

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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(Tel. Evesham 830343)

Church of St. James Badsey

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Churching of Women

I want to say a few words about the service of 'Churching' or, to give it its longer title, 'The Thanksgiving of Women after Child-birth'. This ancient little rite, to be found in the Prayer Book immediately before the Communion and the Psalms, is, as its title says, a service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child. It consists of a psalm (usually No. 127) which the mother (and father) say together, and two or three prayers said by the priest, who asks God's blessing upon the parents and their new baby. It has been the usual practice to say these prayers in Church, though if circumstances make this impossible there is no reason why the priest should not come to the home and offer the prayers there with the family.

This service is just one way of saying 'Thank-you' to God; there are other ways. Some parents prefer to come to the Eucharist at Church, and to combine their own private thanks with the Great Thanksgiving of the Church which is the Holy Communion. However, others prefer the quieter and more private ceremony of 'Churching', and in our two parishes there are during the course of the year a number of young mothers who do use this service. As a priest I must admit to being more than a little moved when I am asked to share a couple's personal happiness in this way, and I value this occasion when the Church, so much involved in public ceremonies, is invited to celebrate a private joy.

But there is another, less attractive, aspect of 'Churching': superstition. In the past there was the false notion that childbirth, and indeed the whole process of conception, pregnancy and birth were 'unclean'. It was then thought necessary for the mother to be 'purified', after her child was born and the obvious place for this ritual cleansing was the Parish Church which already provided a convenient rite of Thanksgiving. So powerful was this erroneous superstition that it burnt itself into the mind of the community, and to this day there are some places in England where an 'un-Churched' mother will not be allowed across the threshold of a neighbour's house or into the door of the local shop lest she bring her 'defilement' upon the occupants. Of course, many of those who perpetuate this superstition do so in ignorance of its savage and utterly unchristian implications, but that does not excuse them for what they have done in degrading childbirth from an occasion of thanksgiving to one of shame, and in tainting a Christian rite with pagan error.

Fortunately, this mischievous superstition seems to be dying, and in our two parishes I believe it is practically dead. Certainly hardly any young mothers take it seriously, and I do not think any who come to be Churched do so for superstitious reasons. But the sad thing is this: because the service of Churching has become confused in the popular imagination with the unchristian idea of Purification it has in many parishes been discredited and allowed to fall into disuse; and that is evidence, if ever there was any, of the destructive power of 'harmless' superstition.

Let me say, then, in conclusion how valuable this little service can be, and what a shame it would be if through neglect or misunderstanding it were to fall out of use altogether. I do commend its use as one way of saying 'Thank-you' and of celebrating the birth of a child

Confirmation

Please will you pray for those who will be confirmed by the Bishop at All Saints' Church, Evesham, on Sunday, October 19th at 6-30 p.m.? They are: (from Badsey and Aldington) Paul Brazier, Diane Burford, Elizabeth Goldstraw, Lloyd Ludlow, Andrew Watkin; (from Wickhamford) Albert Parker, Arnold Habitts, Colin Carter, Nigel Ford, Sally Mobley, Timothy Mobley, Julie Simmonds and Lynne Winkett. May I repeat the old cliché that Confirmation is not a Passing Out Parade, but the beginning of a Christian's communicant life within the Church. That these young people persevere as regular communicants and members of their Church will to a great extent depend on the example and encouragement of their elders.

Sunday School

The winter term is now well under way, and at Wickhamford the children meet at 11-0 every Sunday in the Memorial Hall under the tuition of Mrs. Ann Poulter and Miss Pauline Allchurch. At Badsey the Sunday School has had to find a new venue, and I am most grateful to Mrs. Goldstraw for allowing us to use her school-room. Sunday school begins there each Sunday (except when there is a fifth Sunday in the month) at 10-45. On the first and third Sundays in the month the children meet at Mrs. Goldstraw's and then walk across to Church to join in the Family Eucharist after the sermon. Mrs. Bell's team of helpers include Christine Brazier, Frances Ives, Janette Stewart and Kate Granger. Susan Brazier, who for some years has been such a loyal and helpful member of the staff, has now had to 'retire', as she has begun a two years course on Catering and Hotel Management in Bournemouth. We are most grateful for her help and send our best wishes to her for the future. Surely, managing hotels will be a piece of cake after managing children? Susan's valued services as a Baby-sitter will also be much missed in Aldington and elsewhere.

I must now conclude and allow space for the notices and reports.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

Help the Aged

There will be a collection of good used clothes and blankets on Tuesday, October 14th. If you can give any please will you bring them to Badsey Church during the following times: 10 to 12 noon; 2 to 4 p.m.; 6 to 8 p.m.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Services in October

- 1 Wednesday. No Service.
- 5 Harvest. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 8 Wednesday. No Service.
- 12 Trinity 20. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong, followed by talk by Sister Andrew (see below).
- 15 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 18 St. Luke. 8-0 H.C.
- 19 Trinity 21. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 22 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 26 Trinity 22. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Mattins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 28 SS Simon & Jude. 7-30 H.C.
- 29 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.

November

- 1 All Saints. 8-0 H.C.
- 2 Trinity 23. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 4 All Souls. 7-30 H.C.
- 5 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.

P.C.C. Tuesday, 21st October, 7-30 p.m.

Servers' Rota - October

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

November

- 2 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore; 6-30 T. Knight (C).

Holy Baptism

On September 21st: Tobias James Yates; Cathy Jo Harris; Andrew Reginald Baker.

Holy Matrimony

On September 6th: Peter Cole and Sally Firth.
To both our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

Funeral

On September 5th: Edmund Brzezinski, aged 62 years.
Burial in Badsey Churchyard after Requiem Mass at St. Mary's, Evesham.

Donations

In memory of the late Lillie Stratford, £1 from Mrs. P. Sparrow; In memory of the late Edith Smith, and in gratitude for thirty seven years on the staff of Badsey School, £100 from Miss N. Smith. The Vicar and P.C.C. are most grateful for these donations.

Hunger Lunches

These will be held in the Baptist Church Hall in Cowl Street, Evesham, on Fridays in October, 12-30 to 1-30. The object will be the same as that of the Lent Lunches; that is, one eats a bread and cheese snack in the hall and contributes a minimum of 20 pence (preferably more!) to Christian Aid. The money is then used towards one of the many agricultural projects which Christian Aid sponsors in the underdeveloped countries. Apart from being occasions when one can enjoy a snack with friends, these 'Hunger Lunches' are valuable reminders that, for all the moaning going on at present in our own country, we still enjoy a standard of living astronomically higher than the majority of mankind.

Sister Susan Andrew

Sister Andrew will be giving us a talk immediately after shortened Evensong on Sunday, October 12th. She is on furlough from Mozambique and will be able to give us first hand information on the hospital at Maciene, and upon Nurse Saria Joel, whose training we have been sponsoring. It is hoped that we will have a large congregation that evening, and that all of us, especially those who have done so well to raise money for this 'Overseas Project' through Coffee Evenings, etc., will be there to hear Sister Andrew.

P.C.C. Outing

On Wednesday, September 17th, the Parochial Church Council accompanied by spouses made their customary outing to the Crown at Blockley for beer - skittles - chicken - and - chips. Once again the arrangements, and the scoring/umpiring of the annual skittles match were in the capable hands of Daphne Bell, to whom our thanks. It gives your reporter much pleasure and a de-

gree of relief to say that after a series of defeats in the past three years the husbands did this time manage to win (could this be the start of the long overdue trend towards Husbands Lib... maybe the tide is turning). However, the ladies were able to boast that the Victor Ludorum came from their team... Nurse Davies alone of all the contestants succeeded in knocking down all nine skittles.

The Sick and Convalescent (as on September 19th)

Those who have been in hospital recently and have now returned home include: Arthur Shooter, Jack Bent, Yoka Ogg, Edwin Harris, William Yeates (after many months in Ronkswood and Briar Close) and Vera Lawley. Those in hospital at the time of writing include Emma Byrd, Hilary Tolkien and Ethel Allen. Congratulations to Beatrice Dale and Pat Sladden on the good recovery they have both made after their recent hip operations.

Welcome

Recent newcomers to the parish include: Mr. & Mrs. Maskew and family (High Street), Mr. & Mrs. Canning and family (Bretforton Road), Mr. & Mrs. Whitaker and family (Bretforton Road), Mr. & Mrs. Owen (Binyon Close), Mr. & Mrs. Foggin (Oak Close), Miss Orchard (Bretforton Road), Mr. & Mrs. Mytton (Bretforton Road), Mr. & Mrs. Warneford (Bretforton Road).

Thanks

To all of you who made the Reverend John Brown and his family so welcome when he came as Locum Tenens during the Vicar's absence on holiday. Mr. Brown has written to say how much he enjoyed taking the services at Badsey and Wickhamford. Thanks, too, to Christopher and Susan Smith who acted as Custodians of the Key, and unlocked and locked the Church every day.

M.U. Notices

Wednesday, October 1st and Thursday, October 2nd: 'Reflections' in the Cathedral; coach leaves Badsey at 6-30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 14th; 2-30, Branch Meeting; Speaker, Mrs. Daphne Bell.

Tuesday, October 28; 7-30, Branch Meeting; Speaker, Mrs. Lankester: Overseas, with slides.

In future, meetings will be held in Church.

Badsey Young Wives

October 6th: N.S.P.C.C. - Mr. K. Dice.

Tea ladies: Mesdames Hartwell, Perks, Whiting.

October 20th: Annual Dinner - The Swan, Broadway.

All new members will be very welcome.

Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, October 15th, at 2-30 p.m.

This month we commence holding our meetings at the Royal British Legion Club.

Our thanks to the Legion Committee for their kindness in offering us the use of their room.

Women's Institute

October 8th: Christmas Cracker Making. Miss A. Gibson. Social Time: Drama. Competition: Autumn Table Decoration.

War Memorial Rota

October 5th: Mrs. P. Sparrow; October 12th: Mrs. A. C. Sears; October 19th: Mrs. K. Cleaver.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Services in October

5 Trinity 19. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
12 Trinity 20. 3-0 Evensong
19 Trinity 21 9-30 Family Eucharist.
26 Trinity 22. 3-0 Evensong.

November

2 Trinity 23. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).

Servers in October

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

Holy Baptism

On September 14th: Andrew Mark Heeks.

Funeral

On September 11th: Frederick Thomas John (Mac)
Taylor, aged 63 years.

Frederick (Mac) Taylor

Mac Taylor had in recent years been a victim of arthritis and bronchial trouble, both of which considerably restricted his activities. In former years he had been a keen sportsman and had been secretary of the football club. He was also a trustee of the Memorial Hall and a member of the Badsey and Wickhamford branch of the Royal British Legion, having served in the war as a despatch rider in the Gunners. He leaves a wife and son, to both of whom we send our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Sick List

In hospital: Ann Badham, Ted Roberts.
Convalescent: Fred Smith.

Coffee Morning

At the Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 8th, 10-30 to 12 noon. Cake Stall, and Gift and Christmas Decorations Stall. Admission: 10p. Profits will go to Church funds.

P.C.C. November 12th, 7-30 p.m.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

COFFEE EVENING

in the Hall

on Wednesday, October 8th, at 8-0 p.m.

Admission 10p.

Stalls - Raffle, etc.

Coffee and Biscuits.

Westonbirt Arboretum (Nr. Cirencester) is the venue for an outing on Sunday, 12th October (weather permitting). We will be going in our cars, leaving Sandys Arms at 11 a.m. Anyone requiring a lift, please phone 830630 beforehand.

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