

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 1973

PRICE 30p. 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

18th January, 1973.

My dear People,

I write those ~~last~~ three words to you for the last time. My Institution by the Bishop of Gloucester at Temple Guiting is to be on Wednesday, 7th February, at 7-30 p.m., and it will be lovely if some of you are able to come up and take part, if the weather is not too bad. My last services in Badsey and Wickhamford churches will be on Sunday, 4th Feb. (apart possibly from the 10 a.m. Holy Communion on Feb. 7th). The Rev. Adrian Leak is to be instituted here by the Bishop of Worcester on ~~Thursday~~, 3rd April. In the meantime the parishes will be in the capable hands of the churchwardens, to whom all enquiries about parochial matters should be made. The Parish Review will be edited by Miss Sladden. Any material for the March and April numbers should be given to her at Seward House, 24 High Street, Badsey (Evesham 830363), not later than 16th February and 16th March respectively.

### The role of the parish priest

As I look back on my ministry here, my first thought is one of thankfulness, that God called me to serve Him as a priest in this place, among such lovable people. Sharing with me in this thanksgiving is my dear wife and partner, and our children (now grown up) who spent ~~much~~ so much of their childhood here.

At this time there is much questioning of the role of the ordained ministry in our contemporary society. Many of the clergy themselves get depressed about it. As you know, there has been a large decrease in the number of men offering themselves for ordination, and many clergymen leave the parochial ministry for more specialised posts. What sort of job is the parish priest supposed to be doing in the 1970s?

In old times he was the parson (which meant the "person" of the parish). He had a recognised status, and was very often the only educated person in the place, which meant that he did all sorts of jobs which are now performed by the various educational and welfare services provided by the State. These services are highly specialised and their workers are professionally trained. Many of us clergy find ourselves as amateurs trying to fulfil a great many roles for which we are not particularly qualified.

### Man of God

But there is one thing in which we have been (or are supposed to have been) trained: Theology. The word has been devalued lately by politicians and others, to denote an unrealistic concern with theoretical ideas. But Theology really means "knowledge of God". This knowledge has to be acquired not only by prayer, and study (especially of the Bible), but by personal relationships. The latter is important because as Christians we believe God not only to have made man in his own likeness, but to have become incarnate in a human life.

Nothing in the conditions of contemporary life deprives the priest of his essential function, for which he was ordained: to bring people to know and love God who loves them with a love beyond measure; to stand before God on behalf of the people; and to minister to them the life-giving grace of Christ through his Word and Sacraments.

This is the priest's real role, and always has been. We fail again and again to fulfil this role, because we are sinful. We do not need to have guilt complexes about not being busy social workers. We do need to be penitent at not being faithful men of God. We do not need to be despondent about our failures, because what God asks of us is not success but faithfulness. Because of the mercy of God, I am not disheartened by my failures to help you in the way that I should. But I do ask the forgiveness of any that I have injured or neglected.

My chief disappointment is that Badsey and Wickhamford are not providing candidates for the ministry. I realise how much of this is due to the inadequacy of my own example. But let me say, from my own experience: that there is no more worthwhile or fulfilling or creative vocation in the world today than that of the parish priest.

My successor's contribution will not be identical with mine, any more than mine has been identical with any of my predecessors'. We all have different gifts and aptitudes. I know that he has very much to give you, and I am sure you will respond willingly.

God bless you all. And thank you for all that you have taught me.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

PETER BRABY.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

**Important Notice.** There will be a presentation to the Vicar and Mrs. Braby after Evensong on 4th Feb. We hope to see a full church on this occasion, and to bid them farewell after 15 years' faithful service. D.W.H.

### Church Services

Apart from Feb. 7th, there will be no Wed. 10 a.m. H.C. this month. During Lent there will be H.C. every Wednesday. No 11 a.m. Mattins on 4th Sun.

### Feb.

- 4 Epiph. 5. As usual for 1st Sun.
- 7 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 Epiph. 6. As usual for 2nd Sun.
- 18 Septuagesima. As usual for 3rd Sun.
- 24 Sexagesima. 8-0 H.C., 6-45 Sung Eucharist.

**Electoral Roll.** The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be on April 10th. Application forms for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll may be had at church or from the Electoral Roll Officer, Miss L. Core, 7 Old Post Office Lane, to whom they should be returned before March 9th.

**Mothers' Union.** Wed. 7th 10-0 Corporate Communion. Tues. 13th. 7-30 - 9-0 Coffee Evening in the Meeting House for M.U. Funds. Cake Stall, 'New to You', and Bring and Buy. Admission 10p. Bring all your friends.

Tues. 27th. 7-30 p.m. Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Deeks from Malvern. Talk and slides on Nigeria. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Richards, Franklin, Reed and Sparrow. J.B.

**Young Wives' Group.** Feb. 5th Mr. Geoffrey Cox, Advice and demonstration of hair styling, etc. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Bernice Sims, Mrs. Pauline Johnson, Mrs. Ann Perks.

Feb. 19th. A talk by a member of the Samaritans. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Val Padfield, Mrs. Shirley Goodwin, Mrs. Diane Bratt. J.A.W.

At the A.G.M. on Jan. 15th the following were elected: Leader: Mrs. Joyce Watkin, Sec. Mrs. Brenda Hall, Treas. Mrs. Pam Robbins. Committee: Mrs. Diane Bratt, Mrs. Maureen Davies, Mrs. Marina Dore. Presentations were made to the Vicar and Mrs. Braby, and to Mrs. Shirley Goodwin on resigning as Hon. Treasurer..

**Sixty Plus Club.** Meeting this month Wed. 21st at 2-45 in the Meeting House. Mrs. P. Churchill is now the Club Leader, assisted by Mrs. H. Evans.

### Confirmation

January 23rd by the Right Rev. C. A. Martin, D.D.

Philip Brazier, Peter Davies, Stephen Dore, Jonathan Hall, Christopher Smith, Sally Bindoff, Judith Bowler, Patricia Brazier, Diane Burton, Veronica Dore, Patricia Grinnell, Denise Hewlett, Sarah Hilland, Angela Hughes, Frances Ives, Sandra Ruff, Beverley Vann, Susan Watkin, Carolyn Watkin.

### Burials. R.I.P.

Jan. 1 Albert Jesse Brazier, aged 72.

The large attendance at the funeral testified to the loss the community has suffered by Bert Brazier's death. An Evesham man, he came to Badsey in 1935 and set up his family building business. He had a reverence for traditional standards of good workmanship, in which he was able to train others. His retirement hobby, which gave such delight to himself and others, was his wonderful collection of old rural implements. He had a great feeling for comradeship, and his wholehearted work for the British Legion and War Veterans' Association is well known. He was awarded the British Legion Gold Badge in 1969. He was a devoted family man, and, above all, a believing and practising Christian.

Jan. 20 Percy Jack Powis, aged 76 (cremation after church service).

Mrs. Powis is Bert Brazier's sister, and our warmest sympathy goes to her and the other members of the family in this double loss. Mr. and Mrs. Powis came to Badsey a few years ago, and have made a number of friends here. Mr. Powis had suffered bad health for some time with cheerful patience.

**Jottings.** We sadly record other deaths at this time. Miss Gwendoline Price, who died at Oxford aged 72, was the daughter of a former Vicar of this parish. Lt. Col. Harold Allsebrook, who died at Cobham, Surrey, aged 83, was the brother of another Vicar. Mr. Jim Allan was a member of the P.C.C. before moving from the district. He was killed in a motor accident.

Very hearty congratulations to Mrs. March on her 96th birthday on 21st January.

Pray for the sick. Mr. George Grove and Mr. George Nightingale are in hospital at the time of writing. Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mrs. Annie Sadler, and Mrs. Florence Knight are recovering from severe bronchial illness. Among many who have had influenza, Mr. & Mrs. Archie Reed have had a particularly bad attack. Mr. Francis Perkins has returned home from hospital with a new hip. Others who have been in hospital are Mr. Philip Wardle, Mr. Henry Biddle, Miss Megan Richards, Mrs. Guise, Mr. Clifford Davies.

**Servers for February.** 4th, 8-0 P. Gresty; 11-0 T. Bell; 6-45 N. Bell. 11th, 10-15 D. Barrand (Server), N. Bell (Crucifer); 6-45 M. Clements. 18th, 8-0 D. Norden; 4-0 D. Barrand. 25th, 8-0 G. Toney; 6-45 A. Owen (Server), T. Bell (Crucifer).

**War Memorial Flowers.** Feb. 4th, Mrs. R. Harker; 11th, Mrs. Sears.

**Acknowledgements.** Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid (both parishes), £85. Christmas collections for C. of E. Children's Society, £34.51. Children's Society boxes 1972, £52.96. Sunday School collections 1972 donated as follows: Christian Aid £10; Saria Joel training fund £10; Shelter £5.

In memory of Charlie Tutton (Jan. 17th) 50p.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Church Services

Sunday services as on front cover. Evensong is at 3-0 this month. 5-30 from March onwards.

**Electoral Roll.** The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be on April 11th. Enrolment forms for the Church Electoral Roll may be had at the church or from the Electoral Roll Officer, Mr. J. Sharp, 10 Manor Road, to whom they should be returned, before March 10th.

### Confirmation

January 23rd in St. James's Church, Badsey, by the Right Revd. C. A. Martin, D.D.

David Carter, Paul Heritage, Sally Carter, Michele Ford, Susan Jefferies, Linda Jefferies.

**Jottings.** Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid (both parishes) £85. Christmas church collections for Children's Society (Wickhamford) £15.98.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Nott on their Golden Wedding on 23rd January.

Mr. George Crump has been in hospital with bronchial trouble. We are glad to say that Mrs. Kingham, Mr. Stan Figgitt, and Mrs. Digby have returned from hospital and are steadily recovering.

## FORMER VICARS OF BADSEY & WICKHAMFORD

### 6. William Henry Price (I)

Eighteen ninety-seven. It was the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; the year Elijah Crisp built the new post office in Badsey High Street. A young priest came from Oxford to be Vicar of Badsey and Wickhamford. He was engaged to be married, and it was his first living. The future must have seemed full of promise. Indeed the incumbency of W. H. Price was a time of much activity and spiritual advance, only to be cut short by his untimely death.

### A time of renewal

Mr. Price was a graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge, but since his ordination he had been chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford, and assistant curate in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene there. This had been his only experience of parochial ministry, and Mary Mag's was noted in Oxford for its Anglo-Catholic trends. It was not therefore surprising that several of the older parishioners were shocked at some of the practices which the new Vicar introduced: Holy Communion at 8 a.m., candles on the altar, and servers. They were the sort of thing which no one would question today, and were already common in many parishes at that time. But at once the cry of Popery was heard, the school managers were fearful of the children being corrupted, and the new Vicar's religious periods in the school were cut down to one a week.

This foolish prejudice was undeserved, but the Vicar, through inexperience, was perhaps being a little too zealous about non-essentials. He would not give way

on candles, but did abandon altar servers. This was a pity, because he had a wonderful way of enlisting youth in the service of Our Lord and his Church: young people like C. A. Binyon, Ethel Sladden, Florence Jones (whom we know as Mrs. March). The latter two were members of the keen band of Sunday School teachers, which Mr. Price gathered round him. He was extremely thorough, and held a weekly preparation class for teachers. Mrs. March (now 96) speaks with great enthusiasm of Mr. Price. She remembers with amazing exactitude that the teachers' meetings were on Wednesdays at 6-30 p.m. The Sunday School was held at the Old School, and there were two sessions every Sunday, at 10-0 and 2-30. The whole school walked to church with their teachers, and once a month it was as far as Wickhamford. Mr. Bill Bennett Senr. (aged 91) remembers this custom from Mr. Gepp's time, and still thinks it a silly idea to make them walk all that way! But he is grateful for having been taught the Prayer Book Collects, which he knows by heart. There were between 160 and 170 on the books in Mr. Price's time. In his first year he re-started the Sunday School at Wickhamford, in the church, under Mrs. Warner, Mr. Joseph Agg and others. In connection with the Sunday Schools a Penny Bank was started, and there was also a flourishing branch of the Band of Hope. 60 candidates were presented for Confirmation in Mr. Price's first year.

Every year in Mr. Gepp's time the Annual Vestry Meeting at Wickhamford had been attended by one person beside the Vicar, and there was an annual deficit on the accounts, defrayed by the Vicar himself. At Mr. Price's first meeting in Wickhamford there were 7 people; one year there was actually a balance in the funds. It amounted to 8½d. At Mr. Gepp's last vestry meeting in Badsey, only the churchwardens and parish

clerk joined the Vicar. At Mr. Price's first meeting 22 people came. Naturally the numbers did not keep up to this later, but never dropped below a dozen. Mr. Price's devotional zeal led to quite a spiritual awakening. By 1901 Easter communicants in both churches reached a record of 135. When he came to Badsey there was only one celebration of Holy Communion a month, but he introduced a weekly celebration.

### The Parish Magazine

One of his first ventures was to start the Parish Magazine, The inaugural number came out in January 1898. 150 copies had been printed, but this had proved insufficient, and next month 175 were ordered. Circulation dropped later, and at times it looked as though publication would have to cease. It cost 1d. a copy, and had an inset called "The Dawn of Day" One of the schemes announced in the Magazine was the formation of a Medical Club. Mr. Price often gave magic lantern entertainments to raise money for good causes, or just to give pleasure.

He was an extremely painstaking scholar, and we owe him a great deal for the careful transcription of the old parish registers and churchwardens' accounts. The oldest portions of the latter were published in a small volume some years after his death. In the very hot September of 1898 he was doing this work under the trees in the Vicarage garden for coolness, but at times the temperature reached 92 degrees F. in the shade. Within 2 or 3 days of his arrival in Badsey, he had made a careful inventory of the church goods.

(to be concluded). P.B.

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