

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

APRIL, 1972

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.

## THE VICAR'S LETTER

20th March, 1972.

My dear People,

Several old landmarks in Badsey have been disappearing: the Vicarage, the Bell Inn, the Mill House. There is nothing new about this. Demolition, adaptation, re-building have been going on in Badsey, as in other villages all through its history. Our forefathers had no cult of Conservationism. They did not preserve buildings for their antiquarian or picturesque qualities.

So we cannot blame the R.D.C. that, in its decision to adapt Silk Mill cottages to modern living conditions, it was unable to make use of the oldest part. This might have involved considerable public expenditure without justifiable result.

Nevertheless, it has been sad to see the old mill house go, with its grey weathered stone walls and mellow red tiles, and the date stone with the inscription SJE 1711. Joseph Smith the miller and his wife Elizabeth, with a growing family, presumably re-placed an older and less suitable building with this one. The mill was in the hands of this Smith family for generations, and exactly 100 years later, at the time of the Badsey Enclosure Act, Anthony Smith was in possession. Soon after that it was converted into a silk mill, and the big red brick building added, in those days a tall structure with four storeys, like many textile mills of the period.

There is no separate mention in Doomsday Book of a mill at Badsey, as there is at Aldington. But later we know that Badsey mill, like Aldington and Wickhamford mills, belonged to Evesham Abbey, and had to supply eels for the monastic refectory from its pond.

The silk mill does not seem to have been in operation for more than about twenty years. I do not know the exact dates. It seems to have been an offshoot of the successful silk mills at Blockley. The name of the proprietor (or manager) at Badsey was Wingfield Gee. Bentley's Directory of 1841 says: "A little S. of the church stands a silk-mill, which gives employment to about 70 of the villagers." This is not borne out by the National Census Schedules for that year, which list the occupations of only 5 people in Badsey, 9 in Wickhamford, and none in Aldington, as connected with the silk industry (throwsters, winders, yarnsters). No doubt there were several workers from other villages. But the business was probably already collapsing. In the Census of 1851 there is no trace of it. Billings' Directory of 1855 has this: "There is a silk factory in the parish, which has been closed for some time, but work is about to be resumed, the premises having been taken by Mr. Isaac Gee, who intends to carry on the trade on an extensive scale."

These intentions did not materialise. The buildings and plant were sold by auction on 12th October, 1863. The bill of sale has a very interesting inventory of the machinery. The building was bought by William Parker, who resided at Badsey Manor. He knocked off the two top storeys, and converted the rest into tenement houses in 1864, as the date-stone in the central gable shows.

I suppose that neither he nor Wingfield Gee nor Joseph Smith would have been surprised to be told that further demolitions and alterations would take place in 1972.

Change and decay, patching up, final dissolution. That is the lot of the earthly bodies that house us too. Just as well, because what we need is not conservation but resurrection.

Christ is risen! Easter life and joy be yours.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

**Christian Aid Week, May 15 to 20.** We need plenty of helpers, and Mrs. P. Churchill, of 14 Chapel Street, Badsey, our organiser, will be glad to have names as soon as possible of any who are willing to collect. Last year, in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford we achieved a record total of £117.75. We must do even better this year, for the need for Christian Aid is greater than ever. The service and meeting for helpers will be on Tuesday, 9th May, in the Methodist Church, Evesham, at 7-30 p.m.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### April

1 **Easter Even.** 7-30 Mattins & Ante-Communion. 9-30 Decoration of church. Helpers welcome, and flowers. Please bring flowers to the church not later than 9-30. 6-30 Evensong & Preparation for Holy Communion.

2 **EASTER DAY. 7-15 & 8-0 Holy Communion. 10-15 Parish Eucharist. (Sung). 6-45 Evensong.**

The Vicar will be glad to take Easter Communion to the homes of any who through sickness or infirmity are unable to get to church. If you are not already on his regular list, please let him know.

5 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

9 **Easter I.** (Low Sunday). As for 2nd Sun.

12 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

16 **Easter 2.** As for 3rd Sun.

19 Wed. St. Alphege, Archbp. & M. 10-0 H.C.

23 **Easter 3.** St. George, M., Patron Saint of England. As for 4th Sun. 11-0 M. & Holy Baptism.

25 **Tues. St. Mark, Evangelist.** 7-0 H.C.

26 Wed. 10-0 H.C. 2-45 Pram Service.

30 **Easter 4.** St. Catherine of Siena. As for 5th Sun. 10-15 Family Service.

#### May

1 Mon. **SS. Philip & James, Apostles.** 7-0 H.C.

**P.C.C. Meeting,** Tues., April 4th, 7-15 p.m., the Vicarage.

**Evesham Deanery Synod,** Mon., 24th April, 7-30 p.m., Bengeworth Church House.

**Mothers' Union.** Wed., April 5th. 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues. 11th. 2-30 A.G.M. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Hartwell (Committee), Mesdames Crisp, Eyre & Floyd.

Tues., 25th. 7-30 Branch Meeting: Speaker Dr. D. E. Thompson, O.B.E., Medical Officer of Health. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Ives (Committee), Mesdames Franklin, Kinchin & Marshall.

Wed., 26th. 2-45 Quiet Afternoon at Norton Church, conducted by Lady Alethea Eliot. J.B.

**Young Wives' Group.** April 3rd. No Meeting, as Easter Monday.

17th. Social Evening. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. M. Dore, Mrs. W. Beasley, Mrs. C. Smith, Mrs. M. Ball.

May 1st. Coffee Evening. See Notice below. J.A.W.

## YOUNG WIVES GROUP COFFEE EVENING

IN THE MEETING HOUSE

MONDAY, MAY 1st, at 7-30 p.m.

**Bring and Buy. Cakes. Nearly New Toys. Stationery.**  
ADMISSION - 10p.

In aid of Comforts for Avonside Hospital.

## SIXTY PLUS CLUB

A number of older people have requested that the Sixty Plus Club should be revived. There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, 19th April, at the Meeting**

House, at 2-45 p.m. which anyone interested in the reformation of the Club, and also anyone who is prepared to help in its organisation, is invited to attend.

### REPORT OF ANNUAL VESTRY & ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING, MARCH 14

This year there was a disappointing attendance of only 23 parishioners.

The Vicar spoke appreciatively of Mrs. Anne Clark's work as churchwarden and regretted her having left the parish. He also thanked Mr. Don Hartwell, and Mr. Peter Tucker, Deputy Warden. Mr. Hartwell and Mr. Ralph Taylor were then elected Churchwardens for the coming year.

Mr. Michael Wood, Hon. Treasurer, was absent owing to the illness of his infant son. Appreciation was expressed of his able handling of the finances since taking over at short notice after the much lamented death of Mr. Maurice Harvey. The audited accounts were passed, showing a total expenditure from the general fund of £1728, of which £473 had been sent to Diocesan Quota, and £280 to missions and charities.

The Vicar reported that communicant numbers in 1971 (2875) were higher than the previous year, but not much above the average, which had remained constant for the last 20 years, in spite of increased population. The number of sick Communioners continued to increase, there being 134 in 1971. The Sunday School had again suffered losses in teaching staff. The main feature of parochial life in 1971 had been the Christian Stewardship Renewal, exactly 10 years after the original campaign. Mr. J. F. Ives reported that, as a result, promises had been received which, with tax refund on the covenants, would bring an increase of about £500 p.a. The response offering time and ability was not so encouraging. Total membership 119.

Other reports were given of the formation of the Young Wives' Group, now numbering 46; repairs to the church fabric at a total cost of over £400; from the Pastoral and the Overseas Committees, and the Mothers' Union. The new Electoral Roll numbered 199 names against 366 on the old one. Sales of the Parish Review average 440-450 a month, but owing to increasing costs the price in 1973 would be 30p. per annum.

Discussion took place on the poor attendance at the administration of Public Baptism with Mattins on the 4th Sunday. It was agreed that, for an experimental period, beginning in May, Baptism would be administered at shortened Evensong at 4-0 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday, with no evening service that Sunday. It was hoped also that parents and godparents might find this time more convenient.

The Vicar said he wanted to encourage the laity to take increasing responsibility in public worship. He hoped the monthly 'People's Service' would be planned and conducted by different groups and committees, as had been done twice last year.

Elections took place as follows:—

**Deanery Synod** (vacancy): Mr. R. J. Taylor. There are 9 others, previously elected.

**P.C.C.:** Miss L. Core, Mrs. G. Floyd, Mrs. D. Hartwell, Mr. H. Hatcher, Mr. J. Ives, Mrs. A. Owen, Mr. M. Wood.

**Deputy Churchwarden:** Mr. P. S. Tucker.

**Hon. Auditor:** Mr. L. Knight.

**Sidesmen:** Messrs. J. Bartlett, A. Bell, K. Cole, A. Eyre, M. Gorham, R. Gregory, J. Ives, D. Jelfs, C. Jones, A. Lewis, A. Owen, A. W. Smith, P. Sparrow, P. S. Tucker.

**Training Course for Sunday School Teachers.** Miss R. Hiscox, who is succeeding Miss J. Harcombe as Diocesan Adviser for Children's Work, will be coming to

Evesham to meet the Sunday School teachers of our Deanery on Wednesday, 3rd May, at Church House, Evesham, at 7-30 p.m. On subsequent Wednesday evenings, in the same place and at the same time, beginning 10th May, she will conduct a course on teaching methods for new teachers or those who would like to learn. It is good of her to run this course locally, and I hope several from this parish will avail themselves of the opportunity. P.B.

### Holy Baptism

Feb. 27 Alan John Pritchard.

### Confirmation

March 19 (at St. Egwin's, Norton) by the Bishop of Worcester: David John Hall; Ian Stuart Simmonds, Susan Simmonds, Brenda Hall, Joyce Mavis Ruff.

### Burials. R.I.P.

Feb. 28 (cremation). Edward Arthur Watson, aged 61.

Mr. Watson, of Aldington, had already a weak heart before he underwent the strain of many months' nursing his wife during her fatal illness last year. He was a fine example of marital devotion.

The death of David Latham at the age of 35, from a rare blood disease, is a sad loss. Our prayerful sympathy with Mrs. Latham and her family. David, who was a Christadelphian, was buried at his old home near Cinderford, on February 25.

Another death at an early age was that of Mrs. Sladden's daughter Elizabeth. The funeral was at Durham, where she had lived and worked for 25 years. A memorial service was held here on the same day, March 7th.

March 21 Ida Lucy Hartwell, aged 74.

Our loving sympathy with Mr. Dick Hartwell and all the family. Mrs. Hartwell had been afflicted with Parkinson's disease for some time but had not let it get the better of her. Her death was due to a rapidly developing cancer and finally pneumonia.

She was very much loved and will be greatly missed. A faithful Christian communicant and devoted wife, mother and friend, she had been in earlier days a very active worker for the Church and village. She was a keen member of the Mothers' Union and of the Women's Institute.

**Jottings.** On Sunday, 5th March, the following were admitted to the Choir: Timothy Knight, Nicola Cleaver, Jeannette Powell, Beverley Vann, Jackie Vann, Carolyn Watkin. The girls look very smart in their blue gowns, and it is hoped in the course of time to robe the boys and men in cassocks of the same colour.

At the time of writing there is a good deal of sickness. Mr. Jim Harwood, who has been in three hospitals, is being nursed at home. Mr. Jack Collett and Mr. Ernest Lardner (who has undergone a major operation) are in Ronkswood Hospital. Mr. Leslie Sadler has had an operation for an artificial hip in the Worcester Royal Infirmary, and little Douglas Wood is there, having had a kidney removed. Mr. Charles Hall and Mr. W. Toney are in Evesham Hospital, and Mrs. Savage and Mr. Albert Jelfs in Avonside. Others who have been ill are Mr. Aubrey Syril, Mr. Tony Bennett, Mr. Jack Ford (who has had a nasty fall). We greatly regret that on account of arthritis Mr. Gorham has had to resign from the P.C.C.

**Servers for April.** 2nd (Easter), 7-15 D. Norden; 8-0 C. Tucker; 10-15 A. Clements (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 9th, 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), P. Gresty (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Owen. 16th; 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 M. Clements. 23rd, 8-0 T. Bell; 11-0 P. Gresty; 6-45 A. Owen (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer). 30th, 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-15 D. Barrand; 6-45 T. Bell.

**War Memorial Flowers.** April 2nd, Mrs. F. Barnard; 9th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 16th, Mrs. S. Goldstraw; 23rd, Mrs. F. Jones.

**In Memoriam.** Edward Arthur Watson, £25. Frederick Stratford, £1. (March 25).

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services

#### April

- 2 **EASTER DAY.** 9-0 Parish Eucharist. 5-30 Evensong. Communion of Sick. See Badsey Notes.
- 9 **Easter I.** 3-0 Evensong & Holy Baptism.
- 16 **Easter 2.** 11-0 Parish Eucharist.
- 23 **Easter 3.** St. George, M. 5-30 Evensong.
- 30 **Easter 4.** 5-30 Evensong.

**P.C.C. Meeting,** Wed., April 12th, 7-30 p.m.

**Evesham Deanery Synod.** Mon., April 24th, at Bengeworth Church House.

### ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**Wed., 26th April, 7-15 p.m., Memorial Hall**

All applications for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll must be returned by Sun., 9th April at the very latest. It is hoped that all who have declared their membership of the Church through personal enrolment will come to participate in the annual church meeting on the 26th.

The first business is the election of churchwardens. Then, after the outgoing Parochial Church Council has

reported on its work and presented its accounts, the election of the new Council takes place. Nomination forms will be found on the church table. Please let us have your written nominations for the P.C.C. before the meeting. Hand them to Mrs. Parry, or the Vicar, or bring them to church.

After the elections there will be discussion on important matters concerning the future of our church and parish.

**Report on Coffee Morning for Cathedral Appeal, March 4.** This was very successful, and enjoyable as a social gathering, thanks to the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Terry in the lovely Manor House. Financial result as follows: Entrance £8.70; Bring & Buy £15.30; Cakes £13.23; Donations £3.50. Total £40.73. Expenses 73p. **Net Total: £40.**

#### Holy Baptism

March 12 Tracy Marie Southern.

**Jottings.** Mr. Wilfred Dickens died very suddenly, and we offer our prayerful condolences to Mrs. Dickens and her family. The funeral was at Cheltenham Crematorium on 25th February.

At the time of writing Mr. Harry Walters is in hospital recovering from a bad fall. Mr. Dick Sutton and Mr. Fred Taylor have both been in hospital. Mrs. K. Richardson has had an operation.

At the time of going to press, we have had news of the tragic death of John Spragg. Our very sincere and prayerful sympathy with his wife and little daughter, his mother and other members of the family.

**Christian Aid Week.** See notice after Vicar's Letter.

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