

# 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.

MARCH, 1978

PRICE 60p. PER ANNUM

Dear Friends,

### Ceremonies

How dull life would be without ceremony! Just think of it...no doffing one's hat, no kissing under the mistletoe, no processions, no parades, no cheering the hero, no village Fete, no hissing the villain, no galas, no tournaments, no Trooping the Colour, no Christmas Stockings, no Bonfire Night...well, the list is endless.

### Hop-Scotch

Much of life is embellished by ritual. Look at the small children as they dance hop-scotch in the pattern of chalk squares on the pavement. Unaware of what they're doing, and without any interference or instruction from the adult world, they tread out a measure which is partly game, partly dance, and partly pagan ritual.

### Cricket

Look at a batsman as he prepares to race the first ball. He arrives at the wicket; he scowls quickly at the field; he crouches down into the batting position; he strikes the ground with his bat a number of times like a stag pawing the ground before a dual (sometimes he moves forward a few yards up the pitch and strikes the ground again); he stands up straight again and pivots slowly round on his heel, glaring defiantly at the fielders and flourishing his bat a few times as if to test its balance or to strike fear into his foe; he crouches down once more into the batting position and then, after a few more preliminary fidgets, he raises his eyes and stares at the bowler, who receives this signal and now, at last, begins his run. However dull the innings may become, the batsman has given the spectators a delightful 'curtain-raiser' which like much of our national game owes more to our innocent desire for drama than to the dull practicalities of bat and ball.

### Worship

It is not at all surprising that this desire for drama should find expression in our forms of Worship. Cricket has its own ritual language and costume, and its own ceremonial, without which the game would be only half the fun. This is also true of Religion. Our worship is a corporate celebration enacted in dramatic terms. We use music, recitation, movement, costume, posture as our way of praising God. I suppose we **could** simply all go to Church, say 'Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,' and then spend the next half hour silently pondering those words before getting up to return home. As an act of worship that would be logical...but it would fall a long way short of being a Celebration.

Ritual is also part of our private devotion. or, at least, it can be. Thomas Browne, that eminently seventeenth century physician whose common sense on matters of religion was such a refreshing contrast to the bigotry of his times, puts it as well as anyone when he writes: 'At my Devotion I love to use the civility of my knee, my hat and my hand.'

### Maundy Thursday

One of the Ceremonies traditionally associated with Maundy Thursday is the Stripping of the Altar. At Badsey immediately after the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday evening the Altar and Sanctuary are stripped of their ornaments and furnishing. Whilst this is being done, the congregation recite Psalm 22. The Action and the Words alike prepare us for the stark mood of Gethsemane and Calvary. After the ceremony the congregation disperses in silence.

### Easter Vigil

There are many ancient ceremonies belonging to the Vigil of Easter. Two of these I would like to introduce this year at Badsey: The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows. The service will begin at 8 p.m. on Holy Saturday and will fall into three sections. First there will be readings from the Old Testament and the New, recalling God's promise of Redemption; during this part of the service the Church will be in darkness, except for the light at the lectern. Then after the Readings will come the Ceremony of Lighting the Paschal Candle, from which smaller candles will be lit and distributed among the congregation, thereby symbolising the Light of the Risen Lord shining through the darkness of death. In the final part of the service the congregation will be invited to renew their Baptismal Promises.

Some of you are familiar with these ceremonies and will I am sure agree that they are potent symbols of the Easter Gospel. Would you recommend this service to your friends, and may I invite those of you in both parishes who may not be familiar with the Easter Vigil Ceremonies to come along and join us in Badsey Church on Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) at 8 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK (Vicar).

### Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings

At **Badsey** in the Parish Church on Sunday, April 2nd at 6-30 p.m., after a shortened form of said Evensong.

At **Wickhamford** in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, April 5th at 7-30 p.m.

All parishioners are invited to attend. They will be able to hear reports of the Church's activities and accounts. They will be asked to vote for the two Churchwardens for the next twelve months. Members of the Church Electoral Roll will be asked to vote for the Parochial Church Council.

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL BY SHOWING INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO ON YOUR BEHALF IN THE PARISH.**

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

#### Services at St. James Church in March

- 1 St. David. 10-0 H.C.
- 2 Thursday. Lent Service at Bretforton, 7-45 p.m.
- 5 Lent 4. Mothering Sunday. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 8 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 9 Thursday. Lent Service at S. Littleton, 7-45 p.m.
- 12 Lent 5. 8-0 Holy Communion; 6-30 Evensong.
- 15 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.
- 16 Thursday. Lent Service at Badsey, 7-45 p.m.

#### Holy Week

- 19 Palm Sunday. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 4-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 21 Tuesday. 7-30 p.m. Evensong and Address.
- 22 Wednesday. 10-0 H.C.; 7-30 p.m. Evensong (said).
- 23 Maundy Thursday. 7-30 p.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 24 Good Friday. 10-0 Mattins; 2-0 Devotions and Address; 7-30 Evensong (said).
- 25 Holy Saturday. 8-0 p.m. Easter Vigil Ceremonies.
- 26 EASTER DAY. 8-0 H.C.; 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong.
- 29 Wednesday. No Service.

#### April

- 2 Easter 1. 10-45 Family Eucharist; 6-30 Evensong (shortened, said) and the Annual General Meeting.
- 5 Wednesday. H.C. 10-0.

**Confession:** The Vicar will be in Church to hear Confession on Wednesday, 22nd March at 7-45 p.m., or by appointment.

**Flowers:** the Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, 25th from 9-30 a.m. All members of the Sanctuary Guild are invited to help, and any other volunteers will be welcomed.

### Holy Baptism

On February 19th:  
Ann-Marie Page; Paul Anthony Loewe; Kate Elizabeth Bradley.

### R.I.P.

We regret to report the death of the following:  
**Mrs. Edythe Evelyn Hodges**, aged 86. Mrs. Hodges, for many years a parishioner of Bengeworth and member of the congregation at St. Peter's, came recently to live with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry King, in Badsey. The funeral took place at St. Peter's.

**Miss Kate Elizabeth Hay**, aged 72. Miss Hay was born in Bretforton where she spent her childhood. For some years she lived with her sister, Mrs. Maurice Brady, in Badsey. The funeral took place in Yorkshire.

**Mrs. Marjorie Evelyn May Leathers**, of 44, Willersey Road. Mrs. Leathers lived for many years in Wickhamford, moving to Badsey after her husband's death. The funeral took place in Cheltenham.

We send our condolences to the bereaved families.

### Donations

In memory of Bernard Major, £10 from his family.  
ret Sparrow.

In memory of Bernard Major, £10 from his family.

### P.C.C.

Tuesday, March 7th, 7-30 p.m. in Church: special meeting to discuss the Bishop's 'Call to Commitment'.

### Badsey Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Badsey will be held in Badsey Remembrance Hall on Thursday, 9th March, at 6-45 p.m. Local Government Electors are invited to attend.

D. Jelfs, Clerk.

### Aldington Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Aldington will be held in Badsey Remembrance Hall on Wednesday, 15th March, 1978, at 7 p.m. Local Government Electors are invited to attend.

D. Jelfs, Clerk.

### Mothers' Union

March 1st: Corporate Communion.

March 14th: 2-30 p.m. Capt. Hallam of the Salvation Army.

March 21st: (Please note that this is instead of the 28th): 7-30 p.m. Holy Week Service and Address.

Daphne Bell.

### Badsey Women's Institute

Mrs. W. Smith welcomed all members to the February meeting and gave out the birthday bouquets to members. The Annual Council meeting at the Marine Ballroom on February 28th; two members volunteered to attend as delegate and visitor.

Mr. David Brazier gave a most instructive talk on 'Do-it-Yourself' and brought many interesting articles with him.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames Nisbett, Ives, Holloway and Dickinson.

The monthly draw was won by Mrs. S. Nunn. The evening ended with a game of "What's my Line" which was very enjoyable.

### March 8th:

Gardening - Mr. R. Day, Pershore College of Horticulture.

Social Time: What are these?  
Competition: Bulbs.

### The Choir Vestry

Have you been into the Choir Vestry recently? If not, do have a look next time you are in Church. A parishioner has kindly given us a carpet; it makes the world of difference to that corner of the Church.

### Advance Notice of an Overseas Special Service

Sunday, 7th May, 6-30 p.m.

This Evensong will include intercessions for the work of the Church Overseas, particularly in the diocese of the Arctic. An address will be given by the Revd. Peter Emmerson, M.A., Vicar of Rushwick, Worcester, who served for a time in that diocese, and has maintained contact with developments there since his return home. He will therefore speak from inside knowledge of life in those regions and among its people.

The Overseas Committee hopes that there will be a good attendance at the service, particularly of those who support our parish's Project for the Eskimo student, Bobby Nakoolak in his training for the priesthood.

J.E.S.

### Badsey Wives Group

A reminder to all wives, we do exist, and we meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at the Memorial Hall, at 8 p.m.

On March 6th our speaker will be Mr. Malcolm Roberts, whose subject will be "Jewellery". March 20th will find us playing skittles.

Any old friends or newcomers will be very welcome at these meetings.

### Sixty Plus Club

Wednesday, March 15th, at 2-30 p.m. During the afternoon there will be entertainment by pupils from Blackminster School.

### Children's Organisations (Uniformed)

When there is a Fifth Sunday in the month the Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies parade at Church with their Colours. We usually get an excellent turn-out, and with the parents and other members of the congregation we manage to fill the Church. We try to give the children opportunities to make their own contribution to the Service. On January 29th the Sunday School sung some chorusses, and the Guides did a choral reading of the 23rd psalm and sung 'Sing Hosanna'. The Scouts and Cubs provided our 'sidesmen' by taking the collection up, and on the previous occasion the Brownies sang a chorus. The next Fifth Sunday will be on April 30th.

### WICKHAMFORD NOTES

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

- 2 Thursday. Lent Service at Bretforton, 7-45 p.m.
- 5 Lent 4. 9-30 Holy Communion (said); 3-0 Mothering Sunday Service.
- 9 Thursday. Lent Service at South Littleton.
- 12 Lent 5. 3-0 Evensong and Baptism.
- 16 Thursday. Lent Service at Badsey, 7-45 p.m.
- 19 Palm Sunday. 9-30 Family Eucharist.
- 23 Maundy Thursday. 8-0 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 Good Friday. 11-0 Mattins.
- 26 EASTER DAY. 9-30 Family Eucharist; 3-0 Evensong.

#### April

- 2 Easter 1. 9-30 Holy Communion.

### Holy Baptism

On February 12th: Charlotte Beth Cleveland.

### Matrimony

Following a Civil Marriage Ceremony at Evesham Register Office, a Service of Blessing was held for: Philip Turner and Linda Hunt. We send our best wishes to them both.

### Servers

Gary Webb and Alan Carter have joined the rota of Servers. Timothy Mobley who has been a Server at Wickhamford Church since his Confirmation in 1975 is moving to Hampton. We thank him for his help in Church, and give him and the rest of the Mobley family our best wishes for their new home.

### Mothers and Children at Church

Eight or so mothers met at Mrs. Ann Sharp's house to plan the Mothering Sunday Service (March 5th, 3-0 p.m.). It is hoped that the children will be able to participate in the service and so feel more at home in the Church. The Lesson will be read by one of the mothers and some of the prayers by another. There will be choruses for the very young, and of course, small posies of flowers will be distributed. At this same meeting it was also suggested that the Family Service on the fourth Sunday of each month (11-0) be made more of a Family occasion. To this end we hope to encourage more parents to take their turn reading the Lesson or taking some of the Prayers, and to involve the children in various duties such as taking round the collection plate. Lest they should feel left out, the fathers, too, will be invited to help.

### Sunday School Party

Between twenty-five and thirty pupils of the Sunday School, with one or two guests, enjoyed a splendid party in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, February 15th.

There were Musical Chairs, Musical Bumps, Lucy Locket, Pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, and Pass the Parcel. After all that there was a delicious feast of sandwiches, sausages, crisps, biscuits, cakes and jelly. At the end of the tea there was a lovely surprise... a birthday cake with ten candles alight. Jonathan Roberts whose birthday it was had kindly asked that his cake be brought to the party so that we could all have a piece. (Thank-you, Jonathan, and many happy returns of the 15th). After the tea we had some films, lent by Mr. Winkett and projected by Mr. Sharp. Many thanks to all the adults who organised the party and helped by making the cakes and preparing the food, and thanks to our youthful helpers, Elizabeth Poulter and Julie Noyes.

### Sick and Convalescent (as on February 19th)

Gary Rogerson (Churchill Hospital, Oxford), Ethel Colley, Eileen Hayden, Pamela Noyes (Ronkswood Hospital), Frances Bell (W.R.I.), Charles Lewis, Norman Atkins, Ruth Thomas.

**Congratulation** to Mrs. Elsie Walters who celebrated her 91st birthday in February.

### Wickhamford Gardening Club

March 1st: 'Herbs', by Dr. H. O. W. Eggins. Competition: Spring Flowers.

May 3rd: 'Tomatoes, Salads, etc.', by Mr. Rowberry. Competition: Buttonhole.

### Wickhamford Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Wickhamford will be held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 22nd March, at 7-15 p.m. Local Government Electors are invited to attend.

D. A. Jelfs, Clerk.

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