

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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**Church of St. James
Badsey**

Churchwardens:

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**Church of St. John the Baptist
Wickhamford.**

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MR. C. H. WILLIS,
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WICKHAMFORD.

OCTOBER, 1976

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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Church Services

The purpose of Sunday Worship is that the local Christian congregation should assemble at one time and in one place to praise their Lord. From the very beginning of the Church's history this has been the case, and we can read in the earliest records how the disciples would congregate on the first day of each week to pray together and 'break bread' in commemoration of the Lord's Resurrection. The fervour of those gatherings must have been partly due to the fact that there, perhaps in an overcrowded upper room and behind locked doors, was the entire local church drawn together into a one single body, one act of thanksgiving and praise, one fellowship.

How very different is the picture presented nowadays by the average parish church! Of course, it would be wrong to try to recreate exactly the conditions and behaviour of the New Testament Church. What was appropriate in the first century of the Christian era, when the Church was an unpopular minority sect outlawed by religious and secular authority, might be quite inappropriate to the Church of England nineteen centuries later. But one feature is surely appropriate at all times and in all places; and that is a strong sense of unity within the local church, a unity which should be expressed week by week in the Sunday worship of that parish.

And yet the Sunday timetable of the average parish church in this country reads more like a Bus Company schedule... services to cater for the needs of all passengers, travelling separately and in different directions! Do you know (and I don't think you'll believe this) that whilst on holiday recently in Devon I saw one small country church whose noticeboard advertised no less than five separate services on one Sunday. Surely there must be a better way of organising our church life than that.

Now, to come down from the general to the particular. Badsey's schedule of Sunday Services is too diffuse. I believe that the provision of three services each Sunday is not only an extravagance of effort and money, but that it actually weakens the life of the church. Surely no other organisation would dream of arranging three separate times for its weekly meetings in an attempt to suit the requirements of all its members... if it did, it would soon collapse through lack of interest.

I have therefore asked the P.C.C. to give its approval to a reduction from three to two services each Sunday. They have agreed to the following revised timetable which will take effect from the first Sunday in December (Dec. 5th).

- 1st Sunday in the month: 10-45 Family Eucharist.
6-30 Evensong.
- 2nd Sunday in the month: 8-0 Holy Communion.
6-30 Evensong.
- 3rd Sunday in the month: 10-45 Family Eucharist.
4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 4th Sunday in the month: 8-0 Holy Communion.
6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 5th Sunday in the month: 10-45 Family Service.
6-30 Group Service (venue according to rota of local churches).

Confirmation at Wickhamford

On November 7th at 3-0 p.m. the Bishop of Worcester will confirm the following five candidates in Wickhamford Parish Church:

Felicity Dunkerley (Wickhamford)
Helen Baker (Wickhamford)
Marcus Sparrow (Aldington)
Stephen Stewart (Badsey)
Andrew Stewart (Badsey)

It must be some years since there was a Confirmation in Wickhamford Church (perhaps some of you with longer memories may be able to recall the last occasion)... being such a small building it is usually not possible to contain all the candidates and their families, and so we are delighted to be able to welcome our Bishop on this occasion. I hope that members of both our congregations will come to support these five youngsters on November 7th. Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the Service.

Group Evensong

On the fifth Sunday of the month, whenever that occurs, the seven local parishes hold a combined service, taking it in turns to be host. On October 31st, the Group Evensong will be at Badsey Parish Church. It is advisable to arrive in good time. The service will begin at 6-30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

Deaconess Wright

Dss Wright who worked in our parishes some years ago will be preaching in both churches on October 17th (Wickhamford 9-30; Badsey 10-45).

Book Sale and Exhibition

At Broadway. In the Methodist Church on Friday, October 15th, 9-30 to 4-00, and Saturday, October 16th, 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Books to buy, books to view. Subjects: Prayer, Healing, Christian Belief and Witness; children's books.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Services in October

- 3 Harvest Festival. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 6 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 Trinity 17. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong.
- 13 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 17 St. Luke (brought forward a day). 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong.
- 20 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 24 Trinity 19. 8-0 H.C.; 10-15 Matins (said); 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 27 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 28 (Thursday). St. Simon & St. Jude. 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 31 All Saints Day (brought forward from Nov. 1st). 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Service; 6-30 Evensong.

November

- 3 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 7 Trinity 21. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

Holy Baptism

On September 19th:

Richard Donald Edward Evans; Richard John Davies.

Holy Matrimony

On September 4th:
James Wyatt and Jacqueline Rose Hardwick.

Donation

£1 in memory of Lillie Stratford (October 4th) from Mrs. M. Sparrow.

P.C.C.

The next meeting will be in the Church at 7-30 on Tuesday, October 12th.

The Deanery Synod

The next meeting will be at Evesham High School at 7-30 on October 18th.

The Diocesan Synod

The first meeting of this synod will be at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester, at 7-0 p.m. on Tuesday, October 5th.

Sixty Plus Club

Next Meeting: October 20th. There will be a 'mini-auction to raise funds.

Harvest Festival

This will be on October 3rd. Decoration of the Church on Saturday morning, from 9-30. Gifts of fruit, vegetables, and groceries will be most welcome. Children may bring their gifts to the Family Eucharist (10-45) when there will be an opportunity to bring them up to the Chancel during the service. Parcels for distribution to the sick and elderly will be made up and distributed on Monday morning (4th) from 9-30 onwards. Volunteers will be welcome. If you know of any housebound pensioner, who you think should be included in our list, please will you tell the Vicar?

**Harvest Supper, Thursday, October 14th, 7-30 to 10-30
in the Village Hall**

FISH 'N CHIPS. BAR. RAFFLE.

BARN DANCE (Tex Blomfield calling).

Admission (by ticket only): 85p. Children 45p.

Because we have to cater for exact numbers we will not be able to admit non-ticket holders. Please make certain that you have bought your tickets from one of the P.C.C. by Monday, 11th October.

Congratulations

To Mr. and Mrs. Holley on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, October 11th.

To Mrs. Ada Podesta of 41, Green Leys who celebrated her ninetieth birthday on September 24th.

War Memorial Rota

October 10th: Mrs. P. Sparrow (or substitute).
October 24th: Mrs. K. Cleaver.

Coffee Evening on Friday, November 19th, 7-30 to 9-00

As in previous years this will be at 21, Badsey Fields Lane, by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Sears.

Mothers' Union

Oct. 12th, 2-30 p.m. Miss Norah Smith on "Teaching in Badsey".
Oct. 26th, 7-30 p.m. Mr. John Sharp on "Telecommunications".

Oct. 27th: Overseas Sale in Worcester when a coach will take members.

Congratulations to one of our members, Mrs. May Holley on the occasion of her Golden Wedding on October 11th.

Daphne Bell

Sunday School

Thanks and best wishes to Frances Ives for over four years teaching in the Infants' Sunday School.

Daphne Bell

Badsey W.I.

It was members' night for the September meeting after the summer break. The business being dealt with the evening was taken over by a group of members, these being: Mesdames Hall, Corbett, Cole, Ives, J. Sparrow and D. Sparrow.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Sellwood the "potty" lady who owns 80 potties. After delicious refreshments prepared by the ladies the evening ended with a mock auction at which many bargains could be bought. The very able auctioneer being Mrs. S. Ives. The evening raised approximately £30 for the Institute funds.

R.M.

Inside the Chancel

Now Autumn is with us the Choir are preparing for our winter programme.

During the latter part of July and the whole month of August the younger members, though on holiday from school and no choir practices did, I am pleased to say maintain an extremely good attendance at all the services, though at times the hot weather made us wilt. Cassocks and surplices were put aside, and this did make things a little more tolerable.

The Choir girls are very strong in membership but we could do with more boys to fill those gaps which have arisen.

The work on the Choir Vestry is coming along well. The wardrobe to house the robes is complete. All that remains now is the re-decorating and the hanging of some new curtains to keep the robes clean.

The organ has been overhauled. This was necessary as over the years it had become very dusty and I understand from the builder that if this had been allowed to go on a major job would have been the result.

R.W.K.

Badsey Overseas Project

Our overseas project for training Saria Joel, a young African girl in Maciene, Mozambique, was concluded last month when our final gift was sent to Dr. Spencer Payne, Director of the South Africa Church Development Trust which sponsors help to Churches in Southern Africa.

Over the period 1971-76 we have raised a total sum of £500 for helping Saria through her general education and nursing training. She still has to complete her final year in the Training School, but the newly independent government in Mozambique has now taken over financial responsibility for all hospitals in the country and the cost of their trainees, but have asked the Church authorities to continue running the work of St. Monica's Hospital, Maciene, where Saria is doing her practical training.

Some parishioners have felt concerned lest money sent out now might be diverted to political purposes, but we received reliable assurances from the Director of the Trust and from his Assistant who has been living and working in the area since last autumn, that the Government had undertaken that Church funds will remain solely in ecclesiastical hands so long as they are used for purely Church purposes. The P.C.C. therefore agreed to send our final gift.

In acknowledgment, Dr. Spencer Payne wrote:—

"I cannot thank Badsey parish enough for all you have done for the Church in Mozambique over the years. I can understand and sympathize with those who are opposed to sending money out there; if I did not know and admire the present Bishop who has trained for the priesthood at Salisbury Theological College, I should feel the same. Bishop Denis Sengulora is a brilliant young man of 30, just old enough to be made Bishop. He gives us his assurance that money sent for church purposes will be secured and they badly need help with the cost of training their African ordinands, a number of whom have been supported through their schooling by the Trust. After the withdrawal of all the white ordained missionaries from Mozambique, this need is very urgent and I am delighted to be able to send your very generous gift to Bishop Denis for this purpose".

The Overseas Committee is now investigating a possible new Project and hope to give information about this in the Review as soon as it is settled.

J.E.S.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Services in October

- 3 Trinity 16. 9-30 Holy Communion.
 - 10 Trinity 17. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
 - 17 St. Luke (brought forward a day). 9-30 Family Eucharist.
 - 24 Trinity 19. 11-0 Family Service and Sunday School Prizegiving.
 - 31 6-30 Evensong at Badsey Church.
- November**
- 7 Trinity 21. 9-30 H.C. (said); 3-0 Confirmation by the Bishop of Worcester.

Holy Baptism

On September 12th:
Elizabeth Helen Lamb; Sarah-Jayne Hawker.

Variety Concert

in the Memorial Hall
on Saturday, 9th October at 7-45 p.m.
Admission: Adults: 45p. Children and O.A.P.s 35p.
Raffle, Coffee and Biscuits.
Profits go to the Play Corner Fund.

Footnote

On Sunday, August 29th at the Open Air Service on Crown Meadow, Evesham, the Vicar of Hampton prayed for rain. This was at 3-00 p.m. At 6-30 p.m. another Open Air Service organised by the Vicar of Norton was washed out by a downpour.

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