

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW



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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

They say that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, and certainly most of us have the occasional yearning to leave our local patch and set off for "fresh woods and pastures new" . . . albeit temporarily.

Istanbul

My wife and I had the great good fortune to be given a week's holiday in Turkey, and we accompanied my mother, who knows the country, to Istanbul where we spent our time sightseeing and visiting acquaintances. What a City! It really is superbly situated on the Bosphorus, with a magnificent natural harbour, and an incomparably beautiful skyline of domes and minarets.

History

One cannot go far in Istanbul without being reminded of its past and the varied parts it has played in European and Oriental history. For example, if one stands in the large open hippodrome, where the chariot races so popular in the Roman Empire were held, one can see at the far end the colossal bulk of what was once the greatest Cathedral in Christendom, St. Sophia, whilst nearby rise the minarets and domes of one of the finest mosques of Islam, the "Blue Mosque". Pagan Byzantium; Christian Constantinople; Moslem Stamboul; and now modern Istanbul. Once the scene of fierce theological debate, the city is still the seat of the Senior Patriarch of the Eastern Church, though his flock is only a tiny remnant of what was once a Christian population before it was submerged under the tide of Islam.

East and West

The street crowds are in appearance more European than Asian; many of the Turks are fair skinned, or, at least, considerably fairer than their neighbours to the South. Most of the people wear European clothes, though occasionally the old generation from the villages can still be seen in traditional costume. We were surprised how Western the people are in appearance, but, on reflection we should not have been, for the Turks are from the same racial stock as the Hungarians and Finns, and are not from the Semitic race which has populated the Middle East.

The Bosphorus

The narrow sea, the Bosphorus, which joins the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmora, is flanked by neumerous villages clustered along the water's edge, and as one travels to and fro in one of the busy ferries one passes a number of old wooden villas, each with its boat house and jetty. One also passes the occasional empty palace, once the home of an Ottoman prince or princess. In one of these palaces the last Sultan, Abdul Hamid, called "The Damned", spent his final years as a prisoner in the company of an aging concubine, who read him the newspaper accounts of the disasters which daily overtook his once great empire. It was a sad end to the Ottoman dynasty, but, some would say, not wholly undeserved.

The Bazaar

Someone shouted to me, "You English. you perfect English", and then by way of driving the point home he added, "You come from Birmingham". I said no, I didn't come from Birmingham, but then seeing his face drop with disappointment, I quickly re-assured him

by saying that we all came from Manchester. He seemed very pleased. Another man tried to sell my wife a dog (rather an ill-favoured creature) and when she told him that we really could not take a dog back into the U.K. because of the quarantine laws, he said "No problems, lady. Is English Setter". Someone else offered us Green Shield Stamps with his goods (and he really had them). If you can stand the high pressure salemanship and do not object to a bit of ribbing the bazaars are quite fun.

The Consulate Chapel

On Sunday we went to the British Consulate Chapel for the Eucharist. It was Series 2; the organist was away and so we had to sing unaccompanied. All went well until the chaplain started the last hymn with a tune none of the congregation knew. It was a five verse hymn, and he struggled bravely through three verses without much help from the rest of us, but to everyone's dismay he made his escape to the vestry half-way through the fourth verse, leaving us with one whole verse in hand. The day was saved by a stout lady with a forceful contralto voice who had evidently decided enough was enough and boomed out the last verse to a totally different but mercifully more familiar tune. It was a close run thing, but comforting to know that in far flung Istanbul the Church of England is quite unchanged.

The Grass is Greener . . .

We visited some of my mother's cronies, including a delightful couple. He is a very sprightly ninety-five year old Turkish General (retired!) and she the daughter of a British Army Officer. They live in a pretty little village on the coast of the Bosphorus; a village full of purple flowering Judas trees, scented pines, magnolias, and wistaria . . . but he has one great wish. "I want to leave all this", he told me, indicating the village and the incomparable Bosphorus, "I want to pack up and go and settle down in Colwyn Bay". He had been to Wales last year to visit his grandchildren, and after Wales he found Turkey very dull indeed!

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK (Vicar).

'SEA SUNDAY'

For a seafarer the end of his shore leave comes round all too quickly, and once again he has to leave his home and family behind him and set off on a voyage maybe half-way round the world, perhaps lasting for many months.

Conditions on board ship have improved a great deal over the years and many shipping companies provide excellent accommodation, good meals, long leave and are concerned with the safety of their crews. There are still, of course, the flag of convenience ships where men particularly from the developing countries, are exploited, live in uncomfortable conditions and where the desire for large profits outweigh human considerations.

But whatever the company and whatever the conditions the very nature of the work produces stress for those who go to sea. Long absences from home and the difficulty of keeping in effective communication with someone far away can make small problems build up to seem very large.

The chance to get ashore when the ship calls at a port is always welcome but dry land under the feet is not the answer to everything. And that's where The Missions to Seamen and its fellow societies, The Apostleship of the Sea and The British Sailors' Society come in.

Their chaplains visit ships and talk to the crews; if there is a problem a sympathetic listener is sometimes all that is needed to ease a man's mind but if practical and spiritual advice or more active help is required they provide it.

The societies' clubs in ports all over the world are places where seafarers of all races and creeds can go to relax away from their ships, make a telephone call or pray in the Chapel.

The Missions to Seamen believes that a ministry to seafarers must involve both their physical and spiritual welfare and that practical concern in Christ's name is inextricably linked with a ministry of proclamation.

On Sea Sunday, July 10th we can pray for seafarers and their families and for those who minister to them. They need our prayers and our support.

'IF MY PEOPLE'

A musical service of worship and intercession for the nation, performed and led by a company of singers and musicians in the Gloucester Diocese, at **Chipping Campden Parish Church** on Friday, 24th June, at 8-0 p.m.

BADSEY, ALDINGTON, BLACKMINSTER AND BOWERS HILL NOTES

Church Services in June

- 1 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 5 Trinity Sunday. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Jubilee Service. Preacher: The Revd. P. Braby
- 8 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 11 St. Barnabas. 8-0 H.C.
- 12 Trinity I. 8-0 H.C.; 6-30 Evensong.
- 15 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 19 Trinity II. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong.
- 22 St. Alban. 10-0 H.C.
- 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist. 7-30 a.m. H.C.
- 26 Trinity III. 8-0 H.C.; 6-30 Sung Eucharist.
- 29 St. Peter. 10-0 H.C.

July

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

Servers' Rota

June

- 5 10-45 P. Brazier (S), T. Knight (C); 6-30 A. Watkin
- 12 8-0 A. Betteridge; 6-30 M. Clements.
- 19 10-45 A. Betteridge (S), P. Brazier (C).
- 26 8-0 A. Watkin; 6-30 D. Barrand (S), I. Carmichael (C).

July

- 3 10-45 T. Knight (S), A. Watkin (C); 6-30 P. Brazier.

Holy Baptism

On May 15th:

Darren Paul Harvey; Donna and Lisa Sullivan;
Richard Edward Tregar.

Holy Matrimony

On April 30th:

Trevor Stanley Smith and Gillian Elaine Stewart.

On May 21st:

Anthony John Miller and Patricia Ann Sladden.

The P.C.C. Meeting

Wednesday, June 15th at 7-30 p.m.

War Memorial Rota

June 5th: Mrs. L. Reeves; June 19th, Mrs. G. Grove;
June 26th, Mrs. N. Cooke.

Donations

Anonymous Birthday Thankoffering: £1.

Sixty Plus Club

Usual Meeting, Wednesday, June 15th, 2-30 p.m.

Badsey Women's Institute

Mrs. Davies, trainee V.C.O. from Malvern took the members through the resolutions for the A.G.M. in London.

Miss Stephen then gave a talk on Butter and Cheese making and mentioned her herd of goats from whose milk she made cheese.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames Edwards, Major, Whitehouse, Sparrow and A. Tucker.

The draw was won by Mrs. Nunn.

June 8th:

Flowers for Miss World - Mrs. Lester.
Social Tme: Where am I going?
Competition: Attractive container for flowers.

Mothers' Union

June 14th:

Outing to Weston Park - home of the Duke and Duchess of Bradford.
Leave Wheatsheaf, Badsey 1-30 p.m.

June 28th, 7-30 p.m.

Discussion and Chitchat in the Transept.
Please note that this month is the CHURCH FETE - M.U. have usual stall - gifts very welcome.

Tea Hostesses for June 28th: Mesdames A. Belham, E. Moore, N. Smith, M. Thompson.

Daphne Bell.

Sick and Convalescent

(as on June 19th)

Jack Bent, Irene Hobbs, Laura Morris (a baby - very weak).

THE CHURCH FETE

AT THE VICARAGE

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25th, 1977

at 2-30 p.m.

TO BE OPENED BY THE MAYOR OF EVESHAM

Congratulations to Mrs. Webb of 37, Willersey Road, who celebrated her 90th birthday on April 28th.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services in June

5 Trinity Sunday. 9-30 Family Eucharist.

12 Trinity I. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.

19 Trinity II. 9-30 Family Eucharist.

26 PATRONAL FESTIVAL. 11-0 Mattins.

July

3 Trinity IV. 9-30 Holy Communion.

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