God for his gift of life and love, and of our membership in a serving Church.

We hope that there will be a very good attendance at both the meeting and the Sunday services, which will lead to increased life and vigour in the worship and Christian fellowship of this parish of ours.

JULIET E. SLADDEN,

Chairman, Christian Stewardship Committee.

Church Services

October

3 **Trinity 17.** As for 1st Sun. 6-45 Mr. John S. Bailey, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser. 3. "The Stewardship of Money".

6 **Wed. St. Faith, V. & M.** 10-0 H.C.

9 **Sat. Decoration of church for Harvest** begins 9-30 a.m. The usual gifts will be welcome, also helpers. Please bring flowers, fruit, etc. before 9-30, or on Friday evening.

10 **HARVEST THANKSGIVING & STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.** See above. 8 a.m. H.C.; 10-15 Family Eucharist & Children's Harvest Gifts. 6-45 Evensong.

11 **Mon. Arrangement & delivery of harvest baskets** to the sick. Helpers welcome, and cars, from 9-30 a.m.

13 **Wed. St. Edward the Confessor,** 10-0 H.C.

17 **Trinity 19.** As for 3rd Sunday.

18 **Mon. St. Luke, Evangelist.** 7-30 a.m. H.C.

20 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C.

24 **Trinity 20.** As for 4th Sun. Stewardship Thanksgiving Sunday.

27 **Wed.** 10-0 H.C. 3-0 Pram Service.

28 **Thurs. SS Simon & Jude, Apostles.**

31 **Trinity 21.** As for 5th Sunday.

November

1 **Mon. ALL SAINTS' DAY** 10-0 H.C.

Mothers' Union. Wed., 6th 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues., 12th 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. John from Stourbridge. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Cole (Committee), Mesdames Caswell, Eyre and Hatcher.

Tues., 26th 7-30 Branch Meeting: The Vicar will give a talk on St. Francis of Assisi, illustrated by slides. Tea hostesses: Mrs. Hartwell (Committee), Mesdames Reed, Owen and Sparrow.

J.B. Note: It is an honour to our Branch that Mrs. Joan Betteridge has been chosen to be Presiding Member for Evesham Deanery in succession to Mrs. Woods, of Hampton. Vicar.

Young Wives' Group. Oct. 4. Talk by Rev. M. Riddell, Chaplain of Long Lartin Prison. Tea hostesses: Mrs. D. Bratt, Mrs. F. Cull, Mrs. A. Perks, Mrs. R. Hartwell.

Oct. 18. Talk & Film by Mr. T. H. R. James, Dep. Secretary of Church of England Children's Society. Tea hostesses: Mrs. S. Willett, Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. M. Trotman, Mrs. I. Tritton.

Nov. 1. Cake Icing Demonstration, by Mrs. Dyde. Tea hostesses: Mrs. K. Walker, Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. J. Ives, Mrs. J. Handy.

Holy Baptism

Aug. 22 **Ryan Michael Walker;** Emma Louise Phillips; Tracey Wisniewski.

Holy Matrimony

Sept. 18 **David Ellender,** of Bengeworth and Anne Butler of Badsey. Roger Brian Harris, of Evesham, and Pamela May Jones, of Badsey.

Arthur George Crisp, R.I.P.

After a long illness, George Crisp has died in hospital as we were preparing this issue for press. A memorial notice will appear in our next issue. Our first thought is one of thankfulness that this faithful servant of God has been released after his distressing illness, and of prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Crisp and the family.

Jottings. We are glad that we were mistaken in our last issue, in stating that Miss Penny Betteridge was giving up Sunday School teaching. Our apologies to her, and relief that this is not so. Miss Jean Dyke has had to give up for a while, and we hope this is only temporary.

At present Mr. Frank Reeves, Mr. Gordon King, and Mrs. Tutton are in hospital (the latter after an operation). All are making good progress. Mr. Charles Stewart is doing very well after a big lung operation. Mr. Len Perkins is very cheerful in spite of a set-back, with another stroke. Mrs. Ida Hartwell is improving. We have been glad to welcome home from hospital Mrs. Joyce Burford, Mrs. Iris Taylor, Mrs. Audrey

Curtis, Mrs. Annette Bufton, Miss Heather Davies, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Joyce Watkin, Mr. Ted Wheatley.

Servers for October. 3rd, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 G. Toney; 6-45 P. Gresty. 10th (Harvest), 8-0 M. Clements; 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 17th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 K. West. 24th, 8-0 A. Owen; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 T. Bell (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer). 31st, 8-0 D. Norden; 10-15 M. Exon; 6-45 A. Owen.

War Memorial Flowers. Oct. 3rd, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 10th, Mrs. P. Sparrow; 17th, Mrs. D. Bonehill; 24th, Mrs. K. Cleaver.

Thank-offering. In memory of Lily Stratford (Oct. 4), £1.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

3 **HARVEST FESTIVAL.** 9-0 H.C. (with hymns). 5-30 Family Evensong with Children's Harvest Gifts.

Suns., 10th, 17th 24th 31st (**Trin. 18, 19, 20, 21**). As for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Suns.

HARVEST SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT

on Saturday, 9th October
in the MEMORIAL HALL
7-30 for 8 p.m.

Tickets 30p. from Mr. J. Sharp, 10, Manor Road, or

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

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any P.C.C. member.

If anyone is able to help with the catering, will they please contact Mrs. B. Brown, 23, Drysdale Close.

Young Wives' A.G.M. Wed., Oct. 6, Memorial Hall, 8 p.m. Details in September issue.

P.C.C. Meeting. Wed., Oct. 13, 7-30 p.m.

Miss Alice Cox, who has given such faithful service for so many years as superintendent of the Sunday School, has expressed a wish to retire and hand over to others. Miss Cox has characteristically asked that she should not be praised or publicly thanked for this work, as it has been done in Our Lord's service, so I must respect her wishes. Some people have told me that they would be willing to help with the teaching, but I have not been able to find anyone who will take charge. I shall be glad to have offers. Vicar.

Holy Baptism

Aug. 8 Joanne Sharp; Stephen Mark Roberts; Pauline Estelle Clinton.

Holy Matrimony

Sept. 4 Richard Leslie Corbett, of Evesham, and Pamela Dawn Sturt, of Wickhamford.

The Sick. Pray for Mr. John Spragg, who is again in hospital, and for Mr. Dick Sutton, who has undergone a most difficult operation to give him a new shoulder.

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