

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We have at this time of year two important festivals, one better known than the other. Harvest Thanksgiving is I suppose one of the better known events in the Christian Calendar, and in parishes where agriculture of one form or another is the chief industry it is fitting that people should want to thank God for the gifts of Nature. Less well known, though I believe equally important is St. Luke's Tide. At this time the Church, bearing in mind that Luke was a physician, thanks God for the skill of the medical profession, and for the achievements of medical science.

In an earlier and pre-scientific age the quality of the harvest, be it fruit, vegetable or grain, depended to a much greater degree upon forces outside man's control than is the case nowadays. With modern methods there is an increasingly small area of chance, and a correspondingly growing area where man can claim to be in charge. Weather, I suppose remains the one chief factor still outside the farmer's control.

The same was true of Medicine. Going to the doctor for our mediaeval ancestors was an extremely hazardous business. As for going to the dentist . . . well, when one recalls that there were no dentists as such, only barbers who did a bit of tooth-drawing on the side, one can imagine the horrors involved. I remember seeing in a history book when I was at school a copy of an old picture illustrating how one of these barbers went about his jolly trade. The memory of the picture still makes my flesh creep.

In those far-off days men turned to God and bid him intervene on their behalf in those wide regions which lay outside their control. Good Health, like a good harvest, was seen as a direct gift from God. Conversely, a disastrous harvest or a dangerous fever were thought to be evidence of Divine disapproval. There was in their praying a tone which we would now find unacceptable. A God whom we can manipulate to fill our barns or cure our agues is as remote from modern experience as the God who afflicts humanity with disease and drought as a means of punishment.

I believe that Christians have been helped by the discoveries of science towards a maturer understanding of God's Providence. We now see the 'Act of God' no longer in the sudden and inexplicable turn of fate (a miraculous healing to show God's approval, or a thunderbolt to mark his rage) but rather in the careful and gradual advance in man's knowledge and control of his environment. We thank God for the skills he has given humanity, and as long as we remember that all human knowledge is a gift from God, we shall not fall into the error of believing ourselves to be self-sufficient.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

P.S. The Sunday in St. Luke's Tide (October 21st) will be the occasion when we shall pray for, and give thanks for, our local hospitals, doctors, nurses, health visitors and social workers.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services for October

- 3 Wed. 10-0 H.C. (M.U. Corporate Communion).
- 7 Harvest Festival. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 10 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 14 Trinity 17. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong. Preacher: The Revd. W. Bates, Vicar of Offenham.
- 18 Thurs. St. Luke. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 Trinity 18. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 24 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 28 S. Simon & S. Jude. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Mattins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.

November

- 1 Thurs. All Saints' Day. 10-0 H.C.
- 2 Fri. All Souls' Day. 8-0 H.C.
- 4 Trinity 20. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

Please note the Feasts of St. Luke and All Saints, and that in both cases the Wednesday service will be transferred to the Thursday.

Servers for October

- 7 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-45 A. Clements (S), S. Dore (C); 6-30 M. Exon.
- 14 8-0 D. Norden; 10-45 A. Owen; 6-30 P. Brazier.
- 21 8-0 G. Toney; 10-45 N. Bell (S), S. Dore (C); 4-0 D. Barrand.
- 28 8-0 A. Owen; 6-30 M. Clements (S), T. Bell (C).

Nov.

- 4 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 D. Barrand (S), P. Brazier (C); 6-30 M. Exon.

Holy Baptism

On September 16th: Paul James Davies, and Dylan Peter Jones.

Funeral

On August 28th: John Thomas Batchelor, aged 94 years.

Tom Batchelor, though not a Badsey man, had spent many years living with his daughter, Mrs. Wheatley, in their home on the High Street, and was therefore a well known figure in the village. In his address at the funeral Mr. Braby referred

to Mr. Batchelor's cheerfulness, kindness and his faith. I know that when I used to take the Sacrament to him each month, these qualities were very clear, even though he was suffering during the last months discomfort and frustration at being house-bound. We send our sympathy in their loss to his family, we salute the memory of one of Badsey's oldest inhabitants, and we commend the soul of a faithful Christian into the hands of Almighty God.

Jottings

It is good to hear that the following are now back from hospital, and we wish them a speedy return to good health: **Mrs. Jones** (of 17, Bretforton Road); **Mr. Hatch** (16, Green Leys); and **Mr. Pearce** (of Chapel Street).

Our best wishes to **Mr. Eddie Kinchin** (Badsey Fields Lane) for a quick recovery; at present he is still in hospital.

Congratulations to **Michael Meadows** who has been playing for the County under 15's Cricket Team during the recent season.

Congratulations to **Mr. Frank Knight** (of the High Street) who has made such a good recovery from his illness in August.

Welcome and best wishes to **Mr. & Mrs. Woodbridge** who have come from Kenilworth to run the Post Office, and to **Mr. & Mrs. Pearson** who have come from Coventry to run the shop on the Bretforton Road (Austin's).

Congratulations to **Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wood** (8, Banks Road) on the birth of their third son, and best wishes for their move to their new home in Liverpool. Michael was until recently our Church Treasurer, and for all his help in this sphere the P.C.C. are most grateful.

It is good to see **Mr. Tom Sears** getting better again after his recent illness. This has been a bad summer for Tom . . . we wish him a happier time ahead.

Congratulations to **Mr. & Mrs. David Norden** on the birth of their baby daughter, Carly. David is one of our regular servers at the 8 o'clock service on Sundays.

Thanks to **Mr. Selwyn Gresty** the unsightly mound of earth, which ran across the width of the new part of the Churchyard, has been levelled; when this is grassed over next Spring, the improvement will be considerable.

Welcome to **Mr. & Mrs. Bolland**, and their young family, who have recently moved into 'Wellwyn' on the Willersey Road.

Acknowledgement

The late Mr. Vernon Knight, whose death was reported in the last issue of this magazine, made in his will the generous bequest of £100 to the Church. The P.C.C. are at present considering how best to use this gift.

The P.C.C. have decided to use the combined collections from the funeral services of Vernon and Dorothy Knight to buy a complete set of new Bell Ropes, urgently needed for the safety and efficiency of our Ringers.

Coming Events

October 7th: Harvest Festival.

October 11th: (Thursday) Harvest Supper, 7-30 to 10-30. Tickets available from members of P.C.C., Adults: 25p. Children: 15p.

October 22nd: Deanery Synod. 7-30 at the High School.

November 16th: (Friday) Coffee Evening at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Sears, Badsey Fields Lane. 7-30 to 9-00. For our Overseas Project Fund.

Mothers' Union

Wednesday, October 3rd: 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Wednesday, October 3rd, 7-30 to 9-0: Deanery Coffee Evening at Bengeworth Youth Club, Stalls and Bring and Buy - For Deanery Funds. Come and bring your friends.

Tuesday, October 9th, 2-30: Branch Meeting. The Revd Thomas Wilkinson will speak about 'A Chaplain's Life in a Leper Colony'. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Bartlett (Com.), Mesdames Caswell, Eyre and Floyd.

Tuesday, October 9th, 7-30 at Offenham M.U.: You are invited to a Fashion Show.

Tuesday, October 23rd, 7-30: Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mr. W. Beckley "History of Evesham" Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Richards (Com.), Mesdames Evans, Franklin and Harvey.

J.B.

Young Wives

Monday, October 1st: Coffee Evening in the Meeting House at 8 p.m. Various Stalls including Nearly New; Cakes; Bring and Buy. Admission 10p. Proceeds in aid of John Baker Commemorative Appeal Fund for a Linear Scanner for Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Monday, October 15th, at 8 p.m.: The Potato Marketing Board will give a Talk illustrated by Cooked Dishes and a short quiz with prizes. All welcome to this Meeting. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Pat Baker, Mrs. Pauline Johnson, Mrs. Bernice Sims.

Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, October 17th, 2-30 p.m. at the Meeting House. There will be a Competition, with prizes, for the best animal made from a potato. We extend a very warm welcome to the new members, who joined us in September.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services for October

- 7 Trinity 16. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 14 Trinity 17. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 21 Trinity 18. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 28 SS Simon & Jude. 3-0 Evensong.

November

- 4 Trinity 20. 9-30 Holy Communion.

Holy Baptism

On September 9th: Lisa Jayne Grinnell; Gillian Louise Tweney.

Jottings

Best wishes to **Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Martin** on their move into their new Bungalow at 28a Pit-

cher's Hill. Having lived at No. 30 for 40 years, they have now had to move into somewhere which will be easier for Mrs. Martin's arthritis. However, they still have a splendid view over the fields towards Wickhamford and Badsey Churches . . . a view one rarely notices from the road, such is the hurly-burly of Pitcher's Hill traffic.

Best wishes to **Barry Jones** (of Manor Road) and **Marion Pokorski** who will be married in St. Mary's Church, Evesham during October.

Congratulations (rather belated ones) to **Paul and Barbara Birdseye** who were married in Marlow during August. Paul's parents live on Pitcher's Hill.

Senior Residents' Outing

This will be on October 29th to the New Theatre, Birmingham, to see **The Black and White Minstrel Show**. Anyone wishing to go, please give his/her name in at the Post Office.

Tuesday Open House Club

October 23rd: Christmas Fare - Cookery Demonstration, Mrs. Walden.

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