

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 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 and Holy Baptism 4 p.m.
Fourth Sunday Holy Communion 8 a.m. Mattins (said) 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 3rd 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 Mr. D. W. Hartwell, 35, Willersey Road.
Mr. R. J. Taylor, 34, Badsey Fields Lane. (Evesham 830250).

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).

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.
(Evesham 830395).
Clerk Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

19th August, 1972

My dear People,

Later in this issue is a list of furniture and effects of a fairly well-to-do yeoman who lived in Wickhamford about 400 years ago. His household goods would be considered far from adequate by our standards. Yet we cannot help feeling a bit envious of the simplicity of these people's lives, which were full and rewarding.

Living Standards

We live in what has come to be called the Consumer Society, "rich in goods but poor in soul", as one of the new hymns puts it. We are under relentless and almost irresistible pressure to keep adding to our stock of possessions (or continually replacing them with more up-to-date models). Nothing is made to last these days, purposely, so as to keep the wheels of industry turning and provide people with jobs, so that they can have the wherewithal to buy still more goods. None of us, I think, can take up a superior attitude over this. We know how true are the words of Christ: "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses". We are uncomfortable about it. Yet we cannot immunise ourselves against the pressures of modern society, and we cannot put back the clock. Short of an economic catastrophe, the simplicity of our ancestors' way of living will not return.

Prize Day

What we can do is to put first things first. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you". It is a case of pricing things at their proper value. That is the significance of the word "praise" in its original meaning as used in this inventory of 1601. When St. Paul wrote of judgement day, "then shall every man have his praise from God" (Authorised Version), he did not mean that God was going to congratulate everybody. He means that on that day everyone will be assessed by God at his true worth.

The words "praise", "price", "prize", all come from the same original. When we praise God or worship Him, we declare his price or worth-ship, i.e. that we prize Him above all else. Praising Him in this way, not only with our lips but in our lives, we are giving Him priority, and everything else will be praised or priced by us in relationship to God the supreme treasure. Then we can expect our lives to be full and free - not packaged with our consumer goods, but using them to God's glory.

Acquisitiveness is not limited to our own age, of course. It is as old as Adam and Eve. As a tailpiece I give you this epitaph I came across recently in a country church. It is about a naval lieutenant of Nelson's day. It positively extols group avarice as a Christian virtue! Or is it a cautionary tale?

"This gallant officer and amiable and excellent young man fell a victim to the baleful effects of the West Indian climate. Having distinguished himself in many engagements in Europe, he afterwards when at Jamaica, took so active a part in defending the claims of his Crew to their Prize money, that he received the thanks of the Judge from the Bench, but owing to his exertions on that occasion, he alas! was seized with the yellow fever and died, the 10th May, 1808, aged 23, and is buried in Kingston, Jamaica. Be ye also ready."

For what prize?

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These will begin before the end of this month, and candidates will be personally notified. The date of the Confirmation is 28th March, 1973. If there are any others who would like to be prepared, and have not yet given me their names, will they please do so by Sept. 17th. An essential part of the preparation is to be coming to church regularly and joining one's fellow Christians in worship. So anyone who is keen to be confirmed will be expected to be doing this.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Sept.

- 3 **Trinity 14.** As for 1st Sunday.
- 6 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 7 Thurs. M.U. Wave of Prayer 2-45 - 3-0.
- 10 **Trinity 15.** As for 2nd Sunday.
- 12 Tues. 9-0 H.C. (Evesham Deanery Chapter).
- 13 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 **Trinity 16.** 8-0 H.C. 10-0 Sunday School classes start again. 4-0 E. and Holy Baptism.
- 19 Tues. 2-30 Prayer Meeting at Vicarage.
- 20 Wed. Ember Day. No H.C. (see 21st).
- 21 Thurs. **St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.
- 24 **Trinity 17.** As for 4th Sunday. 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Mattins (said). 6-45 Sung Eucharist.
- 27 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 29 Fri. **St. Michael & All Angels.** 7-0 H.C.

Oct.

- 1 **Trinity 18.** As for 1st Sun. 5-45 Talk on S. African Church with pictures by Dr. A. Ll. Spencer-Payne.

Sunday School. Re-opens after summer holidays: Sun., 10th, 10-15 Family Eucharist; Sun., 17th, Classes in Church and Meeting House, 10-0.

P.C.C. Meeting, Oct. 3rd, at Seward House. Finance Committee, Tues., Sept. 12th, 7-15 p.m. at the Vicarage.

Mothers' Union. Wed. 6th. 10-0 Corporate Communion. Thurs. 7th. Wave of Prayer, in church, 2-45 to 3-0.

Tues. 12th. 2-30 Branch Meeting. Talk on Report of Commission. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Bell, Sladden, Thompson and Wilkins.

Tues. 19th. 2-30 Prayer Group Meeting at the Vicarage.

Tues. 26th. 7-30 Branch Meeting. Further talk and discussion on the Report. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Richards, Parry, Allen, and Stewart. J.B.

Young Wives' Group. Sept. 4th. Miss S. Picton-James will give a talk and show slides about the use of Solid Fuel, entitled "Gracious Living". Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Valerie Padfield, Mrs. Linda Knight, Mrs. Maureen Davies.

Sept. 18th. A talk on Crime Prevention by an officer of the West Mercia Police. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Shirley Goodwin, Mrs. Sandra Wood, Mrs. Pamela Robbins.

As a result of the **Coffee Evening** held by the Group on May 1st, which raised £45, they were able to purchase two geriatric chairs for Avonside Hospital. Eight members went to Avonside on July 27th and presented the chairs to Worcester Ward. The Matron expressed her thanks, as did Mr. W. G. Carney the Hospital Secretary. Afterwards members were entertained to tea.

The Group wish to thank everyone who helped and supported them at the Coffee Evening.

J.A.W.

Holy Baptism

Aug. 20 Russell Evans; Rachel Marie Ford.

Burial. R.I.P.

July 26 William Arthur Capener, aged 57.

Bill Capener had been in poor health for some time, with heart trouble. He was born and brought up in Badsey, the son of the late Mrs. C. Haines by her first marriage, and was living in Badsey at the time of his death. His father was killed in France before Bill was born, but he was devoted to his step-father, the late Mr. Charlie Haines, as well as to his mother. He was buried besides his parents' grave.

Jottings. At the time of writing we are very sorry that Mrs. Edith Smith is back in hospital, very cheerful as usual, and we hope she will soon recover. Mrs. Lennon is also in hospital. Mr. Tom Wilson is rather ill at the present time. Mr. Tony Brazier has been in hospital but has now returned home. Others who have been in hospital are Mr. H. Brotherton (after an accident at work), Mr. W. Merriman, Junr. (2nd time), Mrs. Joyce Watkin (for an operation), Mr. George Dixon (for an operation), Mr. Norman Sadler, Mr. Harold Wheatley. Mrs. Edith Perkins is in hospital. Mr. Charles Hall has now left Avonside Hospital to reside at Heathlands, Pershore. We are sorry that Mrs. Agnes Webb has developed shingles.

Servers for September. 3rd, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 D. Barrand; 6-45 A. Owen. 10th, 10-15 A. Owen (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer); 6-45 A. Clements. 17th, 8-0 M. Clements; 4-0 N. Bell. 24th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 6-45 A. Clements (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer).

War Memorial Flowers. Sept. 3rd, Mrs. C. Stewart; 10th, Mrs. E. Ballard; 17th, Mrs. A. Syril; 24th, Mrs. N. Cook.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Suns., Sept. 3 (Trin. 14), 10 (Trin. 15), 17 (Trinity 16), 24 (Trin. 17). As for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Suns. See front cover.

Sunday, Oct. 1st. Harvest Festival. 9-0 H.C. 5-30 Evensong with Children's Harvest Offerings.

The Harvest Supper will be on Saturday evening, Oct. 7th. Keep this date free, and look out for further notices.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 7-30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As previously announced, Wickhamford Church Sunday School is to re-open on **Sunday, Sept. 10th, in the Memorial Hall, at 11-0 a.m.** with Mrs. Anne Poulter as superintendent. Children of all ages from 3½ upwards will be welcome.

Holy Matrimony

July 29 Brian John Smith, of Badsey, and Hazel Mary Whiting, of Wickhamford.

Jottings. Mrs. Elizabeth Pitman died on 1st August, aged 85. The funeral took place at Cheltenham Crematorium. She was active for her age, and will be much missed in Wickhamford. Our sincere condolences with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith and the other members of the family.

Mr. R. Baker has been in Evesham Hospital for a few weeks, and we are glad he seems to be making a good

recovery. Mr. Leslie Poulter, now living at Bishop's Cleeve, has had an operation in Cheltenham Hospital; it is good to know he is making progress.

Birthday Thankoffering. Mrs. L. Nott, 25p.

GOODS OF A WICKHAMFORD YEOMAN 1601

Last year in connection with the Flower Festival I looked up a number of documents concerning Wickhamford at the County Records Office and had some copies made for display. It is only recently that I have had time to study the inventory of William Spooner's possessions made for probate purposes after his death at the end of 1601. Handwriting of that period is rarely easy to read at first glance, and so I had put it off till I could do it properly.

What makes this list particularly interesting is that the house in which the testator lived may have been Wickhamford Manor. The Spooners had been tenants of the property since 1529, when the first William Spooner, who came from Twyford, just north of Evesham, had the lease of the manor from Evesham Abbey, for 51 years. This lease was confirmed by the Crown at the dissolution of the Abbey ten years later. In 1562 Queen Elizabeth sold the manor to Thomas Throckmorton of Coughton Court, and three years later he leased it for 61 years to Thomas, eldest son of William Spooner, who had died in 1544. A copy of this lease has been preserved. There is a tablet to this Thomas Spooner's wife Jane, who died in 1585, in Wickhamford Church. Thomas himself died in 1593. Next year the Throckmortons sold the manor to Sir Samuel Sandys of Ombersley. One would expect the next lessee after Thomas Spooner to have been his eldest and sole surviving son Thomas. He may well have been for a while, but is believed to have bought an estate near Birmingham, where he was buried in 1614. (He is described in the inventory below, as one of the assessors, as "gent"). His father's brother William, a "yeoman" or tenant farmer, may therefore have succeeded as lessee of Wickhamford Manor. If the house described in the inventory was not the manor house (as it was then), it was at least a fairly substantial one for a yeoman. William Spooner's widow Margaret still held land in Wickhamford at her death in 1631.

In the transcription of the inventory, for the benefit of readers I have put the valuation prices in arabic numerals instead of the roman figures of the original. Unusual words are explained in the glossary I have added at the end.

A trewe Inventory of all the goods cattells & chattells that William Sponer of Wickwanforde in the Countie of Worct. yeoman dyed possessed of taken & praysed the seconde daie of January in the fflower & fortieth yeare of the the Rayne of our Soverayne Lady Queene Elizabeth in Ano Dm. 1601 by Thomas Sponer gent Henry Smyth William Wilson John Bowker & Thomas Kinman/

Imprimis in the Chamber

all the apparell	£3
Itm one Bedd & the furnyture	40s.
Itm one cubord	13s. 4d.
Itm one Table borde with formes	5s.
Itm three cofers	6s.
Itm certen Books	10s.
Itm the pewter in the Chamber	13s. 4d.
in the sollar	
Itm one Bedsted with a flockbed and the furnyture	
	30s
Itm certen pewter	20s.
Itm one Cheese Cratch	12d.

in the Chamber over the plor

Itm one Bedsted one ffetherbed & a flock bed with the furniture thereof 40s.
 Itm one Truckelbed one flockbed and the furniture of the same 13s. 4d.
 Itm two cofers and a cradell 5s.

in the Hall

Itm one Table borde with formes and Wennescott 20s.
 Itm one cuborde & a joynd chair 7s.
 Itm one spence of wennescott 10s.

in the kythin

Itm the brasse and pewter £3

in the dary house

Itm the copary Ware 13s. 4d.
 Itm one Try & a borde 6s.

in the Buttery

Itm the cowpery Ware in the same place 10s.

in the sollar over the kitchen

Itm two bedds & the furniture 20s.
 Itm one uting fatt & a Maltmill 10s.
 Itm the sheets & Lynnen in the howse £6
 Itm the Quissions 2s. 6d.
 Itm the other ymplements about the howse 20s.

in the Barne

Itm the corne in the Barne in the ffence (?) & about the howse £26
 Itm the carts & ploughes with the furniture 40s.
 Itm the wood about the howse 40s.

Itm fflower horses and ther furnytur £10
 Itm Beasts about the howse £10
 Itm ffortie sheep £6 10s.
 Itm fflower score piggs 10s.
 Sm. total £84 5 10d.
 debts that the testator did owe £35

Notes

The farm stock was worth a good deal more than what was in the house. But what a low valuation was put on the pigs! (less than 2d. each). Only one chair is mentioned in the whole house, though there were forms, beds and cushions. Note that William had 10s. worth of books. This was unusual.

"prayed" - priced or valued.
 Jan. 2, 1601 is by our modern reckoning Jan. 2, 1602.
 "cofers" - chests.
 "soller" (Solar) - parlour or living room.
 "cratch" - rack. The word is more often used of a crib or manger.
 "plor". Abbreviation for "parlour".
 "wennescott" - wainscot or panelling.
 "spence" - a large larder cupboard for storing food.
 "cowpery Ware", "copary Ware" - cooper's ware, i.e. casks, churns, etc.
 "try" - tray?
 "uting fatt" - "yoting" vat, in which barley was soaked before making malt.
 "quissions" - cushions.
 "ffence" - enclosure.

P.B.

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