

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.

MAY, 1974

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May, 1974.

Dear Friends,

First, let me say how splendid it was to have such a good number of you at the Holy Week and Easter Day services in Church. For me, and for many of you, the high point of joy came at the Family Eucharists in the two Parish Churches on Easter Day, with both buildings looking so beautiful, filled with so many families, young and old, and resounding with the music of the well-known Easter hymns. It really was a happy occasion, though 'happy' is perhaps a weak word in this context... 'triumphant' is more appropriate, I think.

During the week after Easter I took a few days off, spending some of the time digging in the garden, and also browsing through the parish records of the past two or three centuries... both of which activities taught me how little I know about horticulture and archives, but persuading me that if there were forty-eight instead of twenty-four hours in each day, both subjects would make a fascinating study.

One of the interesting things about parish life in the last century (and this is of more than merely academic interest) was the close interlocking of social and religious affairs. The Vestry Meetings under the chairmanship of one of the churchwardens, or the vicar, would deal with the whole range of local life from maintenance of the public roads and election of constables on the one hand to the repair of the Church bells and the enclosure of the Churchyard on the other.

Another interesting fact to emerge from even the most cursory glance at the parish records is the small scale of local life. In 1861 the population figures were: Aldington, 141, Badsey, 405, and Wickhamford, 124. Nowadays we are told that communities of that size are no longer 'viable', and are unable to control their affairs efficiently or economically, and yet a century ago these little communities appointed their own constables, maintained their own roads, administered their own poor relief, ran their own school, fixed their own rates, and manned their own Fire Brigade! Of course, there were instances of corruption and of inefficiency, but when such instances did occur they were on a parochial scale, and therefore more easily corrected.

It used to be fashionable to decry village life as being out of date, and incompetent. 'Parochial' became a dirty word. But now after years of urban experiments, the New Town planners are coming round to the view that people flourish in precisely those small groups which used to be the target of scorn, and so the ancient features of village life are being deliberately recreated in, for example, a new town like Milton Keynes with its neighbourhood schools, its neighbourhood shops and its neighbourhood councils. Sociologically, the small unit is back in fashion. Administratively, the trend is towards the bigger unit, but, no doubt, the pendulum will swing back again.

All of which brings me to the point of this rambling discourse, and that is the inestimable value of village life not only to those of us fortunate enough to live in such small communities, but also to the nation as a whole which is now beginning to look to the villages to provide it with a sane style of living.

On Sunday, June 9th, at 6-30 p.m., there will be in Badsey Parish Church a special service of thanksgiving for our villages and what they have given us. I have consulted Mr. Ron Churchill, the chairman of Badsey Parish Council, and at his suggestion have invited the members of the Council to participate in the service. I hope that other sections of Village Life will also be represented. At a later date perhaps could we not do something similar at Wickhamford?

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

Church Services in May

- 1 SS Philip & James. 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Easter 3. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 3-0 Royal British Legion Service; 6-30 Evensong (Preacher: Canon Freiensener).
- 8 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 12 Easter 4. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong.
- 15 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 Rogation Sunday. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 22 Wed. No Service.
- 23 ASCENSION DAY. 7-30 p.m. H.C. (Evening).
- 26 Sunday after Ascension Day. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Matins; 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 29 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

June

- 2 WHITSUN. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 5 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 9 TRINITY SUNDAY. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong (Parish Council Service).

PLEASE NOTE that the Vicar of Bretforton will be preaching here on Sunday evening (May 5th); that the Service on Ascension Day will be in the evening, so that those at work during the day may have a chance to come; that the Parish Council has been invited to attend the Evensong on June 9th, and that during that service prayers will be offered for our local community and for the work of the Parish Council.

Servers' Rota—May

- 5 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore (s), P. Brazier (c); 6-30 M. Exon.
- 12 8-0 D. Norden; 10-45 A. Owen; 6-30 M. Clements.
- 19 8-0 G. Toney; 10-45 P. Brazier (s), S. Dore (c).
- 23 7-30 p.m. A. Owen.
- 26 8-0 N. Bell; 6-30 D. Barrand (s), T. Bell (c).

June

- 2 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore (s), P. Brazier (c); 6-30 M. Exon.

Holy Baptism

On April 21st: Dean Anthony Harris; Claire Marie Jelfs

Holy Matrimony

On March 30th: Stephen Clear and Carol Griffiths.

On April 20th: Stuart McKechnie and Valerie Davies.

On April 20th: Roger Keen and Elaine Scarrott.

To each couple our warmest congratulations, and best wishes for the future.

Acknowledgements: to Mr. & Mrs. Dickinson of Malvern for a donation of £1 in memory of their mothers.

Mothers Union. Wed. 1st. 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Wed. 15th. Diocesan Festival in the Cathedral followed by tea at The Copper Kettle, Malvern. Coach leaves 1-45 approx. Names to me as soon as possible please.

Tues. 28th. 7-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Sharp, Broughton Hackett, Worcester. "Flowers in Church". Tea Hostesses: Mesdame Sharp (Comm.), Dale and Eyre.

Thurs. 30th. Mrs. Rolt "At Home" to raise money for Travelling Exhibition. Names to me to join party going. J.B.

Young Wives. Mon. May 6th at 7-30 p.m. in the Meeting House "Coffee Evening" Various Stalls including Nearly New, Bring and Buy, Cakes, Etc. Admission 15p. Proceeds for Charity.

Mon. May 20th at 8 p.m.—Social Evening.
Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Diane Pearce, Mrs. Ann Pearce,
Mrs. Daphne Cleaver.

Mon. June 3rd—Skittles Evening at "Hobnails".

Advance Notice. A COFFEE EVENING will be held in the garden of 21, Badsey Fields Lane, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Sears, on **Thursday, 27th June, 7-30 to 9-0 p.m.**

This is in aid of the Overseas Committee's fund for helping the African girl, Saria Joel. We hope readers will make a note of the date fixed for this event and will keep it free. Further particulars will be given in our next issue. J.E.S.

War Memorial Rota: May 5th, Mrs. M. Hay; May 12th, Mrs. L. Spencer; May 19th, Mrs. T. Keen; May 26th, Mrs. A. C. Sears.

W.I. May 8th. The Loan Collection. Social Time: Whist Drive. Competition: Interesting articles and photos about the Village for the Scrap Book.

A search is being made for the complete set of old Minute Books of the Badsey Women's Institute, and any information about their whereabouts will be gratefully received by the Secretary: Mrs. P. Smith, 7, Seward Road; Tel. Evesham 830186.

W.I. June 12th. Origin and Meaning of Surnames by Mrs. C. Guest; Social Time: Exhibition of Collage. Competition: The most interesting or funniest Snapshot.

Christian Aid Week—May 13th to 18th. Any volunteers for collecting please contact Mrs. P. Churchill.

Sixty Plus Club. Wednesday, May 15th. This month our meeting is a tour of the Cotswolds — tea at Cirencester. The coach will leave the Meeting House at 1-30 p.m. P.I.C.

Confirmation at Badsey April 4th, 1974.

The following poem was written by a member of the congregation who was present at the service, when Bishop Allenby confirmed twenty-three candidates from Aldington, Badsey and Wickhamford. I think it describes far better than can any prose account that happy occasion.

I saw a flock of young white doves
They settled pair, by pair,
With folded wings and dew-eyed
Before the bishop's chair.

Each answered softly to its name
As prayerful hands were layed,
An arm's length off, a young priest knelt
And intercession made.

They rose, and to the Table spread,
The white birds found their way
Their hearts abate, and fluttering,
Their thoughts — ah who can say?

I saw young hands await the Bread
Young lips raised up for Wine
Twas not white doves that came to Feed
But young white souls made Thine!

The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting

This was held in the Parish Church immediately after Evensong on the last Sunday of March. The attendance was better than last year (there were about forty present compared with last year's figure of twenty-five), but it should be pointed out that forty is still only a minority of our adult church members. **Churchwardens:** Mr. D. Hartwell (Vicar's Warden) and Mr. R. Taylor (People's Warden), and Mr. P. Tucker (Deputy Warden). **Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. K. Cole. **Deanery Synod members:** Mr. and Mrs. A. Owen, Mrs. Betteridge (these three were elected last year for three years) and Mr. G. Willcox. **P.C.C.:** Messrs. J. Bartlett G. Toney, P. Tucker, R. Kyte, S. Gresty, H. Hatcher; and Mesdames Bell, Floyd, Harvey, P. Sparrow, Reed, Leak, Watkin; and Mesdemoiselles Sladden and Core.

Historical Footnote: In April 1869 the election of the People's Churchwarden was keenly contested by Mr. Thomas Hall (proposed by Richard Wilkins, seconded by William Bennett) and Mr. John Phipps. A poll of Mr. Hazeldene, seconded by Alfred Roberts). A poll of all the electors of Aldington and Badsey was held, and the result (after two votes had been disallowed) was Hall, 52; Phipps, 52. The Vicar, the Revd. Thomas Hunt had to use his casting vote, and Mr. Phipps was duly elected as People's Warden. The total number of votes cast was 107 (including the two which were disqualified).

As the total population was at that time about 600 (of which a large number were either below the voting age, or too infirm to reach the polling station at the old school) this was an unusually high poll. History does not relate the personal issues which lay behind this election!

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services in May

- 5 Easter 3. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 12 Easter 4. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 19 Rogation Sunday. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 23 ASCENSION DAY. 7-30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 26 Sunday after Ascension. 3-0 Evensong.

June

- 2 WHITSUN. 9-30 Family Eucharist.

Please Note: that the service on Ascension Day will be in the morning at 7-30, and that there will be a Family Eucharist on Whit Sunday at 9-30 a.m.

Servers' Rota—May

- 5, D. Carter; 19, S. Noyes; June 2, D. Carter.

Holy Baptism

On April 28th: Adrian Philip White.

Funeral

At Cheltenham Crematorium on April 10th, Norris Haines.

Mr. Haines was 84 when he died, and although he had been ill on and off during the last year, he was still able to get out for a bit of gardening until only a few weeks ago. Visiting him and Mrs. Haines in their cottage in Manor Road was a delightful experience for anyone of a younger generation, as he was able to recount so vividly the former days of Wickhamford and Badsey, and to give one such a friendly welcome. There must be many people in these villages who will be sad to hear of his death, and who will feel that a link with the past has been severed. We send Mrs. Haines our deepest sympathy in her loss.

Acknowledgements: £3, given anonymously to the Church Fabric Fund, in memory of the late Mrs. Doris Carter.

£5, given to the Church by Mr. & Mrs. E. Stanley of Sally Close.

Senior Residents' Committee: the Jumble Sale held in March raised £37 profit, and this will go towards paying for the Outing to Coventry in April.

Report of Wickhamford W.I. Meeting, April 11th.

Mrs Shannon Garvey (President) welcomed Mrs. Benton (V.C.O.) who explained to members the Annual Resolutions. A welcome was also extended to Mrs. Smith of Badsey W.I. who had come at very short notice to make note of how Wickhamford W.I. wished to vote at the Annual General Meeting in London. She was acting for Mrs. D. Bell, who is going to be the Link Delegate for the two W.I.'s, but who was indisposed at the last moment.

It was announced that Toy Making classes had been arranged and would commence on October 1st.

A collection of newspapers was being made, not only to help our own funds but also towards the re-cycling of waste campaign.

Mrs. Shannon Garvey gave a report on the successful Group Meeting held at the Memorial Hall in March, at which members from Broadway, Badsey, Bretforton,

Childswickham, Hampton and the newly-formed Aston Somerville W.I.'s were represented.

Mr. Poulter has kindly given permission for his field on the main road to be used, and so arrangements are now going ahead for a Morning Market to be held there on Saturday morning, June 1st.

The Sick Visitor reported visiting Mrs. Pitt and Mrs. Carroll, whom we were pleased to see at the meeting, and also welcomed a new baby boy for Mrs. Stephens. Refreshments were served by Mrs. I. Sutton, Mrs. B. Brown and Mrs. J. Corbett, and the Monthly Parcel was won by Mrs. D. Harman.

P.C.C.: Wednesday, May 15th, 7-30 p.m., in the Memorial Hall.

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