

# 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.

MAY, 1977

PRICE 48p. PER ANNUM

Dear Friends,

### Ascension Day

As you will see from the schedule of Church Services we shall be holding a combined service in Wickhamford Parish Church on Thursday, May 19th, at 7-30 p.m., to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. It is hoped that our congregations will make every effort to be present on what is one of the Major Feasts of the Church's Year. The service will be a Eucharist, and afterwards the congregation will be invited to go to the Hall for a cup of coffee. This will now be the sixth time the seven parishes in our 'group' have held a combined service (apart from the Lent Course).

### The Gospel, The Cinema and TV

Many of you will have seen all, or perhaps part, of the recent ATV film on the life of Jesus Christ. I only managed to see the last two hours (it lasted six hours altogether - in two parts, broadcast on successive Sunday evenings), but what I did see made me regret that I was unable to see it all. The trial scene, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection were all very well enacted, and it seemed to me that this film managed to catch the truth of the Gospel in a way which has eluded so many earlier attempts to film the life of Our Lord.

I must confess that I used to love the old Biblical epics, as produced by Cecil B. de Mille and others, but like most people, I enjoyed them because they were such excellent spectacles, not because I believed they conveyed much by way of the Truth. They also contained some splendid moments of unintentional humour; for example, there was the scene in one of the more turgid epics when Sodom and Gomorrah were being demolished by the most tremendous display of Divine Wrath, and one of the actors was heard to say in a pause between the thunderclaps and crash of falling masonry, 'Don't worry, dears, it's just one of our summer storms.'

Another treat afforded by the old Hollywood Biblical epics or quasi Biblical epics (Quo Vadis, Ben Hur, The Robe) was the appearance of well known actors in wildly improbable roles; for example, John Wayne, who in a film of the life of Christ (shown recently on TV, but not at all in the same class as the ATV production) turned up unexpectedly, dressed as a centurion, evidently ill at ease without his holster and six-shooter. But for me, at any rate, the show was always stolen by the mad emperor. It was usually Peter Ustinov doing his impersonation of Nero, though not always. 'The Robe' (early 'Cinemascope') lives in my memory because of the horribly mad Caligula, who so overacted his part that Richard Burton (fresh from the Old Vic and Stratford) hadn't a chance to keep up.

It was all very entertaining, but what it had to do with the Truth of the Gospel, or the Word of God in the Scriptures, I would not like to say.

But now something quite different seems to be happening. We have recently seen on our screens on Palm Sunday and Easter Day a film of the Gospel produced by one of the heavyweights of Show Business, Lew Grade himself. The script writer, the director, the actors and actresses, whatever their own beliefs may be, succeeded in conveying a credible account of Jesus Christ. There may have been details in the film which you did not entirely agree with, but the central character, Jesus, came across to me more convincingly than in any earlier film.

It is, I think, interesting and significant that 'Show Business' can now depict Jesus without either sentimentality or cynicism; and if 'Show Business' is an accurate reflection of public taste, then things must be looking up, mustn't they?

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN LEAK.

PS. In my letter last month the passage I meant to refer to in paragraph 7 was John ch. 12, 1 to 8. You may have been wondering what ch. 2 had to do with the subject.

### Bible Days and Bible Ways

An Exhibition of Biblical scenes, costumes, customs and buildings. St. Andrew's, Pershore. May 12th to May 19th, (Sunday excepted) 2-30 to 9-30 p.m. Admission 15p. or 50p. (season ticket). Children (accompanied by adult) 10p.

### BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

#### Church Services in May

- 1 SS Philip & James. 10-45 Family Eucharist. 6-30 Evensong.
- 4 Wednesday. No Service.
- 8 Easter 4. 8-0 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong.
- 11 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 15 Rogation Sunday. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 18 Wednesday (Rogation Day). 10-0 H.C.
- 19 Ascension Day. At Wickhamford 7-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 22 Sunday after Ascension Day. 8-0 H.C.; 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 25 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 29 WHIT SUNDAY. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

#### June

- 1 Wednesday (Ember Day). 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Trinity Sunday. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Jubilee Thanksgiving Service, Preacher: the Revd. P. Braby.

**Please Note:** On Ascension Day the service will be in Wickhamford Parish Church at 7-30 in the evening. This will be a joint service for the 'Seven Churches' in this area and will replace the fifth Sunday Joint Service, which would have taken place on Whit Sunday.

**Please Note:** that Whitsun this year is on May 29th, and is not to be confused with the Spring Holiday which is the following week.

**Please Note:** that the Special Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's Jubilee will be held on June 5th at 6-30 p.m. and that the Preacher will be the Revd. Peter Braby, sometime Vicar of this Parish.

#### Servers' Rota - May

- 1 10-45 T. Knight (S), A. Watkin (C); 6-30 Paul Brazier.
  - 8 8-0 A. Betteridge; 6-30 M. Clements.
  - 15 10-45 P. Brazier (S), T. Knight (C).
  - 22 8-0 A. Watkin; 6-30 D. Barrand (S), P. Cale (C).
  - 29 10-45 A. Betteridge (S), A. Watkin (C).
- June
- 5 10-45 P. Brazier (S), T. Knight (C); 6-30 A. Watkin.

#### Holy Baptism

On April 17th:  
Gary Howard Hemming; Steven Francis Haynes.

#### Funerals

On March 29th: Alfred Charles Anker, aged 96 years.  
On April 7th: Irene Jelfs, aged 48 years.  
In April:  
Gertrude Salisbury, aged 74 years. (at Cheltenham).

**Irene Jelfs** who died in Evesham Hospital had been ill for some months and had spent many weeks in Ronswood Hospital. Originally from the North she had settled in Badsey after her marriage, and lived with her husband and family in Synehurst. She was an active member of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, and will be missed by the local branch and by her friends in the village. We send our deep sympathy to Mr. Jelfs and the family.

**Gertrude Salisbury** who died at her home in Binyon Close at the end of March was born in Gloucestershire, but had spent much of her married life in the South

East. A few years ago she and her husband retired to Binyon Close. We send our condolences to Mr. Salisbury and to her sister Miss Gray.

**Alfred Anker** who died at Upton-on-Severn on Lady Day was the oldest member of our parish. He had left his home in Badsey a few years ago to go into an Old Peoples' home at Upton, but members of our local branch of the British Legion used to visit him, and in this way he maintained his link with the village. A veteran of the South African War, Alfred Anker's life spanned nearly a century of English history; as a teenager he was present at the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and he lived to see the Silver Jubilee of her great - great - grand-daughter. When he came to Badsey he worked for many years for the Bakery, and at one time was a familiar sight in the countryside around driving his horse-drawn delivery van. In old age he used to walk with a pronounced stoop, and would push his bike along beside him as a walking aid. It is thus that many of the parish will remember him. May he rest in peace.

#### Donations

In memory of the late Dorothy Stella Anderson, A. Leslie Byrd and Mr. & Mrs. Hart £2.00 (from Mrs. H. Byrd). £20 from the Royal British Legion (Women's Section), which was raised at their Harvest Festival auction sale last year. We are very grateful for these donations.

#### The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This was held in Church on March 27th. The following elections were made:

**Churchwardens:** Mr. R. Taylor and Mr. G. Willcox; deputy warden. Mr. P. Tucker.

**The Parochial Church Council:** Miss Sladden, Miss Vaudin, Mrs. F. Betteridge, Mrs. A. Owen, Mrs. D. Watkin, Mr. P. Embleton, Mr. N. Graham, Mr. D. Granger, Mr. C. Jones, Mr. J. Mytton, Mr. A. Owen, Mr. R. Seaman.

**Officers:** treasurer, Mr. R. Taylor; accountant, Mr. D. Granger; auditor, Mr. L. Knight; secretary, Mr. R. Seaman; Stewardship sec., Mr. J. Ives; Electoral Roll sec., Miss L. Core.

**Deanery Synod reps.:** (who are also ex officio members of the P.C.C.) Mr. S. Edwards, Mr. J. Ives, Mr. P. Tucker, Mr. G. Willcox, Mr. R. Seaman (elected at P.C.C. meeting on April 19th). One vacancy still.

#### BADSEY CHURCH FETE - SATURDAY JUNE 25th

Please will contributors note that there will be the usual stalls (Provisions, Cakes, Fancy Goods, White Elephant, Needlework, Fruit and Vegetable). The success of the Fete will depend upon the amount of goods we can put on the stalls.

#### Badsey Women's Institute

The Vice-President, Mrs. S. Lashford took the April meeting as President, Mrs. W. Smith is in America. The evening's main entertainment was two plays presented by the drama group, these being "The Barrier" and "Be an Angel". The producer was Mrs. D. Bell. The plays were enjoyed by all and Mrs. M. Harvey thanked the groups on behalf of the Institute.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames Stockwin, S. Sparrow, Stewart and Edwards.

The monthly draw was won by Mrs. Gander.

**May 11th** - Butter and Cheese Making - Mrs. Stephen. V.C.O. Competition - Cheese Straws.

#### Sixty Plus Club - Wednesday, April 20th

During the afternoon we shall hold a short Mini Auction. A coach has been arranged to take members wishing to go the play - "Spring and Port Wine", in Evesham on May 5th, tickets 60p. Coach will be free.

#### Christian Aid Week - May 16th to 21st

Volunteers needed for house-to-house collection. Anyone willing to help please contact Mrs. P. Churchill.

#### Mothers' Union

Tues. May 3rd: Knit-in at 12, High Street, 2-30 p.m.  
Wed., May 11th: **Festival Service** in Cathedral at 8 p.m. (Coach for this).

Tues., May 17th: Knit-in in Transcept, 7-35 p.m.

**Wed., May 25th:** Mrs. S. Price on Literature, in Church N.B. change from normal day.  
4-30 p.m.

Mon., May 30th: Tea along with M.U. Bristol Branch  
Fri., May 6th: **Rummage Sale** in the Village Hall. 7-0 to 8-30 p.m. for I.M.P.C. and funds. Any Rummage to 12, High Street.

Daphne Bell

#### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

##### Church Services in May

- 1 SS Philip & James. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).
- 8 Easter 4. 3-0 Evensong.
- 15 Rogation Sunday. 9-30 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Jubilee Thanksgiving Service.
- 19 Ascension Day. 7-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 22 Sunday after Ascension. 11-0 Mattins.
- 29 WHIT SUNDAY. 9-30 Family Eucharist.

##### June

- 5 Trinity Sunday. 9-30 Family Eucharist.

**Please Note** that we shall be celebrating the Jubilee on Sunday, May 15th with a special service of Thanksgiving at 6-30 p.m.

**Please Note** that on Ascension Day we shall be the host church for the quarterly joint service (7-30 p.m.) and that we shall be joined by congregations from the other parishes in our group. Coffee in the Hall after the Service.

**Please Note** that this year Whitsun is on May 29th. and should not be confused with the Spring Holiday which is the following week.

##### Holy Baptism

On April 17th: Christopher David White.

##### Funerals

On March 24th: Amy Figgitt, aged 73 years.

On April 15th: Clifford Emmanuel Summers, aged 78 years.

On April 19th: Beatrice Emily Pitts, aged 87 years.

##### Mrs. Amy Figgitt

Mrs. Figgitt who died at the end of March came from a large family of brothers and sisters in Evesham. After her marriage to Mr. Stanley Figgitt she settled in Wickhamford, and lived on Pitchers Hill. For many years she cleaned the Parish Church and was a member of our congregation up to the end. She was also a member of the Memorial Hall committee, which worked to refurbish the hall after the last war. In recent years Mrs. Figgitt was a regular member of the Senior Citizens' Whist Club and a keen supporter of the various coach outings organised by the pensioners of the village. She will be much missed by her many friends in the parish. We send Mr. Figgitt and the family our deepest sympathy in their loss.

##### Mrs. Beatrice Emily Pitts

Originally from London Mrs. Pitts had lived in Wickhamford with her late husband for many years. At one time she used to clean the church in the days of Canon Allsebrook. Until recently she used to live on Pitchers Hill, and then about three years ago she moved into Durcott House. May she rest in peace.

##### Mr. Clifford Emmanuel Summers

Mr. Summers was not born in Wickhamford, but he and his wife lived here for many years. By coincidence he

was employed as a young man just after the first war on the building of the Council Houses at the bottom of Pitchers Hill, and soon after that he himself came to live in one of the houses, and continued to do so until his death. His wife died nearly four years ago, and so it was a comfort to him to have his family living nearby in the village. We send them our condolences in the loss of a father and a grandfather.

**Mr. Andrew Eric Jackson, M.C.**

Mr. Jackson, of Windward House, Murcot Turn, died in February and the funeral took place at Broadway Parish Church. A former classics master at Yeovil School, he was for twenty eight years headmaster of St. Peter's Collegiate Boys' School at Wolverhampton until his retirement in 1958. At Manchester Grammar School, awaiting entry to St. John's College, Cambridge, he enlisted in the army and was later awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field in Flanders. He was a Greek and Latin Scholar with several publications to his credit. We send our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Jackson.

**Donations**

In memory of the late Raymond Ballard, £5.  
In memory of the late Amy Figgitt, £2.50.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This was held in the Memorial Hall on March 30th, and the following elections were made:

**Churchwardens:** Mr. J. E. Parry; Mr. D. G. Poulter.  
**Clerk:** Mr. C. Willis.  
**Deanery Synod reps.:** (elected previously) Mr. D. G. Poulter, Mr. J. Sharp, Mrs. K. Barratt.

**Parochial Church Council:** (ex officio: the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Deanery reps.), Mrs. Astley, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. M. Lewis, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. I Sutton, Mrs. A. Poulter, Miss Cox, Mr. Beacon, Mr. Dunkerley.  
**Officers:** Secretary, Mrs. Parry; Treasurer, Mrs. Astley; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dunkerley; Electoral Roll Sec. Mr. Sharp; Auditor, Mr. M. Wadams.

**Concert in Church**

On Saturday, May 21st at 7-30 p.m. the **Prince Henry Singers** will be giving a concert in the Parish Church. This ensemble of local musicians has been earning a high reputation in our district and further afield, and we are lucky to be having them come to Wickhamford. This concert is part of the Village's Jubilee celebration, and we hope that it will be well supported. If you are coming you are advised to arrive early in order to get a seat, and to bring a cushion for your comfort. No tickets. Admission free. Retiring collection.

**Sick and Convalescent**

Fred Abott, Harry Marshall, Vera Lawley, Violet Ward. We are delighted to hear that Lesley Price has returned home from hospital after her recent riding accident, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

**Wickhamford Gardening Club**

On Wednesday, 4th May a talk with colour slides will be given by Mr. J. D. Taylor entitled "Garden Irises" Competition: Spring Blossom or Bloom. Meeting commences at 8-0 p.m. Members 15p. Visitors 25p. which includes coffee and biscuits. Everyone is welcome.

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