

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.

MARCH, 1976

PRICE 48p. PER ANNUM

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Lent

Ash Wednesday which falls this year on March 3rd begins the Church's season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the climax of our Christian calendar. The ancient words used at one of the old Ash Wednesday ceremonies, 'Remember O Man, dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return' are a necessary reminder of self-discipline and temporary abstinence from worldly vanity of our terrestrial preoccupations.

The Christian Gospel has always taught the need for self-discipline and temporary abstinence from worldly joys; not because it scorns those joys, but because it values those joys so highly that it requires us not to snatch them heedlessly from our Creator, nor to abuse the richness of His Creation. Jesus came 'Eating and drinking; a man gluttonous and a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners' (or so his enemies said), but Jesus came to his enjoyment of social pleasures through the stern spiritual discipline of 'the Wilderness'.

Whatever means one uses to keep Lent, whether it be to abstain temporarily from some pleasures (though I cannot see much spiritual value in giving up sugar for the sake of one's waist line), or to take up some extra spiritual exercise, the object should surely be to bring oneself closer to God and to enable one to see more clearly the beauty of His world.

Simple, old-fashioned exercises may for most of us be the best. For example, a careful reading at home in one's Prayer Book of the Epistle and Gospel of the week would make an excellent preparation for one's weekly attendance at Holy Communion throughout Lent. Or one could learn by heart the General Thanksgiving (page 43 in the Prayer Books at Church), and use it as a daily prayer, or use it as a framework for meditation, taking it sentence by sentence through the week.

The Litany (I mean the old one in the 1662 Prayer Book) might well be used occasionally in one's private prayers... said slowly and meditatively. So much of it now has a startling relevance to 1976 ('From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness, Good Lord deliver us').

The weekly Collects, one for each Sunday in the year, used to be learned by heart as a matter of course by generations of Christians. In fact, I know of one or two members of Badsey and Wickhamford who do still know these weekly prayers and use them. To learn each week in Lent the appropriate Collect would be an excellent piece of spiritual training.

Such are some of the traditional Lenten exercises. There remains, however, one exercise so obvious and so basic to the Christian life that it is a wonder that it is so often overlooked by even the most loyal parishioners: that is, to attend Church regularly every Sunday (unless illness or infirmity or some other good reason prevents one). 'Regularly' does not mean once a month, or even once a fortnight. It means **every Sunday**. The obligation is absolutely clear... as clear as is our failure as a Church to discharge it. Perhaps we could pull ourselves together this Lent, and start trying to keep this elementary rule.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Church Services in March

- 3 Ash Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.; 7-30 Evensong and Litany (said).
- 7 Lent 1. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 10 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 14 Lent 2. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 6-30 Evensong.
- 17 St. Patrick. 10-0 H.C.
- 21 Lent 3. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 24 Wednesday. No Service.
- 25 The Annunciation. M.U. Eucharist in Worcester Cathedral, 7-45 p.m.
- 28 Lent 4. Mothering Sunday. 8-0 H.C.; 10-15 Mattins (said); 3-0 Family Service; 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 31 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.

April

- 4 Lent 5. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

Servers' Rota - March

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

April

- 4 8-0 S. Gresty; 10-45 P. Brazier (S), S. Dore (C); 6-30 A. Betteridge.

Mothering Sunday, March 28th, Family Service 3-0 p.m.

Holy Baptism

On February 15th:

Adam John Freeman Houlton; Sharon Marie Marshall

Donation in memory of the late Frederick Stratford, £1.

Sixty Plus Club: Meeting as usual on March 17th, at 2-30 p.m. at the Legion Club.

Wanted: Someone to mow the Churchyard regularly during the Spring and Summer; payment by arrangement Please contact Churchwardens or the Vicar.

Someone to do up to two hours' cleaning weekly in the Church; payment according to standard rate.

Sick and Convalescent (as on Feb. 20th): Walter Bell, Jim Taylor, Gwen Major, Bill and Ada Wright, Una Royle, Richard Hartwell, Henry Merriman, Margaret Rock.

Mothers' Union

Wednesday, 3rd March, Ash Wednesday: 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Tuesday, 9th March, 2-30: Branch Meeting, Speaker Mrs. Blake, Church Lench, on a visit to South Africa. Tea Hostesses: Mesdames Reed, Holley and Ives

Thursday, 23rd March. No Meeting.

Thursday, 25th March, Lady Day. M.U. World-wide Day of Prayer. Communion in Worcester Cathedral 7-45 p.m. Names to me please.

J.B.

Badsey Wives

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the villagers who supported our Coffee Evening in October on such a foul night. Thanks to you all we were able to give £40 to Wallace House Handicapped children's playgroup.

We would also like you to know that we would welcome any wives to our meetings every first and third Monday of each month at 8 o'clock in the Village Hall.

Meetings for March:

1st: Visit Four Pools Camera Club, 8 o'clock.

15th: Social Evening.

S. K. Ealey.

Chrysalis Club

Our membership continues to remain static and the standard of play at table tennis in particular improves weekly.

We had a most interesting diversification on Thursday, 5th February with a visit from Mr. Houlton our local veterinary surgeon. A questions and answers session proved most enlightening to everyone including myself and we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Houlton for coming along.

Two members have birthdays in March, Paul Rogers, who becomes a teenager on the 4th and Tim Knight who is 14 on St. Patrick's Day. Congratulations to both.

We seem to have taken so much space in reporting our activities during the past few months that we have not been able to introduce a member of the month. That position is rectified however by our introducing Nicola Cleaver who was a founder member of the club and very rarely misses a meeting. She is a real "live wire" and it is a pleasure to have her with us.

S.H.E.

Funerals

We regret to announce the death during recent weeks of the following:

H. Raymond Smith (funeral at St. Lawrence's).

Alice Macdonald (funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium).

Frank Griffiths (funeral at St. Mary's).

Our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Friday, March 5th, 7-30 p.m. at 3, Binyon Close.

Friday, April 2nd, 7-30 p.m. at the Vicarage.

About sixteen of us meet regularly, monthly on the first Friday in each month. New members will be warmly welcomed. Our membership is not restricted to Anglicans.

The Shrovetide Barn Dance

A most enjoyable evening was arranged by the P.C.C. Pastoral Committee on Thursday, February 19th. An excellent 'finger' buffet was prepared by Mrs. Bell and her team of helpers, and the bar was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Owen with the help of Tim Knight and Martyn Addis. The Raffle, organised by Mrs. Granger and Mrs. Edwards with prizes donated by parishioners, was won by Mrs. Joan Harman. Mr. Tex Blomfield once again called the dances, and put us through our paces with his usual tact and good humour. There were about ninety of us in the hall, which was a good turn out considering that there had been two other barn dances in the locality in recent weeks. It was good to see the different generations enjoying themselves together to real dancing and music... such a welcome change from the dreary clamour of a 'Disco'! Our thanks to all who helped to make the evening such a success.

Churchyard Monuments

The Vicar wishes to remind parishioners, gently, that the placing of any monument or inscription upon a grave requires his previous consent and the payment of the appropriate fee, fixed by Parliamentary authority. This rule applies to permanent vases of the sort supplied by monumental masons, as well as to headstones and crosses..

Intercessions Board

When the Overseas Board is not being used for any special display, we can now use it for the names of those whom we would like to be remembered in the prayers of the congregation. If you wish to use the board please write on one of the slips provided, the name of the person and, where appropriate, the nature of the trouble. Please add the date. Names will be removed after three weeks or so, unless renewed.

Churchyard Working Party

On Saturday, January 30th a party of about a dozen men, women and children spent the morning tidying the Churchyard. After the January gales a lot of broken branches and twigs lay scattered over the Churchyard, and these had to be collected and burnt on the bonfire, along with numerous old wreaths and dead flowers. Also a number of elder saplings had to be cut out of the yew hedge, where they were threatening to take over. Hot coffee was served in the vestry to encourage the good work.

Church Cleaning

Until we find a cleaner a number of us are doing this, taking our turn every six weeks or so. We clean the nave, transept and aisle; the chancel is now being cleaned by the Sanctuary Guild. We do the work in pairs, and reckon to spend about one hour dusting and sweeping. The more volunteers, the less frequently one's turn comes round! So far there are about a dozen adult volunteers and a squad of youngsters from the Chrysalis Club. Our lists are still open.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services in March

- 3 Ash Wednesday. 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 7 Lent 1. 9-30 H.C. (said).
- 14 Lent 2. 3-0 Evensong.
- 21 Lent 3. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 28 Mothering Sunday. 11-0 Family Service.

April

- 4 Lent 5. 9-30 H.C. (said).

Please Note that on the fourth Sunday of each month the service is now at 11-0 instead of in the afternoon.

All ages are welcome.

Servers' Rota

March 7th, D. Carter; March 21st, S. Noyes; April 4th, T. Mobley; April 18th, J. Simmonds.

Holy Matrimony

On February 21st:

Vicki-Gail Cull and Philip Donald Bruton.

Our warmest congratulations to both. Vicki and Philip will be living at Bowers Hill.

Congratulations

To Mr. David Hampton who celebrated his 91st birthday recently, and to Mrs. Harrison who celebrated her 80th. Our best wishes to both.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be on April 11th immediately after Evensong at 3-0 p.m. The Meeting will be held in the Village Hall after the Service in Church. During the latter half of March a list of nominations for election to the P.C.C. will appear at the back of the Church; members of the Electoral Roll are invited to add names of those whom they would like to be elected, provided they have the permission of their nominees.

Convalescent

We were sorry to hear of Miss Alice Cox's illness in January and the earlier part of February, but are delighted that she is now well again. We send our best wishes to her and to others who are, or have recently been, on the Sick List: Mrs. Barbara Osborne, Mr. Ray Ballard, Mr. Raymond Price, Mr. David Hampton.

Senior Residents Committee

Rummage Sale in Church House, Bengeworth, March 19th at 6-0 p.m. If anyone has any rummage to give, please will they bring it to the Post Office (Wickhamford). There will also be a 'Bring and Buy' stall.

Outing to Coventry to see Des O'Connor in the Spring Show on April 14th (Wednesday). Please will those wishing to go give their names in at the Post Office as soon as possible.

Church Finances

There has been a most encouraging response, following the recent appeal by the P.C.C., for increased financial support.

For those who were unable to attend the special service, may I point out that our aim is to have an adequate regular income for 'everyday' running costs.

Our income last year averaged £12 per week and expenditure was £17. This year we need at least £20 per week - quite a challenge.

Phones : (Shop) 2020, (Nurseries) 2130

THE FLOWER BASKET

D. B. & R. COOK

75, Port Street, Evesham

○○○○○○

TELEFLOWER SERVICE

PLANTS WREATHS BOUQUETS

Our two main sources of income are Church collections and regular weekly or monthly committed contributions, through the envelope scheme, which can be extended in a covenant. I should be pleased to explain this scheme to anyone who may be interested.

We shall still look forward to holding Flower Festivals and Coffee Mornings to maintain the Fabric Fund and for any outstanding needs.

B. Astley.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 3rd March, 7-45 p.m. for 8 p.m. An illustrated talk will be given by Mr. Robert A. Jefferies of Cirencester entitled "Gardening for Pleasure". This promises to be entertaining and informative. All are welcome so do come along. Members 10p. Visitors 15p.

Competition for the evening - Small Pot Plant.

Footnote

Extract from an Act of Parliament 'for the better preventing of Clandestine Marriages', passed in 1754:

That if any Parson, Minister, Vicar or Curate shall 'solemnize Matrimony without Publication of Banns, unless Licence of Marriage be first had and obtained from some person or persons having authority to grant the same... he shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall be transported to some of His Majesty's plantations in America for the space of fourteen years'.

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, BRETORTON 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)