

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

NOVEMBER, 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

21st October, 1972.

My dear People,

This is the first opportunity I have had of writing to you since making the announcement in both churches on Sunday, 1st October, that I had accepted the living of Temple Guiting with Cutsdean, offered me by Christ Church. It was not easy - making that announcement - and it was even harder to make the decision which preceded it.

We are so firmly rooted here after nearly fifteen years, and have made so many delightful friends - not only in these parishes, but in the neighbourhood and the Diocese - that if it were just a matter of deciding where to live, we should never want to leave here at all. What has prompted the decision is the question of my ministry, where it could be most effective as I get older, and what sort of a minister is needed here.

Some people have said to me: "Why are they pushing you away up there?" "The truth is that as matters still stand in the Church of England, no one can push a beneficed clergyman anywhere he doesn't want to go (unless he commits the most flagrant misdemeanours). So the choice is entirely my own (and Eileen's).

You may think it a strange choice, particularly as we have so recently moved into our comfortable new vicarage. Let me tell you in all sincerity some of the factors behind the decision.

Some years ago we realised that a new vicarage must be built, for the sake of the parish as well as for ourselves. If I were to die suddenly or leave for some reason, it would be hard to find a priest to accept the living, if it meant residing in that old house. The result might have been a re-grouping of parishes, whereby Badsey and Wickhamford would cease to have their own resident parson. It was not just for ourselves that we allowed the procedure to be put in train for building a new vicarage. We knew that we might not reside in it ourselves very long.

In former days a long incumbency of 20, 30, 40 years in a parish had a great deal to be said for it. The population did not change very rapidly, and people's way of life and outlook remained fairly static. Nowadays, as you know, things are very different. In these three villages the population has doubled since we came here, and new building development continues at a rapid pace. In a few years' time, as I approach retirement, I would not be able to give to this place the sort of ministry that is needed.

There is another reason. The longer I stay in a place, and the more settled and contented I become, the lazier I get. I suppose I am not alone in this; nor is it peculiar to the clergy. One gets into a certain routine - the way one has always done things - and so becomes impervious to fresh ideas or new methods. Somebody makes a bright suggestion to the Vicar, and his immediate reaction is: 'We've never done anything of that there here'. Anything to avoid trouble or extra work. 'This worked all right when I first came here; why shouldn't it work now?'

You need the stimulus of a new pastor. We need the stimulus of new work and different problems. It certainly need not mean losing touch with our old friends, and we should be very sorry indeed if it did.

We shall not be leaving for a while yet. There is a certain amount to be done to the house where we are going. So the time has not yet come to say goodbye.

I am quite sure that you dear people will give to my successor (whoever he may be) the same warm welcome and faithful co-operation in Christ's work as you have given to us.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

Nov.

- 1 Wed. **ALL SAINTS' DAY.** 7-0 & 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 5 **Trinity 23.** As for 1st Sun. Names of departed will be remembered at H.C. (8-0 & 11-0). Please give names in writing to the Vicar before Sat. evening.
- 8 Wed. Saints, Martyrs, etc. of the Church of England. 10-0 H.C.
- 12 **Trinity 24. Remembrance Sunday.** 8-0 H.C. 10-50 Remembrance Service (Parade) with 2 minutes' silence. **Preacher: Canon Eric Turnbull, M.A., of Worcester Cathedral.** 6-45 Evensong.
- 15 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 **Trinity 25.** (Collect, etc. for Epiphany 6). 8-0 H.C. 4-0 E. & Holy Baptism.
- 20 Queen's Silver Wedding Day.
- 22 Wed. St. Cecilia, V. & M. 10-0 H.C.
- 26 **Sun. next before Advent.** As for 4th Sun.
- 29 Wed. No H.C.
- 30 Thurs. **St. Andrew, Apostle.** 10-0 H.C.

**Notes:** Sun., Nov. 12. Remembrance Sunday. Special service times.

**Missionary Boxes.** We shall be following our usual custom of presenting these at the altar at Evensong on the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day, which will be Advent Sunday, Dec. 3rd. So please bring your missionary box to church on that day, or let Miss Norah Smith have it some time before that date. Our Children's Society secretary, Mrs. Owen, will also be glad to have her boxes in at this time.

**P.C.C. Meeting,** Tues., 7th Nov., 7-15 p.m., at the Vicarage.

**Advance Notice. Visit of the Bishop of Worcester.** The Bishop will be coming to visit the parish on Sunday morning, 17th December, and will preach. It was decided by the P.C.C. to have a Parish Communion that morning at 9-30.

**Mothers' Union.** Wed. 1st 10-0 Corporate Communion. Tues. 14th. Branch Meeting 2-30. Talk by the Vicar. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Cole, Cleaver, Crisp and Caswell. Tues. 28. Branch Meeting 7-30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Dukes: "The Work and Training of a Magistrate". Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Watkin, Davies, Dale and Miss Davies.

J.B.

**Young Wives' Group.** Nov. 6th. A Helper from "Life of the World Trust"; Blockley, talks about rehabilitating drug addicts. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Pam Robbins, Mrs. Sandra Wood, Mrs. Shirley Clements. Nov. 20th. "Feeding the Family". A talk and demonstration by the Flour Advisory Bureau. All members and friends welcome to this meeting. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Mary Knight, Mrs. Daphne Cleaver, Mrs. Sonia Ealey. J.A.W.

### A COFFEE EVENING

on Friday, 17th November, 7-30 to 9-0 p.m.  
at the Home of Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Sears,  
21, Badsey Fields Lane  
in Aid of our Overseas Project for Training an African Nurse.  
Admission 10p. Stall: Christmas Gifts, Bring & Buy.

**Sixty Plus Club.** Next meeting, Wed., 15th Nov. 2-45 p.m. in the Meeting House.

## Burials. R.I.P.

Sept. 27 George Edward Bearcroft, aged 73 (Cremation at Worcester, committal of ashes at Badsey).

Our sincere condolences with Mrs. Bearcroft, herself unwell at this time, and the members of the family.

George Bearcroft had been a hard-working market gardener, of recent years incapacitated by infirmity of the legs resulting from injuries suffered in his country's service in the Great War. He was suddenly laid low by a stroke, and spent his last few weeks in hospital, very weak in body but strong in faith.

Oct. 5 Thomas John Wilson, aged 75 (Cremation at Cheltenham, after service in Badsey Church. Committal of ashes at Badsey).

Another Great War veteran whose sufferings continued for the rest of his life. Taken prisoner by the Germans, he never recovered from the privations of working in the salt mines. For years he was a patient invalid, with a wasting bone disease, devotedly cared for by his wife, for whom and the family we express our prayerful sympathy. He was gentle by nature, loathing war and cruelty, but showed great fortitude, sustained by reception of the Sacrament.

Tom was the last surviving male descendant of the Wilsons of Badsey, our oldest family, and at one time the village squires. They came to Badsey Manor in the middle of the 17th century.

Oct. 13 David Clarkson Idiens, aged 46.

David Idiens' sudden death at such an early age was a great shock, and our hearts go out in prayerful sympathy to his widow and four young sons, to his mother who suffered the loss of another son earlier this year, and to the rest of the family. The very large attendance at the funeral was evidence of the great esteem and affection with which he was held in the whole neighbourhood.

Oct. 13 Stephen James Brewer, aged 78 (Cremation at Cheltenham after service in Badsey Church).

Yet another Great War veteran. Steve Brewer was a much loved personality, kind, generous, and with a quiet, unmalicious humour. He had lived all his life in Badsey, a member of the baking family which has contributed much to the life of the village. Our sincere condolences with his sisters, and other members of the family.

**Jottings.** Congratulations to Michael Betteridge on his marriage at Solihull to Naomi Hodgkinson on Oct. 21st.

Mr. Ron Harker is in Warwick Hospital with multiple injuries after a nasty accident. Alan Clarke has also been in hospital after an accident. Others in hospital are Norbert Tucker, Miss H. Curtis, and Mrs. Joyce Major, who has had an operation. Mr. Bill Hatch is convalescent after a cataract operation, and will be returning to the Eye Hospital to have the other eye done. We are glad that Miss Dorothy Knight has returned home for convalescence. Miss Lottie Hartwell has been laid up with severe fluid on the knee.

**Servers for November.** 5th, 8-0 P. Gresty; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 A. Owen. 12th (Remembrance Sun.), 8-0 N. Bell; 10-50 D. Barrand; 6-45 M. Clements. 19th, 8-0 C. Tucker; 4-0 N. Bell. 26th, 8-0 D. Norden; 6-45 M. Clements (Server), D. Barrand (Crucifer).

**War Memorial Flowers.** Nov. 5th, Mrs. D. Littlewood; 12th, Mrs. A. C. Sears; 19th, Mrs. R. Guise; 26th, Mrs. Hewlett.

**Acknowledgement.** Grateful thanks for a wonderful Harvest: I. V. B. Hall, J. D. Holding, £10.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

Please note that, from now till the end of February, Sunday Evensong is at 3-0.

Nov.

5 **Trinity 23.** Sunday after All Saints. Departed remembered by name at 9-0 H.C. Names should be given to the Vicar in writing by Sat. evening. 3-0 E.

12 **Trinity 24. Remembrance Sunday.** 3-0 Evensong & Act of Remembrance.

19 **Trinity 25.** 11-0 Family Eucharist. (Collect, etc. for Epiphany 6).

20 Queen's Silver Wedding Day.

26 **Sun. next before Advent.** 3-0 E.

### Holy Baptism

Oct. 8 Ian John Stratton.

### Holy Matrimony

Sept. 30 James Philip Smith and Carole Fernyhough.

**Jottings.** Mrs. Summers has been in hospital, but we are glad to say she is home again and making a good recovery. Mr. W. Mason has left hospital and is staying at present with his daughter in Badsey. Mr. 'Mac' Taylor has not yet fully recovered from his illnesses earlier in the year, but keeps very cheerful.

## FORMER VICARS OF BADSEY & WICKHAMFORD

### 2. George Drummond

John Rawlins was succeeded by a young Scot of aristocratic connections, the Revd. George William Auriol Hay Drummond, another graduate of Christ Church, who at the age of 23 had just been ordained deacon at Norwich a few months before Mr. Rawlins' death. George's father, who had died some years before this, had been Archbishop of York, and his grandfather was the 7th Earl of Kinnoull. It was inevitable that he would be given early preferment.

Priested at Chester on 13th March, 1785, he was next day made a Prebendary of York! On 8th April he was nominated by Christ Church to the 'chaplancies' of Badsey and Wickhamford. Four days later came his wedding, and it is possible that he planned to live here - though not immediately. The vicarage at Badsey, let by Mr. Rawlins and described by him as "a low Tenement little better than a Cottage", was found by Mr. Drummond "in such wretched repair, that after a great part had fallen in, I was induced to pull it down, and build a new Stone house, which I sashed and slated . . . At the same time I dug a well in the premises, which was very much wanted."

But before he started to build the new house, he was appointed Vicar of Doncaster, where he resided for the next five years. After that he was given a number of smaller benefices in Yorkshire, which he held in plurality along with Badsey and Wickhamford.

So he never lived here, nor can I find trace of his having officiated here. The new vicarage was completed in 1786, and he allowed the curate to live in it rent free, and to take the surplice fees, in addition to which he paid him a stipend of £35 p.a., about average for those days. The Revd. Daniel Jones was curate for about twenty years at this time, and seems to have served the two parishes well.

The 'Old Vicarage' at Wickhamford was apparently built by Mr. Drummond, though it looks so much older. In a report to Christ Church in 1801 he stated: "The Parsonage House at Wickhamford was a mud Hovel inhabited by a Weaver. This also I rebuilt and made it a comfortable Cottage." He re-let it.

I understand there is a portrait of him in Doncaster Parish Church. It is said he was a devoted parish priest, and that when smallpox was rife he offered free vaccination to the poor. He published several books, including a book of verses, and an edition of his father's sermons.

George Drummond married twice. His death was tragic. On the 6th December, 1807 he sailed from Bideford, Devon, on a ship bound for Greenock. The same night the ship went down in a storm and all on board were drowned. His portfolio with several letters and 360 drawings of the various places he visited was washed up on the beach. He was 46.

One of his sons later became Under Secretary for the Colonies.

For much of the above information I am indebted to Mr. Drummond's descendant, Mr. J. V. G. Williams of Dunchurch.

One visible memorial we have of George Drummond is the stone bearing his coat-of-arms which used to be over the front door of the old Vicarage, and which has been transferred to the front wall of the new one.

### 3. Charles Phillott

The next reign was a long one of 43 years, also non-resident. The Revd. Charles Phillott, another Christ Church graduate, was curate of St. Michael's, Bath when in 1808, aged 34, he became both Rector of Kingston Deverill, Wilts, and Perpetual Curate of Badsey and Wickhamford. Five years later he was also made Vicar of Frome, Somerset. Sad to say, he does not seem to have ministered in any of these parishes, but to have spent his time in the S. Devon resort of Dawlish. He became curate of East Teignmouth in 1818.

This scandalous state of affairs was all too common, but during his time great reforms were taking place in the Church. Successive Acts of Parliament reduced the number of livings allowed to be held in plurality to two, which must not be more than three miles apart, and compelled the parson to reside in one of them. Unfortunately existing holders were exempted, so nothing could be done here till Mr. Phillott resigned or died.

He held on to the livings till his death in 1851. Although the total annual income from his benefices was over £1000, he died insolvent, probably through the crash of a family banking business in Bath. The last of his curates at Badsey, Edmund Boggis, had a half-year's stipend due to him, and an appeal was made to Christ Church to come to his rescue.

Badsey and Wickhamford were served during this time by a succession of curates, most of them not staying very long. An exception in this respect was the Revd. Charles Bloxham, M.A. (1820-1839). In Badsey Church transept there is a memorial to his wife, and the painting "The Raising of Lazarus" was given to Badsey Church in 1885 by a Mr. Bloxham, presumably a descendant. After resigning the curacy he continued for a while to live with his family in the village, in the house known as Oakleigh opposite the Manor, while his successor resided at the Vicarage. Later he emigrated to Australia, where there are descendants still living.

Bloxham was succeeded by the Revd. Thomas Griffith (1839-45), who had married Charlotte Phillott, the Vicar's daughter. In his time the Sunday School was revived, and Mr. Phillott made one of his rare visits to Badsey for the formative meeting. The Revd. Edmund Boggis, a clergyman's son and a bachelor, came in 1848. His mother's grave is in Badsey Churchyard. He seems to have been popular; there is a delightful contemporary description of the scene in Wickhamford Church when he preached his farewell sermon there, in Noake's "Rambler in Worcestershire" (1854). I printed an extract from this in the Parish Review for July 1962.

For some of the information on Mr. Phillott I am indebted to his descendant Dr. J. D. Thomas, of Lincoln. P.B.

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