

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

PARISH REVIEW

10p

FEBRUARY

1979



The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

Vicar: THE REVD. A.S. LEAK, M.A.

(Tel: Evesham 830343)

Church of St. James
Badsey

Church of St. John the Baptist
Wickhamford

Churchwardens:
Mr. R.J. TAYLOR
34 Badsey Fields Lane
Tel. 830250

Churchwardens:
Mr. J.E. PARRY
40 Manor Road, Wickhamford
Tel. 830244

Mr. G.A.S. WILLCOX
7 Chestnut Close, Aldington
Tel. 830026

Mr. D.G. POULTER
5 Evesham Road, Wickhamford
Tel. 830505

Clerk:
Mr. C.H. WILLIS
35 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford

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February 1979

THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

February

Pity poor February! She's an odd little month, who in her time has been pushed around the calendar and treated with scant respect. To begin with, she made a late appearance on the scene of the ancient world, when King Numa of Rome extended the original ten month year by adding January at the beginning and February at the end (an arrangement which highly displeased December, a rather lordly month who felt that if anyone was to bring the year to a dignified conclusion it was he and not this little upstart from nowhere).

For about two hundred and fifty years February enjoyed the distinction of concluding the year. Then in 452 B.C. the Roman government brought February forward to its present rather insignificant position, allocating to her twenty-nine days. Rather a come-down that must have been. But worse was to follow. The Emperor Augustus, in whose honour the month 'Sextilis' had been renamed 'August', felt slighted by the fact that his month had only thirty days while Julius Caesar's month, July, had thirty-one. To satisfy imperial vanity, therefore, a day was lopped off poor little February and added to August.

From the earliest times February has been associated with the pagan rites of purification. The festival of 'Februa' or 'Lupercalia', in which the women of the cult underwent ritual purification, was celebrated during this month. It was not until the fifth century of the Christian era that the Pope established in Rome the Christian feast of the Purification (February 2nd) as an answer to the pagan feast (February 15th).

Candlemas

The Feast of the Purification of Our Lady is the occasion when the Church recalls how Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple and presented him to the priest in obedience to Jewish law. Although the Bible account of this (Luke 2) emphasises the thanksgiving aspect of this custom, there is an echo of the more primitive idea of ritual cleansing in St. Luke's words, 'When the days of her purification were accomplished...' It is no more than an echo, for the rest of the story tells of the Presentation of Our Lord rather than the Purification of Our Lady.

Churching of Women

These echoes of primitive ideas are loudest in matters touching birth and death. The ancient belief that childbirth pollutes the mother in some mysterious fashion, and that she must be concealed from society until she has been ritually cleansed still lingers on the fringes of Christianity, though it has never been orthodox doctrine. The office, 'Churching of Women', has in the past been associated in superstitious minds with the sub-Christian notion of ritual cleansing, though the wording of the prayers cannot possibly bear that interpretation. From time to time in these two parishes young mothers ask to be 'churched', and I am very happy to help them in this way to give thanks to God for the safe birth of a child. I also encourage the father to be present so that he can join in the thanksgiving. It is, I believe, a helpful service and it would be a shame if it were to fall completely out of use. However, I hope that those superstitious grannies who threaten their daughters with all sorts of misfortune should they not be 'churched' are a rapidly dwindling minority, and that those young mothers who come for churching do so with proper Christian intent.

Badsey Wives

Meetings for February will be on the 5th and 19th.

On the 5th we will be holding our Annual General Meeting where we look over our successes and failures of 1978 and elect a new committee and President for 1979. Will all members please try and be present at this meeting. This is your chance to make changes if you think they are needed.

This meeting takes place at the Round of Gras at 8.0'clock.

We are having a "Crafty Evening" on Monday the 19th, so you must come to find out what that is!

As always visitors are most welcome, and if you do not know about us, we meet at the Remembrance Hall, unless otherwise stated, on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 8.0'clock.

Sixty Plus Club (Badsey)

Wednesday February 21st.

The monthly draw in January was won by Mrs. Harrison. On Wednesday February 7th, Club members will meet at the Round of Gras at 7.30 p.m. for Supper and Entertainment - This will be a free 'Evening Out'.

Church Services during February

St. James, Badsey

2nd (Friday)	7.00 p.m. The Eucharist (Candlemas)
4th Epiphany 5	10.45 The Eucharist. 6.30 Evensong
7th Wednesday	10.00 The Eucharist.
11th Septuagesima	8.00 The Eucharist. 6.30 Evensong
14th Wednesday	10.00 The Eucharist.
18th Sexagesima	10.45 The Eucharist. 4.00 Evensong & Baptism.
21st Wednesday	10.00 The Eucharist.
24th St. Matthias	8.00 The Eucharist.
25th Quinquagesima	8.00 The Eucharist. 6.30 The Eucharist
28th Ash Wednesday	10.00 The Eucharist. 7.00 Evensong (said)

March

1st Thursday	7.30 p.m. Lent Address (at Wickhamford)
4th Lent I	10.45 The Eucharist. 6.30 Evensong

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

4th Epiphany 5	9.30 The Eucharist. (said)
11th Septuagesima	9.30 The Eucharist.
18th Sedagesima	9.30 The Eucharist.
25th Quinquagesima	11.00 Morning Prayer.
28th Ash Wednesday	8.00 The Eucharist. (said)

March

1st Thursday	7.30 p.m. Lent Address
4th Lent I	9.30 The Eucharist. (said)

Funerals

On January 4th	Leslie Sharp of Badsey
On January 5th	David Victor Wasley (at Cheltenham) of Aldington.
On January 16th	Raymond Leslie Whitford of Badsey.
On January 23rd	Norman Atkins (at Cheltenham) of Wickhamford.
During January	Helen Crane (at Derby) of School Lane, Badsey.

War Memorial Rota (Badsey)

February 4th Mrs. R. Harker February 18th Mrs. N. Cooke

Golden Wedding Bells

At St. James' Church, Badsey on Tuesday 26th December, for the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Barnard, Brewers Lane, Badsey, a quarter peal (1260 changes) of Grandsire Triples was rung by M.F. Fairfax, treble; A.C. Berry, 2; J.W. Nicholls, 3; A.P. Carter, 4; P.S. Carter, 5; H.Plumb, 6; A.J. Brazier (conductor) 7; A.R. Geden, tenor.

Donations to Badsey Church

£40 (to the Church Fabric Fund) in memory of the late Leslie Sharp, who was for sixteen years organist at St. James Church.

25 Bibles (Revised Standard Version, hard back, with line illustrations) have been donated by parishioners for the use of the congregation, confirmation classes and study groups.

A Bible, in memory of the late Albert Wilson Stewart.

Lent Course (Wickhamford & Badsey)

Our course of Lent Addresses will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 in Badsey and Wickhamford Churches alternately. The Vicar will be giving the addresses and invites parishioners to suggest relevant subjects, or questions they would like answered. If parishioners would make a note of these and put it in the box provided at either church, and if they would do so by February 18th, the Vicar can then draw up a list of suitable topics. Our first Lent Address will be at Wickhamford Church on March 1st 7.30. The second will be at Badsey Church on March 8th.

Coffee Evening (Badsey)

At the Vicarage on Friday February 2nd, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m.
To raise money for new adult choir robes. Stalls:- Bring-and-buy, Cakes, Vegetables. 15p admission (includes coffee).

Donations to Wickhamford Church

£5 given by his wife in memory of Raymond Ballard.

£5 from Mr. F. Back. £3 given anonymously.

Leprosy Phials

Recently £18 has been collected through the 'Leprosy Phials' which some of our parishioners keep in their homes. This money has been sent to the Leprosy Mission to assist in the fight against this disease. At present there are seven such phials in Wickhamford. If you are interested in having one of these small containers for donations in your home, please tell Mrs. Parry (40 Manor Road) or the Vicar.

Wickhamford Remembrance Hall A.G.M.

This will be held on Thursday, 15th February, at 8.00 p.m. The position of Chairman and Secretary are to be filled. Nominations please to: Mr. H. Newman, 21 Drysdale Close, Wickhamford. Telephone No. 830131.
A glass of Sherry will be served free to those attending the meeting.

Mothers Union (Badsey)

Wednesday February 7th, 10.00 a.m. Corporate Communion.
Tuesday February 13th, 2.30 p.m. Miss N. Smith & Mrs. Moore
Slides and talk of Gardens & Churches.
Tuesday February 27th, 7.30 p.m. "Folk Songs", Mrs. Ross
and Partner.

Under 8's Sunday School (Badsey)

A very happy Christmas Party was held on January 13th in Mrs. P. Goldstraw's Nursery Schoolroom, and twenty two children wearing gay party hats played games and sang rhymes, then after a lovely tea went gaily home taking with them gifts of balloons, oranges, sweets and books - tired, but happy. Our thanks to our many friends who gave, both in money and food, and to our Vicar and young teachers who helped with games.

Badsey Women's Institute

Mrs. J. Lashford, president, opened the meeting by wishing a happy new year to all members.
Mrs. Sharp has been co-opted to the committee to bring it up to a full quota of 12.
Subscriptions of £1.75p are now due.
The W.F.W.I. outing this year is to Chester on Thursday 24th May, deposit £2.00.
The 1978 cup for competitions was won by Miss Gant.
The speaker was Mr. Hardy, talking about rubbish, he was very amusing and enjoyable.
Refreshments were served by Mrs. Green, Mrs. Greener, Miss Gant and Miss Hands.
The draw was won by Mrs. Betteridge.
A competition for the snap of 1978 was won by Mrs. Merrett.
February 14th ... Feet - Mr. J. Mount
Social Time - Your Feet Competition - My Shoehorn

Congratulations

First prize for courage this month must surely go to those young mothers who battled their way through the snow to attend the first of our 1979 Wednesday 'Mums and Toddlers' sessions in Church on January 10th. A blinding blizzard had reduced visibility to five yards, and the Vicar was about to return home, having decided that no one would turn out in such weather, when out of the swirling white chaos trudged a dozen Mums and offspring, booted and mittened like arctic explorers.

COFFEE MORNING

WICKHAMFORD MEMORIAL HALL - SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24th

10.30 to 12 noon

TOMBOLA & CAKE STALL

Admission: 20p Children 10p.

Profits for Church Funds

Cakes and prizes for the stalls gratefully received.

Sick and Convalescent

BADSEY: Celia Harris, Eva (Jubilee) Brewer, Rose Byrd,
Douglas Huxley, Reg Kyte, Albert Preston,
May Tutton (from Blackminster), Daisy Young.

WICKHAMFORD: Charles Lewis, Peggy Ellison, Jack Bennett.

Wickhamford Women's Institute

At the January meeting the President, Mrs. E. Litterick, welcomed Mr. Du Pre who gave a Bamix Fresh Food Demonstration. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Halford and Mrs. Morris. Mrs. H. Evans won the monthly parcel and the Flower-from-the-garden competition was won by Mrs. P. Bell, Mrs. N. Roberts was second and Mrs. T. Garvey was third.

The Annual Party was held on Friday 12th January at Wickhamford Memorial Hall. A superb four-course meal was arranged and cooked by four members, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Noyes and Mrs. J. Roberts. Floral decorations for the tables were arranged by Mrs. P. Hancock. Members were entertained by the Campden Mothers' Club. The President thanked the organisers and entertainers for providing such an enjoyable evening.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 8th February when Mr. D. Hadley will talk about Marine Life in the Red Sea. The competition will be "The most interesting thing you have dug up". Visitors and new members are welcome.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

Next Meetings (in the Memorial Hall, 7.45 p.m. for 8 p.m.)
Wednesday February 28th and Wednesday May 2nd. Please note
that the next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in February
not the first Wednesday in March.