

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

DECEMBER, 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

18th November, 1972

My dear People,

As already announced in church, my successor is to be the Revd. Adrian Leak, at present Priest-in-charge of the District of Berinsfield, a large housing area outside Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Mr. Leak was formerly curate of St. Mark's, Coventry. He is, like myself, a graduate of Christ Church. I know that, when they come, he and his wife and their little son Daniel will receive a very warm welcome from you all. When that is to be is dependent on the date of my institution at Temple Guiting. This has not yet been fixed, as there is much to be done to the Vicarage there. We shall certainly be here for Christmas, and for several weeks into the New Year. I am giving up as Rural Dean on December 31st.

Thanks to the prompt action of Christ Church, patrons of both livings, and the churchwardens and P.C.C.s of both parishes, the procedure for appointing a successor to me was set in train at once, so that when the time comes for me to leave, there need not be a long interregnum. This, I feel, will be a great blessing to the parishes. I am sure, too, that when the vacancy does occur, you will all rally round and do your part in maintaining the spiritual life of the parishes.

Visit of the Bishop

Bishop Robin Woods will be paying his first visit to our churches on Sunday morning, 17th December. On this Sunday (3rd), there will be a Parish Eucharist at 9-30 a.m. in Badsey Church, and our usual parish Eucharist in Wickhamford Church at 11-0 a.m.

Christmas Appeal

My Christmas Appeal last year was for "Help the Aged". Between you, you enabled me to send £100 to that cause. This year it will be, as often before, for Christian Aid. In the name of Christ this interdenominational organisation sponsors over 100 projects of aid, relief and rehabilitation in many countries, including Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sudan, and now refugees from Uganda.

If you are concerned about the effect of inflation on your personal budget, just think how hard the rising costs affect the relief organisations in their efforts to bring help to the desperately poor. Of course Christmas is a time of goodwill and generosity towards one's own family and special friends. But Christians must always take Christ seriously if they are to be faithful. Remember his words: "When you give a dinner party, do not invite your friends, your brothers and other relations, or your rich neighbours; they will only ask you back again and so you will be repaid. But when you give a party, ask the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind; and so find happiness. For they have no means of repaying you; but you will be repaid on the day when good men rise from the dead." (St. Luke 14, verses 12 to 14, N.E.B.). It might raise awkward problems, for others as well as yourself, if you tried to carry this out too literally on Christmas Day. But you can do it in spirit if, when you buy your presents and Christmas fare, you work it out to give as much (or more) to Christ's poor brethren through Christian Aid as you spend on yourself and your friends.

Please take one of the Christian Aid envelopes that will be available, and hand it to me with your contribution not later than Christmas Day.

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

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY,

THE PARISH REVIEW

Owing to the greatly increased cost of production, we have reluctantly had to put up the price of the Review to 30p. per annum, starting January 1973. This is still only 2½p. per copy, including the Worcester Diocesan News. P.S.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

Dec.

- 3 **Advent 1.** As for 1st Sunday. Missionary boxes to be brought to church this day, and will be presented at Evensong.
- 6 Wed. St. Nicholas, Bp. 10-0 H.C.
- 10 **Advent 2.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 13 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 **Advent 3.** 9-30 **PARISH EUCHARIST. THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.** 4-0 Evensong and Holy Baptism.
- 19 Tues. 2-30 Prayer Meeting at Seward House.
- 20 Wed. Ember Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 Thurs. **St. Thomas, Apostle.** H.C. on Wed.
- 24 **Advent 4. Christmas Eve.** 8-0 H.C. 11-0 Mattins (said). 6-45 Evensong and Carols, with Blessing of the Crib.
11-30 p.m. **Midnight Eucharist.**
- 25 Mon. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 8-0 Holy Communion. 10-15 Family Mattins. 11-0 H.C. 4-0 E (Said).
- 27 Wed. **St. John the Evangelist.** 10-0 H.C.
- 31 **Christmas 1.** 8-0 H.C. 10-15 Family Service with Carols. 6-45 Evensong.

Notes. The visit of the Bishop on Sunday, Dec. 17th. The service, to which all are welcome, whether communicants or not, will be at 9-30 a.m.

Decoration of the church for Christmas will be on Sat., Dec. 23rd, at 9-30 a.m. Helpers will be welcome, also gifts of flowers and evergreens, to be brought to the church not later than 9-30, please.

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 7-0 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 20th and Sat., Dec. 23rd.

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.

The collections at Christmas will be, as usual, for the Church of England Children's Society.

P.C.C. Meeting, Tues., Dec. 3rd, the Vicarage, 7-15 p.m.

Mothers' Union. Wed. 6th. 10-0 Corporate Communion. Tues. 12th. Branch Meeting. 2-30. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Harwood, Evans, Eyre and Floyd.

Tues. 19th. 2-30 Prayer Group Meeting at Seward House, taken by Miss Sladden.

There will be no evening meeting this month, but I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas. J.B.

Young Wives' Group. Dec. 4th "Seasonal Floral Arrangements", by Mrs. J. Bean. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Ann Harris, Mrs. Sheila Heeks, Mrs. Sandra Hedges. Dec. 18th. Dinner at "Round of Gras" for members and husbands. Arrive 7-30 for 8-0 p.m. J.A.W.

Sixty Plus Club. The meeting this month is on Wednesday, 20th, in the Meeting House at 2-45 p.m. There will be carol singing.

Holy Baptism

Nov. 19. Katy Victoria Sadler.

Holy Matrimony

Oct. 28. Robert Leslie Sutton, of Fairfield, Evesham, and Margaret Eleanor Williams, of Badsey.

Burials. R.I.P.

Mrs. Lilian Florence Anne Bearcroft did not long survive her husband, but died on 1st November. The funeral was at Worcester Crematorium, but the ashes have been laid in our Badsey Garden of Rest. Our deep sympathy with her daughter and son-in-law and other members of the family.

Nov. 15. Ivy Clara Turner, aged 75. (service in Badsey Church, burial in Wickhamford Cemetery).

Mrs. Turner and her husband, the parents of Mr. Fred Turner, of The Sands, Willersey Road, lived in Badsey until a few years ago. Our warm sympathy with Mr. Turner and the other members of the family.

Jottings. It is some years since the Last Post was sounded in Badsey Church after the Silence on Remembrance Sunday, so it was good to hear it again this year, played so well by one of our own young people, Beverley Vann.

The Coffee Evening held at Mrs. Sears' house in aid of our overseas project, on a very cold night, was not only a very enjoyable social occasion, but raised £40. Congratulations to all concerned.

Mr. Fred Stewart seems to be making a steady recovery after a serious operation in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Mr. Fred Betteridge had an emergency operation in Worcester Royal Infirmary, and is now recuperating at home. In the same ward with him were two Blackminster neighbours, Mr. G. S. Charlwood and Mr. C. Tustin. Mr. George Addis has been in hospital with pneumonia. Mr. John Holding is in hospital. Miss Curtis has returned to Evesham Hospital. Mr. Ron Harker is making a steady recovery at home, and so is Miss Dorothy Knight. Norbert Tucker is home from hospital, also Mr. W. Hatch. Mr. Fred Cleaver is waiting to go into Nuffield Hospital, Oxford.

Servers for December. 3rd, 8-0 S. Gresty; 11-0 G. Toney; 6-45 T. Bell, 10th, 10-15 A. Owen (Server), N. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 D. Barrand, 17th, 9-30 D. Barrand (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer); 4-0 M. Clements, 24th, 8-0 P. Gresty; 6-45 A. Owen, 11-30 T. Bell (Server), M. Clements (Crucifer), 25th, 8-0 D. Norden; 10-15 D. Barrand; 11-0 N. Bell, 31st, 8-0 A. Clements; 10-15 T. Bell; 6-45 D. Barrand.

War Memorial Flowers. Dec. 10th, Mrs. K. Cole; 17th, Mrs. Sears; 24th, Mrs. H. Hatcher.

Acknowledgements. Silver Wedding Anniversary: Donald and Joan Hartwell, £1.25 (omitted from last issue). Wedding Anniversary: Peter & Eileen Braby, 40p. Birthday: Mrs. Eileen Braby, 20p. Earl Haig Fund (Remembrance Sun. collections): £13.58

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

Dec.

- 3 **Advent 1.** As for 1st Sun.
- 10 **Advent 2.** As for 2nd Sun.
- 17 **Advent 3. 11-0 PARISH EUCHARIST: THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.**
- 24 **Advent 4. Christmas Eve.** 3-0 Evensong and Carols.
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY. 9-0 Family Eucharist.** Collection for Church of England Children's Society.
- 31 **Christmas 1. 3-0 Evensong.**

Notes. All are welcome, whether communicants or not, to the Parish Eucharist on Dec. 17th at 11-0 a.m., when the Bishop of Worcester is visiting us, and at 9-0 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Communion of the Sick. See Badsey Notes.

P.C.C. Meeting, Wed., Dec. 13th, in the Memorial Hall, at 7-30 p.m.

Jottings. Nicholas Bastow had a nasty accident, experimenting with home-made fireworks, and we are thankful that he escaped with his life. He has lost his left hand and injured his leg, but is extremely plucky and making a good recovery.

At present Mrs. G. Harrison and Mrs. J. Smith are in Ronskwood Hospital recovering after operations. Mrs. Kingham and Mr. M. Grinnell have returned home from hospital, and Mr. W. Mason is now back in his own home.

Remembrance Sunday Collection for Earl Haig Fund: £4.90.

FORMER VICARS OF BADSEY AND WICKHAMFORD

4. Thomas Henry Hunt

With the arrival in 1852 of "Tommy" Hunt, Student of Christ Church, as chaplain or minister of Badsey and Wickhamford, the parishes at last had a resident parish priest, and an almost ideal one. He remained till 1887, and so in this chronicle we have now reached someone who is just remembered by people living to this day. Some of our oldest parishioners recall seeing him in their childhood, particularly on his visits to their homes when, if it was a meal time, he would sit down with the family and partake of their simple fare. On some days he would leave the Vicarage at 9 a.m. and not return till 10 o'clock at night, visiting one sick person after another. Poor Mrs. Hunt did not know when to expect him home for a meal, and often he went without altogether. Some of our older people also remember what their parents used to tell them about him, and I have more than once heard the story of how Mr. Hunt did not return at all one winter night. A search party was sent out for him. He had got lost in the fields at Wickhamford in the pitch darkness, as his lantern had gone out.

He was a hearty man of strong physique, and very athletic, jumping every five-barred gate he came across in the course of his walking. Another characteristic I have been told of was a habit of leaving things till the last moment. When he had to take a service at Wickhamford he would sometimes wait until he heard the five-minute bell, then run like a hare across the fields, surplice over his arm. The sound of the postman's horn was the signal to write a hurried letter and dash off to catch the post.

Badsey Wake

He was a fine horseman, a great rider to hounds, and a first-class shot. He was also good at cricket, and other games. One of his civilising reforms was to change the character of the Badsey Wake, traditionally held on Ascension Day, and an occasion of drunken orgy and brutal horse-play. He turned it into a village sports day, beginning with a well attended festival service in the church at 5 a.m. The races and other events were held in the Stockey field adjoining the Vicarage. I have seen the programme for the 1872 Wake (100 years ago) in Mr. Hunt's handwriting. Here are some of the events:

"Flat race round the field open to all 3 Villages. 1st Prize, A Slop. 2nd, Pair of Braces and knife. 3rd, Silk Tie (for Sundays)." "Race for the Un Gentle Sex who have weathered 60 Winters, & are still free from "Rheumatics". The Prize One Magnificent, and Splendid Peck LOAF". "Donkey Race. Each one to ride his own Donkey. 1st Prize, Spade. 2nd, Whip (for Donkeys 'vot won't go'). 3rd, Hat."

In this same year 1872 Mr. Hunt, asked in a questionnaire from the patrons of the living to describe the moral conditions of the parish, replied: Very fair - in Badsey village too many beer-houses, viz. 3 in village & 1 only $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile off in Parish." (It must be remembered that public houses were not then the well conducted places of refreshment they have since become, and drunkenness was a great social evil. On the day Mr. Hunt brought his bride home to Badsey, he had to stop a fight between two drunks at the Vicarage gate).

Education

His first concern on arriving here was to build a school. There was no provision for children's education apart from the Seward charity and a Sunday School held in the Vicar's barn. In 1854 the National Day School (now the British Legion Club) was built for £371 and was then attended by some 45 children.

Decency of Worship

The other great cause of concern to Mr. Hunt was the neglect of the church buildings and the slovenliness of public worship. In Wickhamford Church he found the stone font had been upturned and was used as a seat. He walked up the chancel door because the men, entering that way, used to throw their hats on to the altar. Badsey Church tower had a gaping hole in its base, "barbarously knocked through" some years before by the bellringers. This was to enable the barrels of cider (their perks at weddings) to be trundled in. Badsey churchyard, claimed for the last 200 years by the manor family and let by them to a farmer, was "in a most filthy and disgraceful state." The church was dilapidated. The music for the services was provided by a fiddle, clarionet and double bass in the gallery. Like most mid-Victorian parsons, Mr. Hunt longed to introduce a harmonium and a trained choir. The parish clerk, William Barnard, said the responses. He imparted an element of restlessness to the services, belabouring unruly boys with a cane, striking a match on the back of his trousers, or removing a broom which he had left on the altar. In whatever part of the church he happened to be, he was ready with a loud "Amen" at the appropriate moments. In spite of all, he never forfeited the affection of his vicar, though this was not shared by Mr. Hunt's successor.

Restoration of Badsey Church

The Vicar managed to get control of the churchyard and to introduce his harmonium. But lack of funds prevented any serious restoration of the church. Though generous to the poor, he was not by any means well off, and had a family of six to bring up. At one time he had to let the Vicarage and move in to the adjoining cottage.

A. H. Savory, who was churchwarden at the time (Julius Sladden was the other), wrote of the thrilling moment when Mr. Hunt came round to Aldington Manor with the news that he had been left a large legacy. "Badsey Church", he said, "must now be restored." This was in 1883. He immediately started the appeal fund with £500. A well known architect, Thomas Graham Jackson, was commissioned, and the work was carried out in 1885 at a cost of £2,130. Besides the practical rebuilding of the nave and the addition of a chancel arch, the south aisle and vestry were added.

Mr. Hunt retired to Shropshire in 1887. His leaving Badsey was almost immediately followed by the deaths of his wife and youngest son. This double blow broke him and he was never the same man again, losing his jovial buoyancy. He died in 1896, aged 69. The E. window of Badsey Church and the churchyard cross are memorials to him.

Apart from personal reminiscences of parishioners (some of whom have died), much of my information on Mr. Hunt comes from his grandson, Mr. J. M. Hunt, of Godalming.

P.B.

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