

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

DECEMBER, 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.

19th November, 1971

My dear People,

The **Christian Stewardship Renewal programme** in Badsey and Aldington has been completed, so far as we can call 'the end of the beginning' a completion.

I should like to express my own personal appreciation of the splendid work done by all who have helped - a true stewardship of time and talent here. We have been most fortunate in having Miss Sladden as the chairman of our committee. She and its other members have given much time and thought to the planning and organisation. Very valuable have been the services of our Diocesan Adviser, Mr. John Bailey. He has done much more than advise: he has not only put his expertise at our disposal, but worked tirelessly with the team, and inspired us to fresh visions and renewed efforts.

Then there were the 30 hostesses who made the preliminary visits, and gave such welcoming entertainment at the parish gathering, where the stewardship scheme was explained and questions answered. There were our 8 men visitors who covered so much ground between them, giving up their time to attend training sessions and then to call on people in their homes. There is the administrative work as Stewardship Recorder which Mr. Jim Ives has been continuing so faithfully almost since the beginning of the Scheme ten years ago.

In statistical terms the results are as follows, 59 Intention Cards have been handed in, of which 37 are from new members and 22 from existing members who have promised an increase in their contributions. There are 9 new Covenanters. Extra money promised amounts to £385 per annum. In addition £123 will be claimable by the P.C.C. in tax refund on new covenants. This makes in all £508 new money per annum. Of the 'opportunity cards', 23 have been returned. These represent offers of Christian service of various kinds, or expression of interest in particular activities. These are being followed up in due course. The number of these cards which were returned seems at first sight disappointing. But this may have been due to the suggestions on the card being of necessity somewhat general, and we are very far from assuming that people who did not fill in these cards have no desire to offer service, or share in the life and witness of the Church.

Committed Membership

Figures really tell us very little in terms of results. The basic intention of this renewal programme was to awaken the desire in Christian members of a more definite commitment to Christ, and to enable them to express that commitment in specific pledges of time, service and possessions. As Miss Sladden said in an interview with the Evesham Journal: "Over and above the encouraging tangible results, we believe that the whole Stewardship effort will strengthen our Christian life and worship in the parish".

Committed membership is what matters: not attachment. If you are merely attached, you can just as easily be detached; you come and go as your mood takes you. A ring on a finger is an attachment. It can be slipped off or lost or destroyed without damage to the organism and its functions. But the finger itself is not an attachment: it is a member of the body, a living part of it. It shares in the life-stream of the body and it works for the body. It is just the same between a committed member of Christ's Church and someone attached to it.

The New Electoral Rolls

An opportunity of expressing commitment to the cause of Christ through his Church comes at this time throughout the country. There are to be entirely new Church Electoral Rolls. In the past they have merely been revised from year to year. Once a person's name was on the Roll, it could not be removed unless they died, moved out of the parish, or expressly wrote to ask for it to be removed. The result is that the parochial

electoral rolls have long ago ceased to be dependable records of the strength of active church membership.

Now, by the Synodical Government Measure of 1969, a completely new Electoral Roll has to be drawn up in each parish every three years, beginning in 1972. People's names will not automatically remain on the Roll, for it will be a new Roll altogether. Those who wish to be on the new Roll will have to apply. This will be an opportunity for genuine Church members to "stand up and be counted".

Application forms will be available at Badsey and Wickhamford churches, or from the Vicar, or from the Electoral Roll Officers appointed in each parish by the Parochial Church Council. The Electoral Roll Officer for Badsey and Aldington is Miss L. D. Core, 7, Old Post Office Lane, Badsey; for Wickhamford, Mr. J. Sharp, 10, Manor Road, Wickhamford. When filled in and signed, the forms should be returned to the appropriate E.R. Officer, or to the Vicar, or placed in the box available for that purpose in the church. In Badsey and Aldington, these forms must be handed in by Feb. 22, and in Wickhamford at a slightly later date. But it is best that application should be made as soon as possible.

The Christmas Spirit

To come back for a moment to Christian Stewardship. (What follows applies to readers in both parishes).

Christian Stewardship of course concerns our regular planned giving in service, time and money. But when we have made our calculations as to what ought to be our regular commitment, that does not mean we can close our hearts and minds to spontaneous, even impulsive, giving for Christ's sake, when moved by the Spirit of God to do so. Christ says to his disciples: "When you have done all that is required of you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have only done what it was our duty to do".

The great fault that many of our younger generation see in our present order of society is that it values calculative, intellectual, organisational performance to the exclusion of a life of emotion and feeling. There is a lot of truth in this, although much depends on personal temperament as well as on social conditioning. Anyway, there is something about Christmas which does make its special appeal to the heart. We may say that this should not be so - that if one is truly a Christian one's charity should not be confined to special times, and that much of the talk about "the season of goodwill" is either sales promotion or pagan sentimentality. Yet behind all the tinsel and trappings is the wonder and mystery of God's goodwill towards men revealed in the Birth in the stable. A loving response to the generosity of God finds its best expression in care for his suffering children. This is surely what we mean by the Christmas Spirit.

Christmas Appeal

So, as in other recent years, I am making a special appeal for Christmas giving, over and above your regular commitments. If we have got this Christmas spirit right, it means we should be as least as generous to Christ's poor as we are at this time to our own friends and relations.

"Help the Aged" and the Children's Society are the causes, at the two ends of the age scale, I ask you to support this year. In our Christmas Day collections we are invited to help children not so privileged as our own, through the work of the Church of England Children's Society. During the spending weeks before Christmas, I invite you to consider the claims of the aged poor on your superfluity. "Help the Aged" is a Christian organisation which provides care and relief for many thousands of old people in disaster areas such as that affected by the recent Indian cyclone (£3 will send 5 blankets); and also self-contained flatlets for some of the desperately poor aged folk in Britain's cities. There are gift envelopes for Help the Aged at

both churches. Please take one, fill it with your offering, and return it to me not later than Christmas Day.

Just imagine what it must be like to be both old and destitute - homeless, cold, hungry, and ill; without decent shelter, or herded with others in a refugee camp. When you were younger, whatever the sufferings, you had greater powers of physical resistance. But now the feeble body is racked, the mind tottering on the verge, and no one seems to care.

But you care. Pray for something more this Christmas than even the Christmas spirit. May God touch our hearts and wills with some of the flame of compassion which blazes at the heart of Christ.

Mrs. Braby and our family join me in wishing you a really blessed Christmas.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
PETER BRABY.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Note that there will be no Evening Eucharist on the 4th Sunday.

Dec.

- 1 Wed. No H.C. (on Nov. 30 Tues. St. Andrew's Day, instead).
- 5 **Advent 2.** As for 1st Sunday.
- 8 Wed. Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, 10-0 H.C.
- 12 **Advent 3.** As for 2nd Sunday.
- 15 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 **Advent 4.** As for 3rd Sunday.
- 21 Tues. **St. Thomas, Apostle.** H.C. on Wed. 22nd. 2-30 Prayer Meeting at the Vicarage.
- 22 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 2-45 Pram Service.
- 24 Fri. **Christmas Eve. 11-30 p.m. Midnight Eucharist.**
- 25 Sat. **CHRISTMAS DAY. 8-0 Holy Communion; 10-15 Family Service; 11-0 H.C. 4 p.m. Evening Prayer (said).**
- 26 Sun. **St. Stephen, the 1st Martyr. 1st after Christmas.** 8-0 H.C.; 11-0 Mattins and Holy Baptism; 6-45 Evensong with Carols.
- 29 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

Jan. 1972

- 1 **Circumcision of Christ.** 10-0 H.C.

For all who seek "the benefit of absolution, together with spiritual counsel and advice", in accordance with the Prayer Book Exhortation to Communion, the Vicar will be in church at 7 p.m. on Wed., 22nd Dec. & Fri., 24th Dec. (or other times by appointment).

The Vicar will be glad to take Holy Communion to the homes of those who through sickness or infirmity are unable to get to church at Christmas. If you are not already on his regular list, please let him know, if you would like him to come.

Decoration of the church for Christmas will be on Christmas Eve, beginning at 2 p.m. Helpers will be welcome. Flowers and evergreens will also be very acceptable, and should be brought to the church not later than 2 p.m.

The collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be, as usual, for the Church of England Children's Society.

Finance & General Purposes Committee, Nov. 30th, 7-15 p.m. the Vicarage.

Stewardship Committee, Dec. 6th, 7-30 p.m. Seward House.

Pastoral Committee. Dec. 14th, 7-30 p.m., 6, Old Post Office Lane.

Mothers' Union. Wed. 8th (please note). 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues. 14th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Farr, Prayer Group Representative. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Harwood (Committee), Mesdames Jewell, Sladden and Thompson.

Tues. 21st. 2-30 Prayer Group Meeting at the Vicarage.

There will be no evening meeting this month, but I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

J.B.

Young Wives. Dec. 6th. Social Evening Meeting.

Dec. 20th. No Meeting.

Jan. 3rd, 1972. The Fight against Cancer in Worcestershire. A talk by Mrs. Joan Taylor, Area Organiser. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. B. Sims, Mrs. P. Johnson, Mrs. V. Padfield, Mrs. M. Davies.

D.M.B.

Holy Baptism

Oct 24 Sarah Louise Jordan; Robert Geoffrey Jordan.

Holy Matrimony

Oct. 30 Michael David Jones, of Badsey, and Elizabeth Roberta Hibbert, of Bengeworth.

Burials, R.I.P.

Oct. 27 (cremation) Emily May Hawkins, aged 66.

Our prayerful condolences with Mr. Hawkins, with her father Mr. Batchelor and other members of the family. Mrs. Hawkins had been a brave invalid for many years.

Nov. 12 Arthur Orson Knight, aged 75.

Arthur Knight left Badsey to serve his country in the 1st World War, and at the age of 19 was severely wounded in the head. He never recovered, but spent the rest of his life in mental hospitals. Now the long agony for his family and friends is at an end. May God grant him light and peace. Though none of the family now live in Badsey, their records here go back 300 years.

Jottings. Your prayers are asked for the Sick. At this time Mr. Gordon King and Mrs. A. M. Porter are in Evesham Hospital. Mrs. Joyce Hay has been "in traction" for her back in Worcester, and we are glad that she has much benefitted. Others who are, or have been, in hospital are Mrs. E. Perkins, Mrs. Annette Bufton, Mrs. June Wilde, Mr. W. Sears, Mr. H. Floyd, Mr. P. Dawson.

Stop Press: We regret that Mr. Charles Stewart and Mrs. Walter Tomkins have just died.

Servers for December. 5th, 8-0 D. Norden; 11-0 M. Clements; 6-45 P. Gresty. 12th, 10-15 T. Bell (Server), A. Owen (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Exon. 19th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 T. Bell. 24th (Christmas Eve), 11-30 p.m. D. Bartrand. 25th (Christmas Day), 8-0 C. Hartwell; 10-15 P. Gresty; 11-0 A. Clements. 26th, 8-0 G. Toney; 11-0 M. Exon; 6-45 A. Owen.

War Memorial Flowers. Dec. 5th, Mrs. N. Cook; 12th, Mrs. K. Cole; 19th, Mrs. Sears; 25th, Mrs. H. Hatcher.

Earl Haig Fund (Remembrance Sun.) £13.31.

Thankofferings. Mrs. Tutton, 50p.; Mrs. Braby (birthday), 20p. Miss Sladden (birthday) 25p.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Dec.

- 5 **Advent 2.** 9-0 H.C. 3-0 E.
- 12 **Advent 3.** 3-0 Family Service and Holy Baptism.
- 19 **Advent 4.** 11-0 Family Eucharist.
- 25 Sat. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 9-0 Family Eucharist. Collection for Church of England Children's Society.
- 26 **Christmas 1. St. Stephen, the 1st Martyr.** 3-0 Evensong & Carols.

Communion of Sick. See Badsey Notes.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 14 Christopher Roy Addis; Robin John Haines.

Earl Haig Fund (Remembrance Sun.) £5.35.

Jottings. Mrs. Digby, Mrs. Proctor (of Lower Field Farm), and Pauline Allchurch have recently come out of hospital after operations. Your prayers are also asked for Mr. Dick Sutton in his long convalescence, and for Mrs. Iris Sturt who is waiting to go into hospital.

CHURCH FINANCE: AN EARLIER CRISIS

We are told that the Church at large faces a serious financial crisis, through inflation and smaller congregations. 100 years ago the Church of England weathered a financial storm quite as serious, though for different reasons.

In the old days there were no collections at church services, neither was there 'Christian Stewardship'. Church expenses were met out of the compulsory Church Rates, levied on all householders and landowners in the parish. The Churchwardens were responsible for assessing and collecting the rate, and accounting for the money at the Easter Vestry. If there was a special need, like a major restoration or the re-hanging of the bells, an additional levy was made.

Church rates became more and more unpopular as the 19th century wore on. Dissenters in particular resented paying a tax for the upkeep of the parish church in addition to ordinary government taxes, when the upkeep of their own chapels was by voluntary subscription. Some went to prison rather than pay the rate. In the big cities the collection was often successfully resisted. It is interesting that in the 1830s a Bill was nearly passed, by which the Government would have taken over the upkeep of all parish churches out of national taxation. What happened in the end was that compulsory Church Rates were abolished by Act of Parliament, though the Churchwardens might still levy a voluntary rate.

In Badsey and Aldington in 1854, the last year of the compulsory rate, it produced, at 2d. in the £, £14. But in the first year of voluntary contributions the receipts more than doubled, to £28-16-6! Next year, however, it had dropped to £16, then to £13, finally in 1860 to just over £7. The novelty seems to have worn off. In Wickhamford at this time the voluntary church

rate (at between 3d. and 1½d. in the £) produced anything between £4-8-0 and £6-12-0. But in 1868 another Act abolished Church Rates altogether: 1870 was to be the last year a voluntary church rate might be assessed. That year in Wickhamford 29 people were assessed: 23 refused to pay.

The next thing was to call for subscriptions to the Church. In 1871 in Wickhamford 7 persons (including the Vicar) subscribed, producing £4-3-11. Next year there were no subscriptions. Instead £5-10-0 was raised by Penny Readings. (People paid a small fee to hear the reading aloud of popular books). Next year they made £6-0-8 out of the first night of the Penny Readings, but the second night they were 11-6 out of pocket, so this form of money raising was abandoned. They went back to subscriptions. However, in 1874 they had to be much more ambitious. A heating apparatus was installed (by Messrs. Crisp of Badsey) in Wickhamford Church, costing £23. They managed to raise the lot (and more) by subscriptions and an entertainment.

The same year, in Badsey Church, Sunday evening collections were begun. They amounted to £7-1-10 for the year, plus £6-13-6 from subscriptions. Again the novelty wore off. In the next few years Sunday evening collections dropped to £3 or £4 a year. So there had to be also "quarterly collections", presumably in the mornings. By 1897-8 collections in church amounted to £21-7-11½. But now there were other popular means of raising money, such as bazaars, fetes and concerts. The restoration of Badsey Church in 1885 cost £2,100. The debt was still not paid off in 1898.

Not till the end of the century was there a collection for outside objects. In 1899 we find in the Churchwarden's account the item:

"Collection for Socy for Propagation of Gospel £1-7-10".

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