

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Last month I wrote about the Church's Ministry of Healing as expressed through the Laying on of Hands. I want now to write about that same healing ministry as it is ministered through **Confession**.

We are probably all aware of spiritual disease within ourselves, of some fundamental distortion which lies at the roots of our beings, and which manifests itself from time to time in emotional or nervous symptoms, or even in physical illness. What we do not seem to be aware of is our need to expose those dark corners of our souls to the healing rays of God's love.

Self-examination need not be morbid introspection. Surely, what is morbid is the way in which we are so scrupulous about bodily and dental health, whilst we are so negligent about our spiritual welfare. I believe that we need to take the time every so often to open ourselves up to God, and to make an honest confession to Him. It is only when we admit Him to the shuttered rooms of our personalities, rooms which we keep carefully locked against public intrusion, that He can begin to dispel the shadows.

Those who do make it part of their Christian duty to carry out these regular check-ups (Lent and Advent are obvious times to do this) often find it helpful to use some passage from the Bible, such as the Beatitudes (Matt. 5. 1-12) or the Ten Commandments or the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15. 11-32). Whatever aid we might use to help us to discover where we are going wrong, we should try to see beyond the 'Offence' ('Have I lied?' or 'Have I been irritable?') to the underlying discontent which makes us misbehave.

There are two ways in which we can make our confession to God. We can do so privately, or we can do so in the presence of a priest. If we use the first method, it is helpful to link our private confession with Holy Communion, so that the next Sunday when we go to church to receive the Sacrament, we can see God's forgiving love expressed objectively in the Bread and Wine.

The second method, that of making our confession in the presence of a priest and of receiving through him God's absolution, is recommended to us by the Book of Common Prayer, and has always been part of the practice of the Church of England. Some of us find that the discipline of this way of confessing is a valuable corrective, especially if it is a regular part of our devotional lives. We find that it is helpful to have advice from the priest, who can sometimes see our problems in a completely new perspective, and, finally, we find that the words of the priest, as he pronounces God's forgiveness, bring with them great encouragement and strength.

If anyone wishes to know more about Sacramental Confession (or 'Penance', to give it its traditional title) please ask me. Those of you who are already accustomed to this sacrament may like to be reminded that times for Confession are posted on the Notice board in the Church Porch during the week before Easter and Christmas, and if you wish to see a priest at any other time, either I or one of the Evesham clergy would be happy to arrange an appointment. (For personal reasons there are occasions when some people find it easier to confide in someone other than their own vicar).

I have written at length on this subject, and for this I do not apologise. It is too important a matter to be skipped over lightly. May I end by urging you all to make a regular practice of Confession (whether in private or before a priest) and to regard this not so much as a grim duty, but as a means of receiving God's healing and as an opportunity for growth.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services in April

- 3 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 7 Palm Sunday. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

Holy Week

- 8 Mon. 8-0 p.m. Evensong with Address (for M.U., Young Wives, and others).
- 10 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 Maundy Thursday. 7-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 12 Good Friday. 10-0 Family Service; 2-0 An Hour's Devotion; 6-30 Evensong (said).
- 14 EASTER DAY. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 17 Wed. No Service.
- 21 Easter 1. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 24 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 25 St. Mark. 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 28 Easter 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Mattins (said); 6-30 Evensong.

May

- 1 SS Philip and James. 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Easter 3. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 3-0 British Legion Service; 6-30 Evensong.

Confession: The Vicar will be in Church at 7-0 on Monday and Saturday evenings in Holy Week.

The Church will be decorated on Holy Saturday morning from 9-30; please will those who wish to give flowers please bring them as early as possible.

Easter Lilies: On the two Sundays before Easter there will be a bowl in the Church for donations towards lilies in remembrance of the Departed.

Servers in April

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

May

- 5 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore (s), P. Brazier (c).

Holy Baptism

On March 17th: Michelle Marie Sheward; Tracy Ann Marshall.

Funerals

On March 1st: Lilian Maud Glover (service in Badsey Church, followed by burial at Pershore).

On March 12th: Lottie Davies (service in Badsey Church, followed by cremation at Worcester).

Mrs. Glover was involved in a road accident early in January and died as a result of her injuries. For over sixty years a resident of this village, and for forty years a teacher at Badsey School, she will be remembered with gratitude by several generations of Badsey people. Miss Davies will also be remembered affectionately by her many friends in the village, where she and her friend, Miss Curtis, came to live in their long and active retirement in one of the cottages on the corner of High Street and Silk Mill Lane.

Sick List: Those who are or who have recently been ill include: Sylvia Bird, Cecil Collett, John Izod, Don Blake, Joyce Watkin, Phil Sparrow, Peter Boswell, Walter Major, Harry Stewart, Tom Sears, Rose Barnard, Daisy Barnard, John Biddle, Doreen Underhill, Leonard Lackey, Lilian Wheatley. To them and also to Juliet Sladden, who has had surgery on her wrist, we send our best wishes.

Many thanks to Arthur Kerr who stepped in at the last minute to take Evensong on March 10th, whilst I kept a preaching engagement in Oxford. Mr. Crowther Green who was hoping to come that night and who lives on the other side of Worcester, was unable to reach us because of the snow.

The Royal British Legion, Womens Section, will be having a special service on May 5th at 3-0 p.m. to dedicate their new standard.

Visiting Preacher. Canon Freiensener will be preaching here at Evensong on May 5th, while I shall be at his church in Brefforton. He tells me how much he enjoyed coming here last year and looks forward to a return visit.

Inside the Chancel. The younger members of our choir maintain a regular attendance at both practice and worship.

We could do with more adults, who would be able to give say half an hour or so each week for practice. By this so much can be achieved in perfecting the singing in harmony and the rendering of an occasional anthem. If any lady or gentleman would care to join us please see me before or after any service and we can agree on a suitable time to meet.

We have two young budding choirmen, recently promoted from the ranks of the choirboys who are in need of practice; their voices can only be perfected if they can practice with more experienced voices.

Please do not forget the Rummage Sale for our choir funds; the date soon to be fixed. Gifts of rummage would be welcome and collection can be arranged.

Andrew Stewart has recently completed his period as a probationer. In early March he was vested in his surplice, which I am sure he is proud to wear.

R.W.K.

Mothers' Union—April

Wednesday 3rd, 10-0 Corporate Communion.
Monday 8th, 8-0 Service in Church with Young Wives and refreshments in Meeting House afterwards.

Tuesday 23rd, 7-30 Annual General Meeting.
Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Bell, Cleaver and Davies.
J.B.

Sixty Plus Club. Wednesday, April 17th, 2-30 p.m. in the Meeting House, when the Brownies have offered to entertain the Club.

Date to remember - Wednesday, April 3rd when we visit the Everyman Theatre for the show "Gigi" to be followed by tea at the Theatre.

P.I.C.

Young Wives—April

- 1 No Meeting.
- 2 (Tuesday). Skittles Evening at New Inn, Cropthorne.
- 8 8-0 p.m. Service in Church; refreshments afterwards in Meeting House.

War Memorial Rota—April

14th, Mrs. F. Barnard; 21st, Mrs. S. Goldstraw;
28th, Mrs. I. Jones.

Bell Ringing. Since resuming its activities in the latter part of 1972 the St. James' Guild has made considerable progress in the intricate art and science of campanology. Few Sundays have gone by without six or the full eight bells being rung prior to one of the services. In addition, members have assisted ringers in other parishes, Brefforton, Broadway, Childswickham, Chipping Campden, Mickleton, Offenham, Stow-on-the-Wold, Willersey and others, both for practice and Service ringing.

Enthusiastic practice has enabled such methods as Plain Bob, Oxford Bob, Grandsire, Stedman and Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob, in Doubles (two pairs of changing bells), Minor (six changing bells) and Triples (three pairs of changing bells), to be rung with a high degree of competence.

Standards in raising and lowering the bells in peal are excellent. It would be necessary to travel some distance to find a peal of bells, regularly rung, with comparable striking and skill.

Encouragement by the Vicar and members of the Parochial Church Council is greatly appreciated. A complete set of new bell ropes has been provided from money given to the church in memory of the late Vernon and Dorothy Knight. These ropes are now fully stretched and hanging with their emerald green sallies, and the ringers are most grateful, for the old ropes were dangerously worn.

Anthony J. Brazier.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services in April

- 7 Palm Sunday. 9-30 Holy Communion and Distribution of Palms.
 - 11 Maundy Thursday. 7-30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 - 12 Good Friday. 11-0 Family Service.
 - 14 Easter Day. 9-30 Family Eucharist; 3-0 Evensong.
 - 21 Easter 1. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
 - 28 Easter 2. 3-0 Evensong.
- May**
- 5 Easter 3. 9-30 Holy Communion.

Servers in April

7, S. Noyes; 14, D. Carter; 21, S. Noyes; May 5, D. Carter.

Easter Lilies: On the two Sundays before Easter there will be a bowl in the church for contributions towards the lilies in remembrance of the Departed.

The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24th, at 7-15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, when we shall elect the Churchwardens and Church Council for the ensuing year, and when we will hear reports of the church's activities during the past twelve months. The Accounts will also be presented. Every adult resident of the parish is entitled to vote for the Churchwardens, but only those who are on the Church Electoral Roll are allowed to vote or stand member of the Anglican Church (or a Church in com- for the P.C.C. If any member of the congregation who

has attained seventeen years of age and is a baptised munion with the C. of E.) would like to join the electoral roll, please would he/she fill in one of the application forms at the back of the Church. In order to qualify for a vote at the A.G.M. a person must have joined by April 10th.

On the Sick List: Elizabeth Pethard, Fred Griffin, Muriel Davies (convalescent).

R.I.P. Herbert Rice (funeral at Cheltenham). Mr. Rice had been living for the last few months with his daughter and son-in-law, Bridget and Colin Brown, in Drysdale Close. We give our deepest sympathy to them in their loss.

Doris Carter, who died in March, will be remembered by very many people of Wickhamford and Badsey. Until about five years ago she used to live in 'Shire End', one of the last houses in the village. She had been a prominent person in local life, being a J.P., a school manager, and for many years president of the Badsey W.I.

The Flower Festival at Wickhamford will be held on July 19th, 20th and 21st. This will follow a similar pattern to the Flower Show of two years ago. Some of the gardens in the village including the Manor gardens will be opened to the public; the Church will be fully decorated, and, I am sure, more than usually beautiful; there will be an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts in the Memorial Hall; A Concert in Church on the Friday

evening; and a Sung Eucharist on the Sunday morning to which we have invited the choir of Badsey Church. More details of this festival will be published later, but please try to keep these dates free (and if need be, cancel that cruise which you were planning in the Mediterranean), and tell your friends about it.

Report of Wickhamford W.I. Meeting, 14th March. Mrs. Shannon-Garvey (President) welcomed Mr. Bowerman of Swift & Co., who showed slides and explained to members the process of tenderising beef, and passed round samples of their product 'Proten Beef'.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at The Hobnails, where teams from Wickhamford W.I., Childswickham W.I. and Broadway Thursday Group competed against each other at Skittles.

Mrs. Kate Harman (Sick Visitor) reported visiting Mrs. Pitt and Mrs. Pemberton. The Sick Visitor for next month will be Mrs. Shannon-Garvey. There was an Exhibition of dolls which members had made at the recent Toy-Making Classes. The monthly parcel was won by Mrs. Stanley.

Excellent refreshments were served by Mesdames Firth, Clinton, Sutton and Stanley. Next month's Refreshments Rota will be: Mrs. I. Sutton, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. J. Corbett and Mrs. B. Brown.

Arrangements are going ahead for a Morning Market to be held in the village on 1st June. Arrangements have also been made for a visit to the theatre on 19th April to see 'Gigi'.

P. Hancock.

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