

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

OCTOBER, 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).
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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).

### 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

23rd September, 1972.

My dear People,

It was inevitable that Lord Longford's report on Pornography should be greeted with cheap sneers and accusations of hypocrisy and dirty-mindedness - not only from those to whom 'porn' is financially profitable - but from the sophisticated minority who glorify moral permissiveness as a way of liberation.

They are angry because the Longford Committee has made people think about pornography and see it for what it is, instead of taking it for granted as part of the normal background of life. The swelling tide of filth has swept over us so rapidly in the last few years that we have come too easily to accept it, in the same way that we are becoming insensitive to crude violence. The fact is that sexual permissiveness does not liberate: it enslaves. It is love which liberates and fulfils human personality, and sexuality is the God-given expression of love between men and women. When sex is divorced from love, and trivialised and titillated as something standing in its own right, it degrades the dignity of man.

Furthermore pornography (or at any rate what is defined as 'hard porn') treats sexual deviations and perversions as of equal value with the normal heterosexual relationships of husbands and wives. Sadistic cruelty is represented as harmless and even desirable, if it gives pleasurable feelings to those who practise it. The beauty of true sexual intercourse, as lovers and poets have understood it in all previous ages of our cultural past, lies in the tenderness and consideration for the other's feelings and needs which it evokes.

### Human beings as things

The Longford Committee show the evil effects of pornography on the human mind in general, when they define it as "that which exploits and dehumanises sex, so that human beings are treated as things, and women in particular as sex objects".

Is not the whole cult of nudity on the stage and screen a bestial way of regarding human beings as just bodies unconnected with any particular personality? The great sculptors and painters of our cultural past have depicted the human body as the instrument and expression of a human soul inhabiting it. What grace and glory and loveliness is going to be lost to the world if pornography comes to usurp the place of art in human life! To what dismal future are we committing our children and grandchildren if all decent-minded people do not rise up in wrath and insist that this exploitation of sex for commercial gain has got to be resisted and curbed? It is quite as destructive of humanity as nuclear warfare.

To us as Christians it is a betrayal of God. He counts humanity to be so precious that He took our human flesh to save it and raise it to glory. Are we to let his Sacrifice be in vain?

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### October

1. **Trinity 18.** As for 1st Sunday. 6-45 People's Service conducted by the Overseas Committee, with talk on S. African Church with pictures, by Dr. A. Ll. Spencer-Payne.

- 4 Wed. St. Francis of Assisi. 10-0 H.C.
- 8 **HARVEST THANKSGIVING & STEWARDSHIP ANNIVERSARY.** 8-0 a.m. H.C. 10-15 Family Eucharist and Children's Harvest Offerings. 6-45 Evensong.
- 11 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 15 **Trinity 20.** 8-0 H.C. 4-0 Evensong and Holy Baptism.
- 18 Wed. **St. Luke, Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.
- 22 **Trinity 21.** 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Mattins (said). 6-45 Sung Eucharist.
- 25 Wed. SS. Crispin & Crispinian, MM. 10-0 H.C.
- 28 Sat. **SS. Simon & Jude, Apostles.** 10-0 H.C.
- 29 **Trinity 23.** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Family Service. 6-45 Evensong.

#### November

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

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING AND SOCIAL

**Church Services** on October 8th. See above. Gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables, eggs, preserves and other produce will be very welcome, and should be brought to church late on Friday, or **not later than 9-30 a.m.** on Saturday, when decorating begins. Helpers will be welcome.

We shall be glad of helpers on Monday morning, 9th, beginning at 9-30, to sort out the goods, and arrange and deliver baskets to the sick. Cars will be useful if available.

**The Harvest Party** will be on Tuesday, October 10th in the Meeting House, from 7-30 to 10 p.m. Tickets 22½p. for adults, 15p. for children with their parents. This includes a buffet supper. Tickets from any member of the P.C.C. or from the Vicarage. A welcome to all our friends, but please get your tickets as soon as possible, so that we may know how many to cater for.

**P.C.C. Meeting,** Tues., Oct. 3rd, 7-15 p.m. at Seward House.

**Mothers' Union.** Wed. Oct. 4th. 10-0 Cororate Communion.

Tues. 10th. There will be no Branch Meeting as we shall be getting ready for the Harvest Social. I hope to see you there in the evening.

Tues. 24th., 7-30 p.m. Branch Meeting, and we welcome visitors. Speaker: Miss K. Sladden, who will show slides and tell us of her work in India.

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Bell (Committee), Mesdames Bartlett, Braby, Chaplin.

Tues. 31st. All Day Overseas Sale at Worcester, to be opened by the Bishop. In the morning our Central President, Mrs. Susan Varah, will talk to us, and in the afternoon an Overseas Worker. Please will you all give me some groceries to stock our Deanery Stall. We hope to run a coach. Please give me names for this at our meetings, and help to make this event a success.

J.B.

**Young Wives' Group.** Oct. 2nd. A talk by the Editor of "Living" Magazine, Miss Vera Segal. An Open Meeting. Bring friends along. The Mothers' Union are also invited.

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Christine Smith, Mrs. June Barand, Mrs. Liz Smith.

Oct. 16th. An Open Evening. Get-Together for Tea and Chat.

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Sheila Bindoff, Mrs. Muriel Trotman, Mrs. Jacky Jones.

J.A.W.

**Sixty Plus Club.** Next Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 18th, 2-45. There will be a talk by Sister R. M. Davies. Also the usual recreation and tea. All over sixties welcome.

### Holy Baptism

Sept. 17 Rachel Louise Anderson.

### Holy Matrimony

Sept. 2 David Julian Hatherley, of East Harptree, Bristol, and Heather Patricia Davies, of Badsey.

### Burial. R.I.P.

Sept 1 (cremation after service in church) Emma Cole, aged 83.

Our warm sympathy with the relatives. A hard working woman, Mrs. Cole had been in her time a regular communicant and faithful member of the Mothers' Union. A widow for many years, she had been for a considerable time a patient in Avonside Hospital. Though her physical and mental powers gradually failed, she kept a hold on the spiritual realities. She used to welcome visitors with warm affection. She loved God, and we can be happy for the release that death has brought her.

**Jottings.** We do not usually mention Silver Weddings, which are not uncommon! But we really cannot let that of our churchwarden and his wife, Don and Joan Hartwell, at the beginning of October, pass without congratulation and best wishes.

Mr. Tom Wilson, always a gallant fighter against ill health, is now having a really bad spell. Miss Dorothy Knight is in hospital with heart trouble. Mr. George Bearcroft is also in Evesham Hospital after a stroke; Mr. George Nightingale, after a short spell there, has returned home. Mr. Bill Hatch is in the Eye Hospital, having had an operation for cataract. Mrs. Edith Smith has again been in hospital, but has again, we are glad to say, made a good recovery. Mr. Batchelor has been unwell, and unable to get to church. Mr. W. Merriman has been in hospital again.

**Servers for October.** 1st, 8-0 P. Gresty; 11-0 N. Bell. 8th (Harvest), 8-0 D. Norden; 10-15 T. Bell (Server), A. Owen (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand. 15th, 8-0 G. Toney; 4-0 A. Owen. 22nd, 8-0 S. Gresty; 6-45 D. Barrand (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer). 29th, 8-0 A. Owen; 10-15 D. Barrand; 6-45 N. Bell.

**War Memorial Flowers.** Oct. 1st, Mrs. Sears. 8th, Mrs. P. Sparrow. 15th, Mrs. D. Bonehill. 22nd, Mrs. K. Cleaver.

**Acknowledgements. Legacy.** We are happy to announce that the late Mrs. Elsie Bedenham, of Aldington, left a legacy of £20 to Badsey Parish Church. Thankoffering: Mr. & Mrs. C. Davies, £2. In loving Memory of Lillie Stratford, £1.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

#### October

3 **HARVEST THANKSGIVING.** 9-0 Holy Communion (with hymns). 5-30 Family Service with Children's Harvest Gifts.

We shall be glad of help on Monday in arranging and taking baskets of harvest gifts to the sick.

**Suns.,** Oct. 8 (Trin. 19), 15 (Trin. 20), 22 (Trin. 21), 29 (Trin. 22). As for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays. See Front Cover.

## HARVEST SUPPER AND SOCIAL

on Saturday, 7th October

in the Memorial Hall

7-30 for 8-0 p.m.

Tickets 30p. on Sale.

A welcome to all parishioners. But please book early.

### Holy Matrimony

Sept. 23 Dennis Milligan, of Tiddington, Warwickshire, and Rosemary Ann Brotherton, of Wickhamford.

**Sunday School.** This has made a good start after re-opening on Sept. 10th. We have a keen band of teachers, and hope to see many more children coming. The meetings are on Sundays at 11-0 a.m. in the Memorial Hall.

**Jottings.** We are sorry that Mrs. L. Folkes has been in hospital again. Mr. W. Mason has had a major operation, but is making good progress, and is in excellent spirits.

## FORMER VICARS OF BADSEY AND WICKHAMFORD

### 1. John Rawlins

A few years ago a framed list of former incumbents used to hang in Badsey Church. People often ask why it is no longer there, and when it is going to be restored. For reasons which are a little complicated to explain, it is difficult to trace the names and dates of some of the earlier ones in these particular parishes. We do not get on to really sure ground till about 1620. The list which I had earlier compiled was based on the researches which I (and others before me) had been able to make. Later I found there was a number of inaccuracies, and some further information came to light, so I withdrew the list from the church till I could draw up a more complete one. I now think that pretty well all surviving sources have been tapped, and will try to prepare a new and more accurate list.

However, a list of names and dates is not in itself particularly interesting. One likes to know something about the men themselves. About most of the early ones we know very little, apart from their names in parish registers and other documents. It is not until the last 200 years or so that one is able to glean information of more human interest. Even then, it is not till we come to those who were known within living memory that we can form any picture of what they were really like.

### Master of Evesham Grammar School

Did you know that one incumbent of Badsey and Wickhamford was headmaster of Prince Henry's Grammar School? We may as well start with this one. He was the Revd. John Rawlins, Minister here from 1731 to 1785 (over half a century). You can see his monument on the north wall of the transept in Badsey Church.

Mr. Rawlins was only 24 when he came here. His parental home was in Oxford. He went to the University, and it was from Christ Church that he took his degree in 1727. He seems to have resided almost entirely in Evesham. As was not unusual in those days, he later acquired other livings which he held at the same time as Badsey and Wickhamford. These were Haselton, near Northleach, and Leigh, Worcestershire. Presumably

he paid curates to do the job at these places, but there were also years when he does not seem to have been here, and curates were in charge. In his later years here he employed a number of curates in rapid succession. Probably the stipend he offered was pretty low. The Revd. O. G. Knapp, writing in the Evesham Journal, Aug. 8th, 1914, noted that Rawlins' curates were mostly men who had left the university without taking a degree, so they would have to be content with small remuneration.

John Rawlins seems to have made a sorry job of his Mastership of Evesham Free Grammar School. A recent article in the Evesham Journal pointed out that, right up to the present century, the school was hard up and unable to pay a proper stipend to the Master. So it had to rely on the part-time services of a cleric who held a local living. The appointment was made by the Corporation of Evesham. I have looked up the Council minutes of the time, and see that in 1742 it was found that the then Master, William Watkins, had "perpetually neglected the school", and the Revd. Mr. John Rawlins was elected "to enter the said school on Lady Day." Ten years later the Corporation decided to descend on the school in state on 16th June "by 9 o'clock in the forenoon". It was the same old story of neglect. As a result of their inspection John Rawlins had to resign the Mastership.

#### A noted preacher

We do not know whether he was more diligent in the work of his cure. In later years he became a Justice of the Peace, and seems to have acquired some reputation as a preacher. I have come across no less than six printed sermons of his. They are somewhat long,

and might be thought very tedious today. Three were preached before the University of Oxford. One wonders whether the sort of arguments he used sounded convincing even to the hearers of that day. Here is an example. It comes from a sermon preached in St. Mary's, Oxford in 1761, entitled: "The Scripture Prophecies consider'd - and compar'd with the oracles of the Heathens." The scripture prophecies, Mr. Rawlins said, are of very early institution, because they date their origin from the Fall of Man. "The subsequent Oracles of the Gentiles may with greater Propriety be suppos'd to be mimick Attempts devis'd by the Pagan Priests, in Opposition to the Jews."

In 1766 he preached the Assize Sermon in Worcester Cathedral entitled "The Connection between Religion and Government and the Usefulness both to civil Society". On more than one occasion in the 1770's he preached in the Cathedral the Anniversary Sermon for the Governors of Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Daniel Jones, curate to Rawlins' successor the Revd. G. Drummond, appended this note to the Badsey register of baptisms in 1789: "It is to be observed that the Register Book was not filled regularly since the year 1768 owing to the Revd. Mr. Rawlins late Minister here his neglect."

Mr. Rawlins married twice. A son John by his first wife died young. A second by the same name went to Oxford, was ordained, and died in 1811 as Vicar of Ponteland, Northumberland.

Mr. John Rawlins Senr. died 3 Nov. 1784. He was 77. "Here", says the inscription on his monument in Badsey Church, "like a true and faithful Pastor he began his Labours, and here he Ended."

P.B.

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