

# BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



Vicar: **THE REVD. A. S. LEAK, M.A.**  
(Tel. Evesham 830343)

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

Churchwardens:

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

MR. G. A. S. WILLCOX,  
7, CHESTNUT CLOSE,  
ALDINGTON.  
(Tel. 830026).

## **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.

**JULY, 1975**

**PRICE 48p. PER ANNUM**

## VICAR'S LETTER

### Christian Initiation

Dear Friends,

There has been within the Church of England during recent years much discussion about our policy over Baptism and Confirmation. We in both the parishes will be participating in this discussion by holding a special joint meeting on July 16th at 7-30 in the Badsey Meeting House in order to give our opinions on the following questions:

1. Should there be a Service of Blessing for children whose parents cannot in conscience undertake the full Christian commitment required of them at Baptism?
2. Should children be admitted to Holy Communion at an early age (i.e. seven years and upwards) before they have been confirmed?
3. Should the rite of Confirmation be used more as an opportunity for a mature Declaration of Faith by young adults, rather than as a gateway to Holy Communion by young teenagers?

The reasons for this debate, and for some of the above suggestions, are complex, but are clearly laid out in a pamphlet published by the General Synod, 'Christian Initiation', copies of which are being circulated round the P.C.C.s. I would like to make a few comments on these matters for the benefit of those who do not have the chance to read the literature.

#### Service of Blessing

It is no secret that a number of parents, whose church membership is no more than nominal, come to clergy with the request to have their children baptised. Clergy are faced with the hard decision whether to baptise the infant, knowing that the parents are perjuring themselves when they make the explicit promises to bring their child up as an active member of the church or whether to refuse to baptise on the grounds that the parents are not in a position to make such a promise, and that to allow a baptism in these circumstances is seriously to devalue the sacrament. It has been suggested that a Service of Blessing might be offered, instead of Baptism, to those parents who find that they cannot make the Baptismal promises in good faith. My view is that if parents wish to have their child blessed instead of baptised, and if they fully understand that the Blessing is in no way a Baptism, then I would be happy to comply. In fact, I have already used a Service of Blessing in Badsey in such circumstances. But I do not think I would ever want to push this form of service at parents. Firstly, if it is used without proper understanding it will give rise in years to come to endless confusion about whether a person was baptised or not during his infancy. Just imagine having to rely upon Aunt Mabel's word for it that 'our John was done in that church down the road from where they lived in Isleworth'. So long after the event no one will recall exactly whether it was a Baptism, a Dedication or a Blessing. The second reason why I would hesitate to push this ceremony of Blessing at reluctant parents is that however weak I may judge their own commitment to Christ, I must remember that it is not my judgement that ultimately counts, and that it is the baby whom I am being asked to baptise, not the parents. Like my colleague the Vicar of Hampton, I would not hesitate to confront parents with their responsibility, but, also like him, I would never, except in very unusual circumstances, refuse to baptise a parishioner.

#### Confirmation and Holy Communion

Confirmation combines two elements: a Declaration of Faith on the part of the candidate, and the bestowal of God's Grace enabling him to become a full member of the Church, and hence a communicant. Many people believe that these two elements should be separated so that full communicant status can be conferred upon a

child after appropriate instruction (but not before he is seven years old), with a Declaration of Faith when he has reached maturity (say, eighteen years or older). Some people feel that it is unfair to demand of a young teenager that he make a declaration of lifelong commitment at such a tender age. On the other hand they hold that if the child is already a regular churchgoer it is equally unfair to withhold the sacrament of Holy Communion from him until he is adult. There is no reason why reception of Holy Communion should not precede a full adult understanding of its meaning (indeed, does any adult ever understand the meaning of the sacrament in all its fullness?) Against these arguments for a change in our present practice we must consider the sort of anomalies which such a change might cause. We might find in some years to come the development of three classes of adult Christian: those who have been baptised, but who have not proceeded to Communion or Confirmation; those who have been baptised and who during childhood became communicants, but never proceeded to adult Confirmation; and those (an elite?) who have progressed through all three stages.

I know that I have done less than justice to the subject in such a brief space, but I believe that people should be aware of what the P.C.C.s. of our two parishes will be discussing on the 16th, and I hope these comments, inadequate as they are, will give an indication. If anyone wants to see the arguments properly set out, I will gladly see that he gets a copy of the relevant pamphlet.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK (Vicar).

## BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

### Church Services in July

- 2 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 6 Trinity 6. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong (The Vicar of Bretforton).
- 9 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 13 Trinity 7. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 6-30 Evensong.
- 16 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 20 Trinity 8. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 23 Wed. No Service (see below).
- 25 Friday. St. James. 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 27 Patronal Festival. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Mattins (said); 6-30 Evensong (Preacher: The Revd. R. Churchill).
- 30 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

#### August

- 3 8-0 No Service (see below); 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 6 Wed. Transfiguration 10-0 H.C.

#### Please Note:

On July 6th the Officiant and Preacher at Evensong will be Canon Freiensener, the Vicar of Bretforton. I shall be taking Evensong at Bretforton.

On Wednesday, July 23rd there will be no service; I shall be at Crophorne Diocesan Retreat House.

On July 27th we celebrate our Patronal Festival, and the preacher at Evensong will be the Revd. R. Churchill.

During the holiday month of August we shall, as last year, suspend the Eight o'clock Service on Sunday, and the Wednesday Service (except for Wednesday, August 6th).

#### Servers' Rota - July

- 6th, 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore; 6-30 T. Knight (C).
- 13th, 10-45 A. Owen; 6-30 M. Clements (C).
- 20th, 8-0 G. Toney; 10-45 A. Betteridge (S), T. Knight (C).

27th, 8-0 N. Bell; 6-30 D. Barrand (S), T. Bell (C).

#### August

3rd, 10-45 S. Dore; 6-30 A Betteridge (C).

#### Holy Baptism

On June 15th: Mark Anthony and Wayne Scarrott;  
James Robert Morris; Danielle Clare Rickwood.

#### Holy Matrimony

On June 7th: Maurice Monks and Pauline Brazier.  
Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the  
Bride and Groom.

#### Funerals

On June 3rd: Alfred Cecil Collett, aged 62 years.  
On June 7th: Florence Edwards, aged 84 years.

#### Cecil Collett

Mr. Collett was a native of these parts, and for this reason and because of his long association with the Bell and later the Recreation Club he had a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He had been ill for the last two years, and endured his illness and the increasing weakness which it brought with it with great patience. We send his widow our deepest sympathy in her loss.

#### Florence Edwards

Mrs. Edwards had lived in Badsey for about thirty years, most of that time in the Willersey Road and latterly in St. James' Close. Many of us will miss her cheerfulness and good humour, especially at the Sixty Plus Club. One thing she dreaded was the loss of her independence through old age, but she was fortunate in being able to 'do for herself' up to the last week of her life.

#### Donations

We acknowledge with gratitude the following gifts to the Church:

From Mrs. Haines in memory of her late husband, £1.  
From Mr. & Mrs. C. Baker in thanksgiving for the Baptism of their grandson, James Morris, £2.  
From Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Decimus Agg of Vancouver, £8.

#### The Sick and Convalescent (as on June 20th)

Rose Barnard; Bert Lake; Bill Yeates; Beatrice Dale; Henry Merriman; Henry Brailsford.

#### O.A.P.'s. Bus Tokens

These will be issued to certain disabled persons and to those of retirement age at the Meeting House on Wednesday, July 9th from 10 a.m. to 12-30 and from 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. Please bring your Pension Book. Any enquiries should be addressed to the District Council Treasurer, 97, High Street, Evesham.

#### P.C.C.

July 16th 7-30 (Meeting House): Special Meeting to discuss Baptism and Confirmation policy. For this meeting we shall be joined by the P.C.C. of Wickhamford.

July 29th 7-30 (in the Church): Business meeting.

#### Mothers' Union

Wednesday, July 2nd, 10 a.m. Corporate Communion.  
Tuesday, July 22nd, 7-30 p.m. Coffee Evening in Mrs. Harvey's Garden (6, Chapel Street) - in aid of funds. If wet, in Meeting House.

J.B.

#### Christian Aid

The total collected this year was £141·85 - an increase of £13·41.

Aldington	...	£11·12	increase	£1·32
Wickhamford	...	£33·26	increase	£7·43
Blackminster	...	£6·14½	increase	£1·50
Badsey	...	£91·42½	increase	£3·26

#### Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, July 16th, 2-30 p.m. in the Meeting House.

#### War Memorial Rota - July

6th, Mrs. G. Grove; 13th, Mrs. C. Crane; 20th, Mrs. L. Knight; 27th, Mrs. A. Strides.

#### Young Wives

July 7th: 'How to buy meat', Mr J. Grindle.  
July 21st: Ambulance Service, (talk with film).

#### Badsey Women's Institute

July 9th: Care and Maintenance of Carpets, Mr. R. Mills.

Social Time: Whist Drive.  
Competition: Best Carpet Pattern.

August: No meeting.

#### Inside the Chancel

During the month one of our choirboys, Timothy Knight, has been incapacitated by a broken foot. We have missed his dynamic presence with us, and we all wish him a speedy recovery. The voices of two of the senior boys are now on the change. This is happening to Philip Brazier and Stephen Dore, and now is the time their voices should rest! Both have served their church faithfully for a number of years. Both were first class choristers, firstly to Mrs. Braby and secondly to me and I do sincerely thank them for what they have done for the choir in so many ways. I do hope we shall see them occasionally in their place 'inside the Chancel'.

R.W.K.

#### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

##### Church Services in July

6 Trinity 6. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).  
13 Trinity 7. 3-0 Evensong.  
20 Trinity 8. 9-30 Family Eucharist.  
27 Trinity 9. 3-0 Family Service and Sunday School Prize-giving.

#### August

3 Trinity 10. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).

#### Servers

July 6th, D. Carter; July 20th, S. Noyes; August 3rd, D. Carter.

#### Holy Baptism

On June 8th: Samantha Habbitts.

#### Funeral

In June, George Eric Corkhill, aged 74 years, at Worcester Crematorium, followed by Interment of Ashes at Wickhamford Cemetery. Mr. Corkhill lived in Bishampton, where he leaves a widow. We send her and his two sons our condolences on their bereavement.

#### Donation

Mrs. Ann Poulter, our Sunday School Supervisor, wishes to thank the anonymous donor who so generously sent her £10 for Sunday School funds.

The P.C.C. wish to thank Mr. & Mrs. Shaw for the carpet sweeper, which replaces the old one in the vestry.

#### Repairs

Sundry running repairs are carried out from time to time to our Church building under the supervision of our churchwardens. Some of these are to do with gutters and down-pipes, and therefore attract little public recognition. Amongst the more conspicuous repairs recently has been the plastering of some of the interior walls; painting will follow when the new plaster has completely dried out. Mr. & Mrs. W. Sutton have been treating the panelling of the pews, and Mr. Parker has made one or two repairs to the woodwork.

**Congratulations** to Mrs. Clara Sturt of Coombefield Road on her ninetieth birthday (June 11th). Mrs. Sturt came to Wickhamford in 1938 on the retirement of her late husband from the Police Force (he had been Chief Constable of Bacup in Lancashire). At first they ran the Leystone Garage on the Evesham Road, and then from 1942 until 1963 they lived in Weathervane Cottage in Manor Road. Since her husband's death Mrs. Sturt has lived in one of the bungalows in Coombefield Road. In her younger days she was a keen member of the Mothers' Union and the W.I. She remains a regular member of our small group of home communicants. We send her our greetings and love.

#### Welcome

Amongst newcomers to the parish recently have been Mr. & Mrs. John Barrett of 24, Drysdale Close, who were married recently in St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth. Mr. Barrett is a member of the Police Force and his wife works for the District Council... a nice combination. We hope they will be very happy in their new home, and we congratulate them on their marriage. Another new family in the parish is that of Mr. & Mrs. Baker. Mr. Baker has come to work at Gallipot Farm, and we welcome him and his wife, and their children, Sharon, Helen and Robert.

#### Sunday School Prizegiving

This will be on July 27th in Church at 3-0 p.m. Our usual service of Evensong will be adapted to suit the younger age group!

#### Folk Dance Club

At Wickhamford Memorial Hall, 8 p.m. on July 8th and August 12th.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

## THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham



### TELEFLOWER SERVICE

PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

#### Senior Residents

The Bingo held on 29th May made a clear profit of £27.00.

An outing has been arranged for Wednesday, 23rd July for an afternoon tour of the Cotswolds. Coach leaves Sandys Arms at 1-30 p.m. Anyone wishing to go please give names in at the Post Office, as there is only one coach booked and "first come, first served".

Margaret Winkett.

#### Wickhamford Gardening Club

On July 2nd at 8p.m. in the Hall: "Forum" with Guest Speakers. Questions welcome. Followed by Coffee and Biscuits.

Competition for 3 cut Roses.

Members 10p., Visitors 15p. All are welcome.

Sunday, 6th July. Outing to Wisley Gardens. Meet at Sandys Arms 10-45 a.m.

#### Badsey Patronal Festival

The Churchwardens and P.C.C. of St. James' Church invite members of the Wickhamford congregation to join them on July 27th for Evensong at 6-30, when the preacher will be the Revd. R. Churchill.

#### Footnote

'Drysdale Close', after Bertha Drysdale. 'Washington Road' after Penelope Washington. Both past residents of Wickhamford. But why 'Sally Close'?... because there used to be a field where fallow grew.

## F. MASTERS

*Painting, Decorating  
General Repairs*

5, The Poplars,  
**BADSEY**

Tel. Evesham 830456

Telephone: Evesham 3451

## SPIERS & HARRIS

ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERS

144, PERSHORE ROAD, HAMPTON, EVESHAM

75, BRETFFORTON ROAD, BADSEY, Near EVESHAM

Free Quotations

24 Hour 7 Day Service

**The Round of Gras**  
**Badsey, Evesham**

Telephone 830206

LARGE OR SMALL PARTIES  
CATERED FOR.

Leslie and Irene Mustoe.

## BRIAN JELFS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

21, WORCESTER ROAD, EVESHAM

All Types of Installations, Large or Small  
Estimates Free

Phone Evesham 3735 (evenings)