

# 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.

FEBRUARY, 1978

PRICE 60p. PER ANNUM

### To keep a True Lent

Is this a fast, to keep  
The larder lean?  
And clean  
From fat of veals and sheep?  
Is it to quit the dish  
Of flesh, yet still  
To fill  
The platter high with fish?  
Is it to fast an hour,  
Or ragged to go,  
Or show  
A downcast look and sour?  
No; 'tis a fast to dole  
Thy sheaf of wheat,  
and meat,  
Unto the hungry soul.  
It is to fast from strife,  
From old debate  
And hate;  
To circumcise thy life.  
To show a heart grief-rent;  
To starve thy sin,  
Not bin;  
And that's to keep thy Lent.  
Robert Herrick (1591-1674),  
Vicar of Dean Prior, Devonshire.

A parishioner has asked that we print Mr. Herrick's poem about Lent. It is relevant and certainly more eloquent than any modern comment upon this season.

A.S.L.

### Lent Course

We shall be joining our neighbours in the local group of 'Seven Churches' for a course of weekday services in Lent. The Preacher will be Canon Billings, who was Vicar of Drakes Broughton until his recent retirement. The services will be held on Thursday evenings at 7-45 in each of the undermentioned churches, and Canon Billings will take as the subject of his talk the following:

February 9th - Wickhamford. How can we know God?

February 16th - Offenham.  
How can Jesus Christ be the Son of God?

February 23rd - Cleeve Prior.  
How can we be reborn in the Spirit?

March 2nd - Bretforton.  
How can the Church proclaim and exemplify the Gospel?

March 9th - South Littleton.  
How can the Sacraments make Christ real to us?

March 16th - Badsey. Call to Commitment.  
There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion at each of these services. Last year the Lent Course was well attended; it is hoped that once again our parishes will be well represented. **Transport:** if you have a spare place in your car please make this known, and if you want a lift please don't hesitate to ask the Vicar or the Churchwardens.

### The Church Electoral Roll

All parishes in the Church of England are required to abolish the present roll, and to compile a new one. The new roll will have to be completed not less than fifteen days before the Annual Parochial Church Meetings in our two parishes. That means that the new roll in Badsey will be completed by March 18th, and in Wickham-

ford by March 21st. Forms of application can be collected from the back of Church and returned to the box provided there, or to the Vicarage, or, in the case of Badsey parishioners to Miss Core, 7, Old Post Office Lane, or, in the case of Wickhamford parishioners, to Mr. Sharp, 10, Manor Road.

If you are on the present roll, or if you are over seventeen years old, a member of the congregation or are otherwise eligible, you are earnestly invited to join the new electoral roll. It forms a very useful list of adult church membership and it enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Members of the present roll will receive a letter enclosing an application form from the electoral roll officer in each parish.

### Salute the Heroes!

Parish Magazine distributors, organisers and proof readers... heroes? Well, yes. Without your efforts, no Parish Magazine or local news-sheet could possibly survive. If you read this and are a distributor and feel (especially on a wet, windy February afternoon) more than a little fed up with this thankless task, TAKE HEART. Did you know that this 'Parish Mag' has a wider circulation in Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford than do the 'Quality' Dailies... The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian? True. Anyway, if that is not consolation enough, be assured that you have the sincere gratitude of the Editor and the Parochial Church Council. Our thanks, too, to our printer, Mr. Knight, who never fails to deliver each issue on time, despite editorial unpunctuality and untidy 'copy'.

### News... More News!

We would like to hear from any of our village organisations. Reports of meetings, or information about forthcoming events. Please send your news items to the Vicarage by the fifteenth of each month. Preferably typed, or clearly hand-written. The editor reserves the right to shorten material if necessary. Please do not be reticent... remember, people like to read about their own village, and local news is always the most interesting.

### Absent-minded Ladies

From time to time various articles are left behind in Church. Usually pairs of gloves. Sometimes umbrellas. **Always** women's. Once it was a shoe! (At what point on her homeward journey did the owner realize something was amiss?) Anything left behind after service is usually handed in to the Vicar or Churchwardens who keep it in the vestry until it is claimed. And so, if any of you ladies has lost a pair of gloves or umbrella... but if you are the one who has lost her shoe, I'm afraid I've bad news for you: we had to dispose of it.

(Postscript: the Editor has lost **his** gloves. A rather battered pair of leather ones. Anyone seen them? A.S.L.)

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

#### Church Services (St. James Church, Badsey)

#### February

- 1 Candlemas (brought forward from 2nd). 10-0 Holy Communion.
- 5 Quinquagesima. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Even-song.

- 8 Ash Wednesday. 10-0 Holy Communion; 7-0 p.m. Evensong and Litany (said).  
 9 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service (at Wickhamford).  
 12 Lent 1. 8-0 Holy Communion; 6-30 Evensong.  
 15 Wednesday (Ember Day). 10-0 Holy Communion.  
 16 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service (at Offenham).  
 19 Lent 2. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Baptism; 6-30 Special Evening Service (see below)\*  
 22 Wednesday. 10-0 Holy Communion.  
 23 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service (at Cleeve Prior).  
 24 St. Matthias. 7-0 p.m. Holy Communion.  
 26 Lent 3. 8-0 Holy Communion; 6-30 Sung Eucharist.  
 \*N.B. Evensong sung by Blackminster School Choir.

#### March

- 1 Wednesday. St. David. 10-0 Holy Communion.  
 2 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service (at Bretforton).  
 5 Lent 4. (Mothering Sunday). 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.

#### Holy Baptism

On January 15th:

Rebecca Jane Johnston; Louisa Wendy Such.

#### Funerals

- On December 21st: Bernard Major, aged 49 years.  
 On January 4th: Elizabeth Harriet Freeth.  
 On January 5th: May Keyte, aged 86 years.  
 On January 13th: (at All Saints, Evesham):  
 John Holding, aged 79 years.

**Bernard Major**, born and bred in the village, had been ill for some years. The son of a Badsey grower, he did not follow his father's footsteps, but for many years worked for Marshall's as a driver, and lately for L.B.G. as a representative. In his childhood he had been a member of the choir and during his youth he was a bell-ringer. He served in the army, and was a keen member of the British Legion. His family and large circle of friends in this parish will miss his cheerful companionship, and will remember with affectionate admiration how he learnt to accept his final illness. We send his family our condolences.

**Elizabeth Freeth** came to live in Banks Road a few years ago when she and her husband retired. We would like to send Mr. Freeth our deepest sympathy in his sad bereavement.

**May Keyte** had long associations with this parish through her husband's family, and through having lived here for so many years. Recently she had lived in one of the bungalows in Manor Close, her husband died in 1963.

**John Holding** whose house Briar Lea on the Badsey Road is just within the parish boundary of Aldington, and whose orchards stretched across to Knowle Hill in Bengeworth parish, was a well known figure in the Evesham district and further afield. His strenuous efforts in organising the local Poppy Day Appeal over a period of more than thirty years brought him high esteem in the Royal British Legion, and his unflinching services to the sport of Hockey, as player, club secretary and, lately, elder statesman, won the gratitude of many. He had strong links with Badsey and will be remembered with affection by many parishioners not only for his work with the Legion but also for his efforts on behalf of the Flower Show, and, when it existed, the local branch of the N.F.U.

#### Donations

- £5 in memory of Bernard Major.  
 £7 in memory of Ivy Godwin.

#### Sick and Convalescent (as on January 20)

Edith Hodges (W.R.I.), Len Lewis (Ronkswood), Frank Knight (Ronkswood), Raymond Whitford (Briar Close).  
 Dora Littlewood, Annette Bufton, Patricia Lively.

#### Phil Sparrow Memorial

It has been decided to have an oak table made for the Transept in the Church. The table will be made from the timber of a redundant pew which is at present stored in Mr. Sears' shed. The work will be done by Pyment's of Campden (who made the pews in our Church) and when in place the table will serve as a committee table as well as an Altar. At present we are waiting for permission to be granted by the Diocesan authorities for this work to be done. Once a faculty has been granted we can ask Pyment's to start the work. The initiative for this memorial to the late Phil Sparrow has been taken by the local branch of the British Legion, but it is hoped that village organisations as well as individual parishioners will wish to associate themselves with the memorial. Donations small and large will be gratefully received. Please send contributions either to Mr. T. Sparrow, 36, Brewer's Lane, or to Mr. J. Knight, The Royal British Legion Club, High Street, Badsey.

#### Parochial Church Council

Next Meeting: February 7th, 7-30 p.m. in Church.  
 Special Meeting to discuss the 'Call to Commitment':  
 March 7th, 7-30 p.m. in Church.

#### Flower Arrangers' Meeting

To arrange rota, to receive suggestions and hear grumbles. Thursday, February 2nd, 2-30 p.m. in Church. Anyone interested in joining the rota will be welcome, as well as the present members.

#### Mothers' Union

February 1st: 10-0 Corporate Communion.  
 February 14th: 2-30 The Revd. Peter Braby.  
 February 28th: 7-30 Capt. Barry Irons, Church Army.

#### Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, February 15th, 2-30 p.m. Meeting as usual.

#### War Memorial Rota

February 5th: Mrs. R. Harker.

#### Women's Institute

Some 58 members sat down to a traditional meal at their Annual Christmas Party held in the Village Hall. Mrs. S. Knight had great pleasure in presenting Mrs. G. Hughes with a small gift from all the members and thanking her for all her work during her eight years as treasurer.

Entertainment was provided by Littleton W.I. Choir and Miss Patricia Skitt.

#### February 8th.

Do it Yourself - Mr. Hale, Espleys.

Social Time: What's my line.

Competition: A piece of handcraft.

DON'T FORGET - "Carousel", February 15th. The coach will leave the Wheatsheaf at 6-20 p.m.

R. E. Merrett (Secretary).

#### St. James' Guild of Change Ringers

The Annual Meeting of the St. James', Badsey, Guild of Change Ringers took place on Wednesday, 18th January. Officers Elected were: Chairman: Rev. A. S. Leak; Ringing Master: Mr. A. J. Brazier; Deputy Master: Mr. C. Evans; Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. S. A. Bindoff.

It was decided to purchase four new bell ropes and to increase the fee for the ringing of wedding bells by £2.00.

Anyone interested in bell ringing would be very welcome and should contact the Ringing Master or the Rev. A. S. Leak.

S.B.

## WICKHAMFORD NOTES

### Services in St. John the Baptist's Church

#### February

- 5 Quinquagesima. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).  
8 Ash Wednesday. 8-0 a.m. Holy Communion (said).  
9 Lent Service. 7-45 p.m. Canon Billings: 'How can we know God?'  
12 Lent 1. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.  
16 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service at Offenham.  
19 Lent 2. 9-30 Family Eucharist.  
23 Thursday. Lent Service at Cleve Prior.  
26 Lent 3. 11-0 Mattins.

#### March

- 2 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service at Bretforton.  
5 Lent 4. 9-30 Holy Communion (said).  
3-0 Mothering Sunday Service.  
9 Thursday. 7-45 p.m. Lent Service at South Littleton.

#### Wickhamford Friendship Club

The Club will meet on Wednesday, February 1st at 2-30 p.m., when the visiting Speaker will be Mr. B. Hardy, the Deputy Surveyor of the Wychavon District Council. His talk will be entitled; 'It's a load of rubbish'. All senior residents are welcome.

#### Funeral

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Ethel Fisher of 40, Pitcher's Hill. Mrs. Fisher had been ill for some

months before her death. Both she and her husband had strong links with Bengeworth, where the funeral took place in January. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband, and to her son and daughter-in-law who live in Drysdale Close.

#### Carol Singers

A band of doughty Carol singers traversed part of the village on Christmas Eve, and have donated their collection of £7.50 to the Parish Church. Many thanks to those who gave and to those who sang: Mr. & Mrs. Winkett and Lynn, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Heritage and Paul, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Wright, Mrs. Wright and Graham, Mr. & Mrs. R. Halford.

#### Sick and Covalescent (as on January 20th)

Ethel Walters, Charles Lewis, Norman Atkins, Ann Badham, Vera Lawley, Eliabeth Preece, Doris Hogg.

#### Parochial Church Council Meeting

On Friday, February 10th in Church at 7-30 p.m.. This will be a special meeting to discuss the Bishop's 'Call to Commitment', and to plan ways in which we can respond to this call. The meeting is open to all members of the congregation..

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday, April 5th, 7-30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

#### Wickhamford Flower Festival - 1978

AUGUST 26th - 28th, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Please put this in your diaries.

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