

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Because I shall be away on holiday at the time when this issue of the Parish Review goes to the printer, I am writing this a long way in advance of publication ... during the first week of August. Therefore, I am omitting much of the topical material usually included in the Review, as it will probably be out of date by the time you read this. I hope you will forgive any serious omissions, and understand why this letter is so brief.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

Answers to the August Quiz

1. During the Middle Ages the Rector of these parishes was Evesham Abbey. After the Dissolution of the Abbey the Rectory passed into the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. King Henry the Eighth a few years later presented Christ Church, Oxford with the Rectory and Patronage of Badsey and Wickhamford as a way of endowing the college which he had recently re-founded. Christ Church remains to this day the rector of the parish, appointing a minister or 'Perpetual Curate' to the vicarage. In earlier years the rector took the greater tithes of the benefice, and paid a vicar (literally, a 'substitute') to do the work in his place, but this no longer applies.
2. Elderly and infirm members of the congregation during mediaeval times 'went to the wall' so that they could sit on the benches which ran along the side of the nave walls. The centre of the nave was often without seating, being like an open hall, and our ancestors stood for most of the service, kneeling at certain more sacred moments in the worship. Some mediaeval churches did have fixed pews in the nave, but these were exceptional. The phrase 'to go to the wall' derives from this ancient church custom.
3. It is rare to find any individual monuments in a churchyard dating from before the 17th or late 16th century, because our ancestors did not commemorate the dead with individual headstones or crosses; instead they placed a single churchyard Cross as testimony to their hope that all whose bodies had been buried in the churchyard would be raised to a new life in Jesus Christ. After the Reformation and the introduction of a more individualistic emphasis into our religious attitudes, there arose the comparatively modern custom of placing individual gravestones.
4. A Mass Dial was a primitive sundial scratched upon the wall of mediaeval churches to signify the times of Mass. There are traces of a dial on the South wall of the tower of Badsey Church; it is not certain how old this dial is.
5. The four incumbents commemorated by name inside Badsey Church are: W. B. Chapman (on the glass screen at the west end of the nave); W. C. Allsebrook (on the processional cross); T. Hunt (on the East window); J. Rawlins (on the North wall of the Transept).
6. The oldest age recorded on a gravestone in Badsey Churchyard is 102 years. William Mustoe came to Badsey in the last century, and after working for the vicar, Mr. Gepp, he took up market gardening. A disastrous late frost ruined his entire asparagus crop. He then took over the 'Oak' - now re-named 'The Round of Gras', where his grandson is the present incumbent. He built the two houses ('Church View') opposite the Church in the High Street, where he lived until his death in August, 1944. A remarkable figure in the village and a robust personality, he was discovered on his hundredth birthday up a ladder picking apples in the orchard.

7. There are a number of carved faces on the tower at Badsey, but only eight of them are gargoyles. A gargoyle is a water spout, usually carved into a grotesque shape. Close examination of some of the gargoyles on our tower reveals quite horrific faces. When the tower roof was rebuilt some years ago the spouts in the gargoyles were stopped up and the rainwater now pours out of two displeasing drain-pipes.
8. The effigies in the chancel of Badsey Church belong to Richard and Margaret Hoby, of the Stone House. Richard Hoby was the son (nephew?) of Sir Philip Hoby who bought from King Henry 'the site, buildings and adjacencies of Evesham Abbey' for £891-10s. The curious erosion which has so badly disfigured this memorial has never been satisfactorily explained, but it looks as if one side was exposed to the weather for a considerable time. If this happened when the East gable of the chancel collapsed in the 1650's, the extent of the erosion suggests that the chancel remained a ruin for several winters before being rebuilt in 1653 (the date is interesting, as it was during the reign of the Lord Protector Cromwell, a period not noted for church restoration).
9. The Haberdasher named in the church is Mr. Cartwright Morris of London. He married the daughter of Edward Seward, and placed a memorial on the North wall of the transept to his late father-in-law.
10. The Holy Water Stoop, or the remains of it, can be seen on the Eastern jamb of the church door at Badsey. During the 1880's when the South aisle was added the ancient doorway was removed from its original position (which was near the font) and built into the new wall in its present place. The fragments of stone which had once held the holy water were preserved and rebuilt with the rest of the doorway. It used to be the pious custom, and still is in most Roman Catholic churches and some Anglican ones, to dip one's finger into the water as one entered the church and make the Sign of the Cross upon one's forehead.
11. The red hat at the top of the East Window in Wickhamford Church is the Cardinal's hat of Thomas Wolsey, who was very proud of his hat and nourished a hope that one day he would be able to substitute for it the triple crown of the Papacy, was the original founder of Christ Church, Oxford, who (see above) are Rector and Patron of Wickhamford.
12. King Charles the Second is commemorated in Wickhamford Church. His coat of arms was painted over the Chancel Arch to celebrate his restoration to the throne after the Commonwealth.
13. Prince Edward (later King Edward the Sixth) is commemorated in the decoration on the Tudor panels of the cupboard in the vestry. The initials P.E. can just be seen, with the Tudor Arms.
14. The design of the Chancel Gates is repeated on the gates of the Manor House, and also on the gates of the pathway which runs past the churchyard to the brook.
15. The main structure of the mediaeval pulpit can be seen inside the present 17th (18th?) century pulpit. If one climbs into the pulpit one can see the original structure, which was at a lower level than the present one. The panels of the mediaeval pulpit are on the wall in the vestry.
16. The Parish Clerk used to sit in the lowest level of the 'three-decker' pulpit (now used as the lectern). He used to lead the congregation in the responses.
17. The family coat of arms which became the model for the American 'Stars and Stripes' belonged to the Washington family, and appears on Penelope Washington's memorial in the floor of the sanctuary.

18. The ceiling above the Chancel Arch is panelled because originally it formed part of the Rood, or large carved Cross, which used to be placed in mediaeval churches above the Chancel Arch. Sometimes these Rood Crosses were covered by an elaborate canopy, sometimes by a panelled ceiling. At the Reformation the Rood Cross, along with other ornaments and paintings were destroyed or painted over. At Wickhamford the Rood Canopy remains, and one of the mural paintings has been uncovered.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Church Services in September

- 7 Trinity 15. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
10 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
14 Trinity 16. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong.
17 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
21 St. Matthew. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
24 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
28 Trinity 18. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Matins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
29 St. Michael and All Angels. 7-30 H.C.

October

- 1 Wednesday. No Service.
5 Harvest Festival. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
8 Wednesday. No Service.

N.B. On Wednesday, October 1st the Vicar will be away at a conference in Oxford, and on Wednesday, October 8th he will be at a conference for clergy at Cropthorne. There will be no services on those two days.

Holy Matrimony

On July 26th: Martin John Hunt and Susan Perkins.
On August 2nd: Steven William Coles and Jane Elizabeth Knight.

Funeral

On August 5th: Annie Sadler, aged 88 years.

Mrs. Sadler had lived for more than sixty years in the same house in Belmont Terrace. She came to Badsey on her marriage into the well established Badsey family of Sadler; her late husband had been born and brought up in the Stone House. With her passing, as with that of her lifelong neighbours, the Bennetts, there has been removed from the village another survivor of a past generation. We send our condolences to the family. May she rest in peace.

Servers' Rota—September

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

October

- 5 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore; 6-30 A. Betteridge (C).

Donations

In memory of Catherine Marshall: £24 (from the collection taken at the Memorial Service).

Thanks

To **Ralph Taylor** who has put a sink into the vestry; he has already earned the gratitude of the 'flower girls', who now no longer have to trek round to the tap out-

side the church. Drilling a hole through two feet of solid masonry for the waste pipe was no easy task, but the job was well worth it, and when we get the walls in the vestry painted that corner of the church will be much improved.

To members of the **Chrysalis Club** who spent an evening in late July tidying up some of the neglected graves in the old part of the churchyard. May I once again ask parishioners to notify me which are the graves of those whose surviving relatives no longer live in the parish. We do not want to offend anyone by 'tidying up', when the family still lives in the village.

P.C.C. Outing to Blockley for Beer, Skittles, Chicken and Chips, on September 17th at 7-0 p.m. from the Post Office.

Harvest Festival: October 5th. Contributions of fruit, flowers and vegetables gratefully received on Saturday morning. Parcelling up and distribution on Monday 6th ... volunteers please!

Harvest Supper: Wednesday, October 15th in the Village Hall. English Country Dancing (Caller: Tex Blomfield). Tickets from members of the P.C.C.

Mothers' Union—September

Wednesday, 3rd; 10-0 Corporate Communion.
Tuesday, 9th: 2-30 Branch Meeting. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Sharp, Sladden and D. Sparrow.
Tuesday, 16th: Prayer Group Meeting at 37, Badsey Fields Lane.
Tuesday, 23rd: 7-30 Branch Meeting. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Reed, J. Sparrow and Thompson.

J.B.

M.U. Centenary Celebrations

It was in 1876 that the Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner and to begin our celebrations the M.U. in Worcester Diocese are staging a Pageant in the Cathedral, entitled "Reflections", on Wednesday and Thursday, **1st and 2nd of October.**

Twelve members of the Evesham Deanery are taking part and will include three from the Badsey Branch and five of our young Church Members.

Performances will begin at 7-45 on both days and also at 3-0 on Wednesday afternoon. Admission by programme, 45p. obtainable from Joan Betteridge. There will be a coach each evening. See poster in the Church Porch.

Badsey Young Wives

September 1st at the **Village Hall** a Beetle Drive.
September 15th (hopefully) at Moreton-in-Marsh Fire Station.
All meetings must start promptly at 8-0 p.m.

Chrysalis Club

The enthusiasm of our members continues unabated — where the energy comes from goodness only knows. Last week's "gyrations" to the sound of Pop records left yours truly exhausted and all I did was watch and listen. Incidentally, if anyone has a record player which is surplus to requirements we can make very good use of it.

Our membership is now most consistent and we especially welcome new members in Andrew and Alex Ogg and Andrew Gamble.

Many thanks to everyone who turned up to spend a hard working two hours in cleaning some of the neglected graves in the churchyard. We had a full attendance that night and the efforts of all concerned are greatly appreciated.

Two car loads of members accompanied the Vicar and myself for a day's outing to Coventry on Tuesday, 5th August and a most enjoyable time was had by all. We included a visit to the Cathedral where we attended the lunchtime service and accomplished the climb up 180 steps to the top of the Bell Tower in the ruined Cathedral. I wonder if certain twins' knees have stopped knocking yet.

After lunch we spent about an hour and a half swimming at the very modern Coventry baths and a most enjoyable and hectic time was had by all. I think we have a potential champion in Liz Goldstraw if she continues to progress.

Carolyn Watkin is our member of the month. She rarely misses an attendance and is always ready to help; we hope she is enjoying her holiday and that the ponies she has gone to ride prove less trouble than certain of our male members.

S.E.

War Memorial Rota—September

7th, Mrs. C. Stewart; 14th, Mrs. A. Syril; 21st, Mrs. N. Cook; 28th, Mrs. D. Littlewood.

An Overseas Visitor

Next month we shall have the pleasure of a visit from Sister Susan Andrew, Matron of St. Monica's Hospital, Maciène, Mozambique, where Saria Joel, whom this parish is sponsoring, has done some nursing training.

Miss Andrew will speak and show slides in church, after a shortened Evensong, on **Sunday, 12th October**, when

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we hope that many parishioners will come to meet her to hear at first-hand about Saria and her country, which is going through the experience and problems of recently granted independence.

J.E.S.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES Church Services in September

- 7 9-30 a.m. Holy Communion (said).
- 14 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 21 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 28 3-0 Harvest Festival Service.

October

- 5 9-30 Holy Communion.

Servers in September

7th, D. Carter; 21st, S. Noyes; Oct. 5th, D. Carter.

Donations

Birthday Thankoffering from Mrs. Nott: £1.

Harvest Festival

On Sunday, September 28th, at 3-0. Contributions of fruit, flowers and vegetables gratefully received on Saturday morning. Parcelling up and distribution of gifts on Monday 29th. Volunteers please!

Harvest Supper

On Saturday, October 4th; tickets from members of the P.C.C.

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