

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.

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Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

Evesham Deanery (East)

The Churchwardens and clergy of the seven parishes in our neighbourhood have been discussing the future of the Church in this Eastern part of the Deanery. The seven parishes are: Cleeve Prior, Offenham, Wickhamford, the two Littletons, Bretforton and Badsey-with-Aldington. At present and for the foreseeable future these seven parishes will be served by no more than three full-time clergy. It is possible that this number may be reduced at some time in the future to two; such is the effect of inflation upon the financial resources of the Church of England.

Be Prepared

Given the present reduction in clerical manpower, we thought it wise to take a look at the whole of this area, rather than treat each parish as a separate and isolated enclave. We asked ourselves the following questions: How can the Church make the best possible provision with its limited resources for:

1. The liturgical needs of the area (number and times of services).
2. The pastoral needs.
3. Educational needs (Confirmation training; adult discussion groups; Sunday schools).
4. Administrative and financial needs of the Parish Churches.

We felt that it would be better for us as an informal group of parishes to start now to work out a programme of co-operation, whereby we could share our resources of manpower and skill, so that we would be in a stronger position to face the future.

Strength through Sharing

We believe that there are areas where we can share the talents of our laity and clergy to the mutual benefit of all the parishes concerned. Hospital visiting, Confirmation classes, and adult discussion groups are thought to fall into this category. We also consider that it would be an advantage for the different congregations to see more of the other clergy, and not to be faced with the same person week after week! But we believe that the local identity of each parish is of inestimable value and that people's loyalty to their own parish church should not be eroded. For this reason we are opposed to the idea of forming a legally constituted 'Team Ministry'.

The immediate future

After two meetings of the Churchwardens and clergy of the seven churches, and after several meetings between the clergy themselves, we decided to make the following proposals:

That the Bishop be asked to institute Mr. Bates (Vicar of Offenham) as Priest in Charge of Bretforton;

That the three clergy meet regularly for 'staff meetings' to plan their ministry to the total area;

That a committee of lay representatives of each parish meets periodically to plan a programme of Church development in this area.

The changes affect us all

Of course none of us likes the idea of change! And changes in local church life over recent years have been marked by the diminishing number of clergy. Only five years ago there were five full time clergy in these seven parishes; now there are three; in 1986... two? Who knows? Maybe the pendulum of Church finances will swing back again and we will be able again to afford five full time clergy. Maybe... but unlikely on present

evidence. Rather than allow ourselves to be overtaken by events, your Churchwardens and clergy have decided to go out and meet the future with a definite policy; a policy based not upon wishful thinking about the future or nostalgia for the past, but upon the harsh economic realities of the present.

With your support and prayers, and with a strong measure of faith on the part of us all, this policy may well turn out to be a stimulus to growth in the local Church, and not a programme for decline. The Holy Spirit of God has frequently during the Church's history made a Virtue out of Necessity!

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Church Services in July

- 4 Trinity 3. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 7 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 Trinity 4. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C. (said); 6-30 Evensong
- 14 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 18 Trinity 5. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 21 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 22 St. Mary Magdalen. 7-30 H.C.
- 25 St. James. 8-0 H.C.; 10-15 Mattins (said);
PATRONAL FESTIVAL EVENSONG 6-30.
- 28 Wed. No Service.

August

- 1 Trinity 7. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 4 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 6 (Fri.). The Transfiguration. 7-30 p.m. H.C.

Servers' Rota - July

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

August

- 1 10-45 T. Knight (S), S. Dore (C); 6-30 P. Brazier.

Holy Matrimony

On May 29th: Alan Jones and Karryn Lootes.

Funeral

On June 16th:

Margery Annie Ingles, of Bowers Hill, aged 75 years.

Please Note that during the holiday period of August we shall suspend the eight o'clock service on Sunday morning.

The Patronal Festival falls on Sunday, July 25th; the services will be: 8-0 Holy Communion; 6-30 Evensong and Sermon.

The Churchyard

Many visitors have recently remarked upon the well kept appearance of our Churchyard, and I am sure that we all agree what a great improvement there has been since March. May I repeat, however, an earlier request about the upkeep of graves? If flowers are placed in ordinary vases, these vases should be sunk into the soil as far as the brim, so as to avoid their being blown over by the wind and so as to maintain a tidy appearance.

There is nothing so unsightly (and distressing for the relatives) as a churchyard full of upturned flower vases after stormy weather. Permanent stone vases of the sort provided by monumental masons must not be placed on any grave without the Vicar's permission and without payment of the statutory fee. I am sorry to have to remind parishioners of this rule which at present is being broken in a number of instances, no doubt because people are not aware of the regulations laid down by the Church authorities. Finally, may I repeat an earlier suggestion: if you are responsible for the upkeep of an old family grave and find that for a number of reasons you are unable to keep it weeded regularly, why not have it turfed over and the curb stone removed so that the mower can pass over it? Of course, many of the older curbed grave plots are most carefully maintained and well stocked with flowering plants, but there are a few which have been neglected and which are a very sorry sight.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This takes place on the first Friday evening of each month. We usually meet in each other's homes, taking turns to be host. Our meetings are quite informal and last for about forty five minutes, beginning at 7-30 p.m. We are not exclusively Anglican, and would welcome new members of any Christian Church. Our July meeting (2nd) will be at 18, Seward Road, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Owen; our August meeting will be on the 6th, and as that day is the festival of the Transfiguration we shall meet in Church for the Eucharist.

Weekly Prayer Meeting

This happens each Tuesday evening (7-0 to 7-30) in the North Transept of the Church. All are welcome to join us for these quiet and informal meetings.

Christian Aid Totals

Badsey	...	...	...	£97.06½
Aldington	...	...	...	£11.32½
Blackminster	...	...	...	£5.24
Wickhamford	...	...	...	£32.92
Total				£146.55

An increase of £4.60.

Many thanks to those who collected and those who gave.
P.C.

M.U. Notices - July

Tuesday 6th: Outing to Eastnor and the Centenary Celebrations Garden Party at Hartlebury Castle. Coach leaves usual place at 2 o'clock.

Wednesday 7th: 10-0 Corporate Communion.
Tuesday 20th: 7-30 "At Home" at 37, Badsey Fields Lane.

J.B.

Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, July 21st. Instead of our usual meeting, this month, we are having a day's outing to Alton Towers. The coach will leave the Royal British Legion Club at 10-0 a.m.

P.C.

War Memorial Rota - July

4th, Mrs. N. Cook; 18th, Mrs. C. Crane; 25th, Mrs. N. Strides.

Mothers' Union

On June 10th Mrs. D. Bell, Mrs. J. Betteridge and Mrs. D. Bates from Offenham represented the Evesham Deanery at a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving for the Mothers' Union Centenary, in Westminster Abbey. The Service was relayed to St. Margaret's. It was attended by H.M. The Queen Mother and representatives from all over the world and including 54 Bishops. Sixty Banners were carried in procession and the preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a most moving service and made us feel so proud to belong to such a world wide family.

The flowers were most beautiful arrangements and one we loved was of the new Mary Sumner Rose, a gorgeous salmon pink with a delicate perfume. The service was followed by tea served very efficiently to 2,000 M.U. members in College Garden where we met many friends from home and overseas. The latter members all seemed so thrilled to be here. We also met many of these at Mary Sumner House when we called there after lunch. Mrs. Bates took many photographs which we hope to see later. The Queen Mother took tea with us and talked to many members in the garden where we saw her and later when she was driven off. We felt it was a most happy and memorable day and one we will talk about for a long time.

J.B.

Inside the Chancel

Ascension Day is often looked upon as a festival not observed as much as for instance - Easter, because I suppose, it always falls on a Thursday, and is not a public holiday!! However, it was not altogether overlooked this year as far as Badsey was concerned, for on that morning at 6-15 a.m. members of the Choir and several of the congregation defied Dame Slumber and met in the churchyard, ascended into the heights of the belfry and then on to the top of the tower where we sang "Hail the day that sees Him rise". The Vicar afterwards said a prayer and gave the blessing. We then went downstairs leaving the tower before the bellringers arrived. We hope to make this an annual event and that others who wish will join us.

On Whit Sunday - the Choir as usual gave of their best and at Evensong an Anthem was sung. This was rendered by three ladies and two boys.

My sincere thanks to them who on this occasion were in excellent form.

R.W.K.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Services in July

- 4 Trinity 3. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 11 Trinity 4. 3-0 Evensong.
- 18 Trinity 5. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 25 St. James. 11-0 Family Service. (Evensong at Badsey: 6-30).

August

- 1 Trinity 7. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).

Please Note that Badsey's Patronal Festival is on July 25th, and the Wickhamford congregation are invited to Evensong at Badsey Parish Church at 6-30.

Servers

July 4th, D. Carter; July 18th, T. Mobley; August 1st, S. Noyes.

Baptism

On June 13th:

David and Geoffrey Morris; Christopher Moyle, Daniel Smith.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

The next Meeting of the above will be on Wednesday, 7th July, 7-45 p.m. for 8-0 p.m. An Illustrated Talk of "The Botanical Gardens, Birmingham" given by the Curator.

Competition - Pelargoniums.

Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Morning

The members of the P.C.C. look forward to seeing you all at the Coffee Morning, to be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 10th July, 10-30 a.m. - 12 noon.

The stalls include Bring and Buy, Cakes and a Bottle Tombola.

Gifts of cakes and bottles will be most welcome and "thankfully received". If anyone is able to help in this way, will they please contact either Mrs. Parry, Wick-

ham House, Tel. 830244 or Mr. Beacon, 11, Sally Close, Tel. 830673.

Admission, including coffee, will be 10p. Tickets may be bought beforehand from any member of the P.C.C., or paid for at the door.

Footnote

Clerical titles are understandably a source of much confusion to the laity. Archbishops are 'Most Reverend', Bishops are 'Right Reverend', Deans are 'Very Reverend' Archdeacons are 'Venerable', while the common run of clergy are simply designated 'Reverend'. Such titles are, of course, flourishes of worldly prestige inherited from a past and different age, and are therefore unsuited to the contemporary Church which tries to stress the serving role of its Ministry and which has divested itself of most of the trappings of secular pomp. However, whilst these archaic customs persist, let us at least use them correctly; the title 'The Reverend' should only be used in writing, and then with the initials or Christian name ('The Reverend John Smith'; not 'Reverend Smith'); the title should not be used as a spoken form of address, except on very formal occasions. Like Ministers of the Crown, Ministers of the Church are usually plain 'Mr.' The P.M. is usually addressed 'Mr. Callaghan', sometimes 'Prime Minister', rarely 'The Right Honourable James Callaghan', but never 'The Right Honourable Callaghan'. The same applies to clergy. In brief, when in doubt say 'Mr. -', leave 'The Reverend' unsaid.

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