

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



**Vicar: THE REVD. A. S. LEAK, M.A.**

(Tel. Evesham 830343)

## **Church of St. James Badsey**

Churchwardens:

MR. D. W. HARTWELL,  
35, WILLERSEY ROAD,  
BADSEY.

MR. R. J. TAYLOR,  
34, BADSEY FIELDS LANE,  
BADSEY.  
(Tel. 830250).

## **Church of St. John the Baptist Wickhamford.**

Churchwardens:

MR. J. E. PARRY,  
WICKHAM HOUSE,  
WICKHAMFORD.  
(Tel. 830244).

MR. D. G. POULTER,  
5, LONGDON HILL ROAD,  
WICKHAMFORD.  
(Tel. 830505).

Clerk:

MR. C. H. WILLIS,  
35, PITCHERS HILL,  
WICKHAMFORD.

**JUNE, 1973**

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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I want to begin by quoting some words written three hundred years ago by George Herbert, vicar of Bemerton in Wiltshire, but better known as a poet and Hymn writer:—

'The Country Parson upon the afternoons of the weekdays, takes occasion sometimes to visit in person, now one quarter of his parish, now another. For there he shall find his flock most naturally as they are, wallowing in the midst of their affairs.'

The point is still valid, although I doubt whether many parishioners would agree with the word 'wallow', unless they took it as a description of a particularly bad morning with the washing machine. It is the ideal of the parish system that the parson can keep in touch with his people during the weekdays when they are going about their normal business, and in an earlier age this ideal was most clearly realized when he had to hoe his bit of Glebe alongside the rest of the community.

However, when George Herbert wrote those words, there was one very important difference in Village life: everyone worked, ate, played and slept within the parish. Take Wickhamford, for example. At that time the population was somewhere between 100 and 150. About 40 of these would be able-bodied men, and the rest would be women, children and the aged. In the course of an afternoon's walk across the fields the parson could, and probably did, see (to wave to, if not to talk to) every head of family within his parish, and no doubt on his return from the fields he would look in at those cottages where there was illness or need.

Times have changed. Patterns of employment have altered. Population figures have soared. Much of the change has been for the better. Let's not be romantic about life in the 17th century; much of it was 'Nasty, brutish and short'. One of the results of these changes is that George Herbert's ideal for visiting is in many parishes no longer practicable. I still think however, that the main point of 'visiting now one quarter of the parish, now another' is valid, even if the visiting has to be drastically selective and even if some parishioners never see the parson from one end of the year to the other.

Another result of the modern diversification of work and recreation is that there is no longer any certainty about the best time for calling, and when the parson eventually **does** get round to calling, ten to one his visit will clash with the World Cup / Baby's feed / a visit from the In-Laws / Wimbledon, or whatever. (I remember once calling on an old lady, and interrupting her weekly dose of All-in Wrestling. The sound on the TV was duly switched down, but all the time we

talked and sipped tea from delicate Victorian china, those silent ogres writhed and grimaced in the corner of her parlour. It was an unnerving visit).

And now let me get to the point, and keep you no longer from 'Wallowing in your affairs'. My intention as your Vicar is to get round the three villages as much as possible. Whether I can suit the action to the word remains to be seen. What I do ask of you is this: if you feel that I have neglected any part of the parishes, or have overlooked a family which you think want me to call, then please let me know. There are bound to be oversights, and unless someone gives the Vicar a prompt he won't be able to put things right.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Church Services

#### June

- 3 Sunday after Ascension. 8-0 H.C.; 11-0 H.C. (said); 6-45 Evensong.
- 6 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 10 Whitsun. 10-15 Family Eucharist; 6-45 Evensong.
- 13 Wed. (Ember Day). 10-0 H.C.
- 17 Trinity Sunday. 8-0 H.C.; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 19 St. Barnabas' Day. 8-0 H.C.
- 20 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 24 St. John Baptist. 8-0 H.C.; 11-0 Mattins (said). There will no Evening Service at Badsey. It is hoped that many of the congregation will want to join Wickhamford at 5-30 p.m. (Sung Eucharist) in celebration of their Patronal Saint.
- 27 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 29 St. Peter's Day. 8-0 a.m. H.C.

#### July

- 1 Trinity 2. 8-0 H.C.; 11-0 H.C. (said); 6-45 Evensong.

#### Donations

- £1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson of Malvern in memory of their mothers.
- £1.00 from Mrs. Byrd of Brewer's Lane in memory of Arthur Leslie Byrd, Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Hart, and Dorothy Stella Anderson.
- £2.00 from the W.I. in memory of Dorothy Knight.
- £1.00 in memory of Alice and Philip Edward Brailsford.

#### Holy Baptism

On May 20th: Kerrie Anne Smith; Lucy Jane Cull; Christine Ann Ross.

### Holy Matrimony

On May 12th: Alex Ogg and Linda Plant. Linda is from Aldington; she and Alex will be living in Badsey. Best wishes to both for a long and happy life together.

### Burial

On April 27th (at Wickhamford): George Hall, of 113 Bretforton Road.

On May 14th: Richard Hutchings, of 34 Synehurst

On May 17th: Edith Perkins, of 13 St. James' Close.

**Coffee Evening in the Vicarage Garden** on June 28th, 7-30 to 9-0, to raise money for our Overseas Project (we are helping to pay for the training of a Nurse, Saria Joel, in Mozambique). Do come along and enjoy a pleasant Summer evening 'al fresco', and spend money at the stalls (Cake Stall, Bring-and-Buy, Miscellaneous, Raffle, etc.) If the weather is bad, we shall have the 'Evening' in the School. Tickets (10p.) available before the day, or at the Gate.

Overseas Committee.

### Servers for June

#### Sunday, 3rd

8-0 a.m. P. Gresty (S).

11-0 a.m. M. Exon (S).

6-45 p.m. N. Bell (C).

#### Sunday 10th

10-15 a.m. D. Barrand (S); M. Clements (C).

6-45 p.m. T. Bell (C).

#### Sunday, 17th

8-0 a.m. D. Norden (S).

4-0 p.m. A. Owen (C).

#### Sunday, 24th

8-0 a.m. G. Toney (S).

#### Sunday, July 1st

8-0 a.m. S. Gresty (S).

11-0 a.m. N. Bell (S).

6-45 p.m. T. Bell (C).

**War Memorial Rota—June.** 3rd, Mrs. L. Reeves. 10th, Mrs. G. Grove. 17th, Mrs. A. Reed. 24th, Mrs. N. Cook.

**M.U. Notes.** Wed., 6th. 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues. 19th, 2-30 Prayer Group. Meeting at Mrs. Bell's House.

Tues. 26th, 7-30. Branch Meeting, with a Speaker from the Samaritans. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Harwood (Com.), Mesdames Richards, Chaplin and Cleaver.

Advance Notice of our Summer Outing to Chacombe Priory, Banbury on July 24th. Will members and friends please contact me.

J. Betteridge.

**Young Wives.** June 4th. Skittles Evening at Hobnails. Coach leaves Wheatsheaf at 7-45 p.m. and Round of Gras at 7-50 p.m. Please note time.

June 18th, 8-0 p.m. A talk on Mental Health by Mr. F. R. Ablett, a Social Worker. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Sheila Heeks, Mrs. Sandra Hedges, Mrs. Ann Harris. J.W.

**Sixty Plus Club,** June 20th, 2-30 p.m. at the Meeting House.

Our members are increasing, but there is room for more. The three men members would welcome more support.

Last month, a flower competition was won by Miss Hartwell and Mrs. Stanton.

**Christian Aid Collection.** Total collected was £128.06. An increase of £20.00 over last year.

Aldington	...	...	£9.18
Wickhamford	...	...	£27.99
Badsey	...	...	£90.89

**Royal British Legion, Women's Section.** A Coffee Morning will be held at 21 Badsey Fields Lane (Mrs. Sears), on Saturday, June 16th, 10-30 to 12. Tickets 10p. each. Proceeds in aid of British Legion Schemes.

**Inside the Chancel.** Since taking over as Organist at Badsey the enthusiasm of the Choir (brought about I am sure by Mrs. Braby's efforts) has to me been a most wonderful encouragement that would befit any Choirmaster. The boys and girls have increased in numbers whilst the men — though not increased in strength maintain a certain amount of regularity. I do want to see the men's section enlarged by the Autumn so that we can press on to singing harmony.

If there is anyone (old choirboys) interested in joining the ranks, please come and see me either before or after any service and we can then agree to a suitable time for practice.

I hope to write more as time goes on to let you know what is going on 'Inside' the Chancel.

R.W.K.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services

#### June

3 Sunday after Ascension. 9-0 H.C. (said); 5-30 Evensong.

10 **Whitsun.** 9-0 H.C. (sung); 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.

17 Trinity. 11-0 Family Eucharist.

24 **Patronal Festival.** St. John Baptist. 5-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist.

## July

1 Trinity 2. 9-0 H.C. (said) 5-30 Evensong.

Please note that this year the Feast of St. John the Baptist falls on a Sunday (24th). It is not often that we have an opportunity of keeping our Patronal Saint's Day on the Sunday; I do urge all our congregation, who are able to attend Church, not to miss this occasion.

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### Holy Baptism

On May 13th: Neil Whittenbury.

### Holy Matrimony

On June 1st: Paul Reynolds and Rachel Kirkley.  
Our best wishes to both for a long and happy life together.

### Burial

On May 12th: George Edwin Robbins, of 46, Pitcher's Hill. Our deep sympathy to the family.

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### Donation

£1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ballard of Manor Close, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. To whom our hearty congratulations.

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**Coffee Morning**, on Saturday, June 16th, in the Memorial Hall, 10-30 to 12-0 noon. The aims are, as usual, social and financial . . . please come and meet your friends, and spend money at the stalls! Profits will go to the Church funds. Admission 10p. Any contributions in kind to the stalls (cakes especially) can be given to Mrs. Parry or Mrs. Astley before 10-15 a.m. on the day.

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**'Open House'** happens in the Memorial Hall on the 4th Tuesday in the month at 8 p.m. The group is open to anybody of any age and either sex.

The June Meeting will be the Skittles Evening at the 'Hobnails'. For more information about this Club please contact Mrs. Ann Sharpe (10, Manor Road, Wickhamford) or Mrs. Christine Leak (Badsey Vicarage).

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**Stop Press!** Congratulations to Michael and Alan Clements on their 21st Birthday on June 4th.

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