

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Church Finance

You will probably have seen reports in the Press and on Television about the serious plight of the Church of England's finances. You may have groaned inwardly, as we all do when we hear yet another request for more money. More than this, you have been slightly sceptical about the reality of the crisis.

But the situation is every bit as serious as the reports have suggested. Perhaps even more serious. And I feel strongly that none of us should be under any illusions. The Church of England at the local level in our parishes and also at the diocesan level will be forced to make harsh cuts in its expenditure unless the amount of money given regularly by parishioners increases significantly.

In brief, with its present income the Church can. ot continue to pay its clergy or maintain its buildings on the present scale. Three alternatives are possible:—

- 1 Reduce the number of stipendiary clergy and church buildings.
- 2 Increase regular contributions from parishioners by 40%.
3. A combination of 1 and 2.

We have been asked by the Bishop to think seriously about this situation and to see what we can do in our two parishes to meet the emergency. Accordingly in **Badsey** we have already held a special service (on December 7th), when a member of the P.C.C. addressed the congregation, and when a panel of P.C.C. members answered questions from the congregation. At **Wickhamford** we shall be doing something similar on January 25th, at 3-0 p.m.

The difficulty, as always, is that the burden of paying for our clergy and our churches is carried by a small minority of parishioners. The vast majority of people, most of whom expect the services of the Church when they require them and who would be deeply upset if their local church was closed or the parson made redundant, are unwilling to pay for what they expect.

Or are they so unwilling? I believe that they would be willing if they knew the facts. For so long now the Church of England has been cushioned by the generous legacy of its past members that it is hard for people now to realize that we really do have to pay for what we get. Church bills and clergy stipends are not paid for out of taxes or rates, nor are they covered by grants from the Church Commissioners (who, so far from being the plutocrats of popular imagination, are in fact able to meet the cost of only part of clergy pay).

During the next few months the P.C.C.s of both our parishes will be planning ways of bringing these facts to the notice of our parishioners, and inviting everyone to share in the cost of the Church.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Church Services in January

- 4 Christmas 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 6 Epiphany. 7-30 H.C.
- 7 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 Epiphany 1. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 6-30 Evensong.

- 14 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 18 Epiphany 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong.
- 21 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul. 8-0 H.C.; 10-15 Mattins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 28 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

February

- 1 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 2 Candlemas.
- 4 Wed. 10-0 H.C.

Please Note that the time of Mattins on the 4th Sunday in the month has been altered to 10-15.

Servers' Rota

- Jan. 4 8-0 P. Gresty; 10-45 S. Dore (S), P. Brazier (C); 6-30 T. Knight.
- Jan. 11 8-0 A. Betteridge; 10-45 A. Owen; 6-30 M. Clements.
- Jan. 18 8-0 G. Toney; 10-45 A. Betteridge (S), T. Knight (C).
- Jan. 25 8-0 N. Bell; 6-30 D. Barrant (S), S. Caswell (C)
- Feb. 1 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 A. Watkins (S); S. Dore (C).

Holy Baptism

On Nov. 16th: Stephen Edmondson; Ashley Hartwell; Dean Marshall.
On Dec. 21st: Daniel Bowman Byrd.

Burial

On Dec. 4th: Alice Major, aged 85 years.

Mrs. Major came to live in Badsey after her marriage to Cecil Keen, and she and her husband were caretakers at the school for many years. After the death of her first husband, she married Tom Major, who died earlier this year. R.I.P.

Children's Mission

On four consecutive Thursday afternoons in November we held meetings in Church for seven to ten year olds. Average attendance was about fifty, drawn mainly from Badsey, with some from Aldington and Wickhamford. The children learnt some choruses (which they sang lustily) and heard Bible stories which illustrated the meaning of the Font, the Nave, the Lectern and the Altar. Each week we had a quiz, done on a team basis, and on the final occasion the team with the highest aggregate of points won prizes. Many thanks to the adult helpers: Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Ives and Miss Smith (who also struggled bravely with our very much out of tune piano)! Our thanks also to Mr. Ralph Taylor who donated the prizes.

Letter from Sister Andrew (continued from last month)

When we came to the U.K. on leave we were not allowed to take any Mozambique money with us, so I arrived back with a completely empty purse. Not even enough to pay for a taxi to come here. However I had managed to get in touch with a friend in South Africa and he had telephoned this diocesan office to let them know that I was coming. But both the Bishop and Ian Read, the only Europeans here, were away.

So you can imagine how relieved I was when I saw the smiling face of one of our African priests there, waiting for me on the platform. Who promptly took my luggage, saw me safely through the customs, and paid for a taxi. That was padre Martins Macie, who is the

vicar of this Chamankulu church. He brought me here, and then the other, younger priest, Denis Sengulane, who was in England for several years, and was ordained a deacon there, asked me to have lunch with him, and some of the confirmation candidates he was preparing.

I stayed for the weekend, and in fact, have had to remain ever since, as there have been other formalities to be seen to. I have spent a good deal of time in long queues outside various government departments. Or sitting in their waiting rooms.

When the Bishop and Father Read came back they told me what had taken them away from here on October 12th. This went a long way towards putting new heart into me.

They had been to Maxixe, near Inhambane. It is on an estuary, about three hundred miles north of Maciene. The Bishop had ordained two padres in to the Auxiliary Ministry (the part-time, voluntary ministry).

These are both men the church has known for a long time, who are much respected, and have had some training for this important work already. Ernest Muando is one of the school masters; and the other, José Cossa runs a very efficient little business as a shoe maker. Both these Africans had volunteered several years ago to take part in the auxiliary ministry.

They told me that the church was packed for their ordination. As well as many people standing outside, listening to the service being relayed by loudspeakers. Representatives of all the other christian bodies working in that area had also been invited, and were in the congregation.

After the Ordination the Bishop celebrated Holy Communion, and then he invited all christians present to come to the altar and take Communion. No surprise there, as Maxixe has, for several years, been the centre of a very genuine ecumenical friendship. So to the joy of everyone present, not only the non-conformist representatives, but also the Roman Catholic priest and a big group of nuns from their church, also made their Communion.

After the service there was a special meal, prepared by the congregation, in the new church hall (rather a simple structure, but very useful for these occasions). This was followed by singing and dancing, and the popular "dramas". These are original plays, composed and acted by the people themselves. They have a striking similarity to what students of English History refer to as the mediaeval "morality plays". - or even Pilgrim's Progress. They are often based on a Bible story, or the life of a saint. But there is also always some comic relief; and usually one actor who one would call the jester; his role being to make the audience laugh. These songs and festivities went on until quite late in the evening. And there may have been more "snacks". But no drinking. We have to thank the new Frelimo government for the firm stand they are making against all forms of alcohol.

Since then I have also been able to join in three other church celebrations. One a confirmation, here at Chamankulu. Also the consecration of a new church in the African suburb of Choupal. And this weekend we are going to Maciene to see the Bishop instal the new Dean of the cathedral, padre Gabriel Muianga.

With my very sincere Good Wishes,

Susan Andrew.

War Memorial Rota—January

11th, Mrs. K. Cleaver; 18th, Mrs. D. Sparrow; 25th, Mrs. N. Grinnel.

Mothers' Union—January

Wed., 7th: 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tues., 13th: 2-30 Branch Meeting at 37, Badsey Fields Lane. Speaker: the Rev. A. Leak.

Tues., 27th: 7-30 Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Anne Rolt, Diocesan President. At place to be decided.

J.B.

Brownies

Badsey Brownies paid a surprise visit to the 60 plus Club Meeting in December. They sang carols and gave each member a small basket of sweets which they had made themselves.

On December 29th for their Christmas Outing a visit was made to the Swan Theatre, Worcester to see 'Old King Cole' and on 25th February a Disco has been arranged at Badsey Village Hall for 8 - 11 year olds.

Other plans in the pipe-line are an Easter Treasure Hunt and Summer Camp.

Badsey Sixty plus Club

Wednesday, January 21st at 2-30 p.m. Meeting at the Royal British Legion Club. In the evening an outing has been arranged to Chipping Campden; coach leaves the Legion at 6-00 p.m.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services in January

- 4 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 11 3-0 Evensong.
- 18 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 25 3-0 Evensong.

February

- 1 9-30 Holy Communion (said).

Please Note: At the service on January 25th (3-0) in place of the sermon the congregation will be addressed by a member of the Parochial Church Council on the subject of Church finance. Opportunity will be given for questions to be asked. After the service refreshments will be served in the Hall, where there will also be a display of information about the Church's financial resources and needs, both National and Local. We hope that as many parishioners as possible will accept the P.C.C.'s invitation to attend this service.

Servers' Rota

Jan. 4th, D. Carter; Jan. 18th, S. Noyes; Feb. 1st, J. Simmonds; Feb. 15th, T. Mobley.

Holy Baptism

On: Dec. 14th: Philip John Smith (65, Pitchers Hill).

Burial

On Dec. 11th: Elizabeth May Pethard, aged 86 years.

Though not a native of Wickhamford Mrs. Pethard lived in the village for many years. She met her husband whilst she was in service at the Manor, and then lived for many years in the house next to the Sandys Arms. During the latter part of her life she lived in one of the bungalows in Coombefield Road, before being compelled by ill health last year to move into Avonside Hospital and thence to Durcot Lodge, where she died in December. R.I.P.

Sick and Convalescent

George Roberts, Eva Cooke, Ellen Stanley, Alice Newbury, Ray Ballard.

Wickhamford W.I.

It was "Members' Night" at Wickhamford, which means that the committee have a rest! After formally opening the meeting and completing the business the President, Mrs. Judy Hustler, handed over to Mrs. K. Harman.

She introduced Mrs. Daphne Bell, of Badsey W.I. who gave a most informative talk on 'Signs of the Zodiac', telling us our lucky numbers, colours and stones, etc. and to illustrate her talk she showed some lovely pieces of jewellery, and materials. She was very ably assisted by Mrs. Sheila Knight. Mr. Brian Lyes followed with some excellent 'Impersonations'.

As a result of the monthly Flower Competition held throughout the year the winners Mrs. P. Hancock, Mrs. E. Litterick and Mrs. K. Harman, each received Gift Vouchers. It was agreed to repeat this popular competition next year.

A collection was made in memory of the late Mrs. Stella Byrd of Bretforton and it will be donated to Bretforton Church Bell Funds.

The monthly parcel was won by Mrs. G. Halford, and refreshments were served by Mesdames M. Mitchell, P. Sutton, P. Bell, G. Halford, D. Harman and K. Harman.

Members brought to the meeting small Christmas gifts which will be given to patients at Powick Hospital.

P. Hancock, Press Secretary.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

Wednesday, 7th January, 7-45 p.m. for 8-0 p.m. Mr. Cuthbert will be the Speaker and his subject will be "Chrysanthemums".

Competition: "Bowl of indoor Bulbs".

Everyone is welcome.

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