

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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(Tel. Evesham 830343)

## Church of St. James Badsey

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## Church of St. John the Baptist Wickhamford.

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JANUARY, 1975

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## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

First I would like to thank so many of you for the Christmas cards which you sent to me and my family. At the time of writing this (post haste to get it to Mr. Knight in time for printing) we are still some days before Christmas, though judging from the number of mysterious packages which are being hidden by my wife above wardrobes, behind desks and on top of book-cases, this household is in for an exciting time on the 25th. Like all other parents of small children, I tremble to think how early we shall all be awoken on Christmas morning by the first unmistakeable sounds of childish glee!

The chief present of all is, of course, the one we receive every Christmas: the news that God has entered the human scene in the person of Jesus. All that we hope for and strive after and feel that we cannot grasp is, after all, accessible to us through Jesus Christ. To hear once again those opening sentences of St. John's Gospel, ('And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth') and to believe them, is to receive the best present of all.

If we wish to make it a Happy New Year for ourselves and those around us, what better way of doing so than by resolving to live in the knowledge that however gloom (and boring) the subject of our material decline might be, our spiritual wealth is assured by the promise of Jesus Christ who said 'I am with you always till the end of time'.

God's present is there, wrapped in the traditions of Christmas; it is for us to unwrap the fancy packing and to enjoy the priceless gift within.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

## BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

### Services in January

- 1 The Circumcision of our Lord. 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Christmas 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 6 The Epiphany. 7-30 H.C.
- 8 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 12 Epiphany 1. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 6-30 Evensong.
- 15 Wed 10-0 H.C.
- 19 Epiphany 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong.
- 22 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul. 8-0 H.C.
- 26 Septuagesima. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Mattins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 29 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

### February

- 2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

### Servers in January

- 5 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 P. Brazier (S), S. Dore (C).
- 12 8-0 D. Norden; 10-45 A. Owen; 6-30 M. Clements.
- 19 8-0 G. Tony; 10-45 A. Betteridge (S), T. Knight (C).
- 26 8-0 N. Bell; 6-30 D. Barrand (S), T. Bell (C).

### February

- 2 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore (S), P. Brazier (C).

## Funerals

On 28th November: William Bennett (aged 93 years).  
On 4th December: Cyril Edgar Sladden (aged 84 years).

### William Bennett

Mr. Bennett, the oldest man in the village, died in hospital on Sunday, November 25th. Many people in the village will have a host of memories of Mr. Bennett, and the oldest among us will recall memories of him stretching back to the beginning of this century. Though none of us, I dare say, will be able to recall so clearly as he did, the events and personalities of Badsey in the latter days of Queen Victoria. It was always a delight to get him on to the subject of 'the old days, and to hear him reminisce about times so very different from our own. The early days of the 'Rangers' and the changing pattern of Market Gardening from the days of his father, 'Squire' Bennett, up to the present decade were favourite topics. His record of support for the local football team, the time he first played for the Rangers in the last century up to only a few years ago when he was to be seen on the touchline keenly appraising the modern generation of sportsmen, must surely be unrivalled.

Mr. Bennett was baptised by the Reverend Thomas Hunt, and during the years that lay ahead of him he came to know seven other Vicars of Badsey. To take him the Sacrament in his home as I did each month was to experience his faith in Christ in whose name he had been baptised so many years earlier. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and children in their loss. May he rest in peace.

### Cyril Edgar Sladden

Three episodes which occurred recently seemed to be typical of Mr. Sladden, and I tell them here by way of tribute to him. The first occurred some months ago when we were discussing at Seward House the comparative merits of the various English translations of the Bible. I asked him what he thought of the new English Version. He told me that he had not read it all, and then, prompted by his sister, he admitted that he had got a fair way through it . . . nearly to the end of the Old Testament. It was not until some time later that I realised the full significance of his words. At the time I had forgotten that they were spoken by a man who was almost blind. It was easy in his presence to forget such a thing, so uncomplaining was he about the disability of age. The second episode happened a fortnight before his death. It was a Wednesday morning and he had decided to come to Holy Communion. The rain was driving down, hard enough to deter a man half his age. I sent a message that I would bring him the Sacrament in his home after the Service should he consider the weather too risky. Five minutes before the Service began, Mr. Sladden was in his customary place at Church. The third episode occurred on the day before he died. I had gone to tell him about the P.C.C.'s plans to renew the steps at the entrance to the Churchyard. For some time he had wanted to see this done and to contribute to the cost. After I had mentioned the estimated figure, Mr. Sladden took out his cheque book and wrote a cheque for £250 saying, "Good. I'm glad that's done before it's too late. Much easier than changing one's will".

Born in the village and brought up here, Mr. Sladden spent most of his life away from Badsey, returning to live in the family home about twelve years ago. But despite so many years away from the place, he had a very deep affection for Badsey, for its people and its Church. All of us who knew him will wish to salute his memory, and to extend our deepest sympathy to the Sladden family. May he rest in peace.

**The Sick and Convalescent** (at the time of going to print) Frank Reeves has had to return to hospital in Evesham. Louise Churchill (Aldington) has been for some weeks in Ronkswood. Joy Sullivan is in Evesham hospital. Edna Teague, from Bengeworth, is convalescing in Badsey. Eddy Kinchin has been in Powick. Doris Sparrow underwent a successful operation recently and is now convalescing at home. Henry Merriman is convalescing at home, and so is Martin Bent after his accident last summer. Florence Marsh and Elsie Bennett are both now in Avonside. William Hardiman has been unwell during this past year, but is now a little better. Mrs. Tutton (Blackminster) is better now after a spell in the Worcester Royal Infirmary.

### The Guild of Prayer

I have decided to stop duplicating the monthly intercession list as in most cases the names of the sick can be found in the current issue of the Parish Review. In its place, I hope that those who wish to continue this fellowship of prayer will make use of the two Prayer Groups which now exist in the Parish. One meets quarterly on a Tuesday afternoon for half an hour of prayer in one of the members' homes (the next meeting will be in March, the date to be announced later). The other group meets monthly, usually on the first Friday evening, again for half an hour or so of prayer in one of the members' homes (January 3rd, 7-30 at the Vicarage. February 7th, 7-30 p.m. at ).

**Donations** (for the restoration of the Churchyard steps): from the late Mr. C. Sladden, £250; from the collection taken at his funeral, £12.40.

### Sixty Plus Club

**Wednesday, January 8th.** An Outing in the form of a Mystery Tour plus Meal. Coach will leave the Meeting House at 1-45 p.m. (Free to members).

Wednesday, January 15th, 2-30 p.m. in the Meeting House. An Officer from Long Lartin Prison will visit the Club.

The Christmas Fayre recently held, realised £56.20. Many thanks to all who helped achieve this result.

P.I.C.

### Young Wives

Monday, January 6th, at 8 p.m.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Daphne Cleaver, Mrs. Val Padfield: Mrs. Jacky Jones.

Monday, January 20th, at 8 p.m.

#### QUIZ EVENING.

Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Jacky Thomas, Mrs. Pat Baker, Mrs. Diane Pearse.

Saturday, February 1st.

#### DINNER FOR MEMBERS AND HUSBANDS.

At Northwick Arms Hotel, 7-30 for 8 p.m.

### Mothers' Union

Wednesday, 1st: 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tuesday, 14th: Branch Meeting.

Speaker: Mrs. Brinsford from Worcester. "4th New Object". Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Hartwell, Stewart and Thompson.

Tuesday, 28th, 7-30 p.m.: Branch Meeting.

Speaker with Slides: Mrs. Pinder. "Bengeworth Flower Festival". Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Richards, Bell and Allan.

J.B.

### War Memorial Rota—January

5th, Mrs. K. Cleaver; 12th, Mrs. W. Sparrow; 19th, Mrs. N. Grinnel;

### Campanology

Two quarter peals have been rung with the bells half muffled.

On Wednesday, 13th November, In Memorium Cicely Sarah Jones, a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles (6, 4 and 8 covering bells). Treble: M. Stewart, 2: L. Bindoff, 3: P. Carter, 4: P. Addis, 5: R. Bindoff, 6: A. J. Brazier, 7: C. Evans (Conductor), Tenor: S. Carter.

On Wednesday, 4th December, In Memorium Cyril Edgar Sladden, a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles (6, 4 and 8 covering bells). Treble: M. Stewart, 2: L. Bindoff, 3: P. Carter, 4: C. Evans, 5: A. R. Geden, 6: A. J. Brazier, 7: R. Bindoff (Conductor), Tenor: S. Carter.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

#### Church Services in January

- 5 Christmas 2. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 12 Epiphany 1. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 19 Epiphany 2. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 26 Septuagesima. 3-0 Evensong.

#### February

- 2 9-30 Holy Communion (said).

#### Servers in January

5th, S. Noyes; 19th, D. Carter; Feb. 2nd, S. Noyes.

#### Holy Baptism

On December 8th: John and James Stanley, Tracy Jane Smith, and David Stewart Hartwell.

#### Funeral

On November 30th: Cyril Roberts (aged 57 years).

#### Cyril Roberts

Although not a native, Mr. Roberts had been living in Wickhamford for many years. He died at the relatively young age of fifty seven, after months of illness bravely born. Despite the pain and depressing nature of his illness, he showed great courage during those months; on more than one occasion he promised to stand me a drink at the Wheatsheaf (his local) which was typical of his good humour at such a time. The large crowd of people who attended his funeral was good evidence of the wide circle of his friends who will miss him. We send Mrs. Roberts and the family our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

#### The Special Service on November 24th

It was decided some months ago at a meeting of the P.C.C. to invite all members of the Church electoral roll to a special service at which the theme would be

our commitment to Jesus Christ and to the service of mankind through His Church. There was an encouraging response to the invitation and the Parish Church was well filled. After the service we went to the Memorial Hall for some excellent refreshments (for which many thanks to the ladies in the kitchen!). Someone did ask whether we might not repeat the idea of refreshments after church more often . . . some churches do this every Sunday. The obvious difficulty here is the distance between church and hall, and this would make it impracticable. Not to mention the extra work that would fall on the shoulders of the above-mentioned ladies. However, we will certainly try to repeat the exercise every so often.

**Sick and Convalescent**

Tom Collett, who has been in hospital again. Edna Parker, in hospital with a broken leg after an accident in the hunting field. Mrs. Ray Ballard, better now after a nasty fall at home in November. Samantha, the baby daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Willies of Drysdale Close, who has been undergoing a serious operation. Elizabeth Pethard, in Avonside. Trevor Bowles. Mrs. Platt of Sally Close, back home after an operation in November.

**Wickhamford Gardening Club**

The first meeting in 1975 will be on Wednesday, 15th January, at 8 p.m. This will be an informal evening and Mr. Albert Wardle will be giving us some suggestions

from the Seed Catalogue. Sherry, mince pies and coffee will be served; members 10p., visitors 15p. We welcome new members so come along and join us.

**Playing Safe**

Wickhamford needs a children's play corner. All villagers are welcome to a

**PUBLIC MEETING**

at the SPORTS CLUB

on WEDNESDAY, 22nd JANUARY, 1975

at 7-45 p.m.

It is hoped to have an invited speaker to aid the discussion, following which a committee will be chosen to organise the Play Corner provision if so required.

Please come and give the children your support.

John Sharp.

**Footnote**

Extract from the Badsey, Aldington & Wickhamford Parish Magazine, August 1903, (from the magazine inset, 'Dawn of Day'):

'Cayenne pepper is not prepared from a pepper plant, but from capsicum. Neither is Burgundy Pitch pitch; nor does it come from Burgundy.' (so there! Ed.).

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