

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

PARISH REVIEW

10p

FEBRUARY

1980



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
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THE VICAR'S LETTER

February 1980

Dear Friends,

The 23rd Psalm

This ancient Hebrew poem is, understandably, one of the best known of the psalms, and probably one of the most frequently sung. But, I wonder, do we always mean what we say when we use it? 'The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing; He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.' Consoling, encouraging words those may be, but what about the next verse: 'He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.' God's will ('His name's sake') is that we should be guided away from our own selfish paths where 'we follow too much the devices and desires of our own hearts', and put firmly back on that straight and narrow path from which we so readily deviate. Conversion of the will is often a disagreeable business. The wandering sheep may need rough handling to get them back; if so, they will learn that their shepherd can be firm as well as kind.

Different Versions

Since the Reformation there have appeared a number of different versions of the psalms. As the Coverdale translation (in the Prayer Book) could not be sung to any popular melodies, the psalms were rewritten in metrical version. The most widely used during Queen Elizabeth's reign was that by Sternhold & Hopkins. This was replaced in popular use by the 'New Version' of Tate & Brady in the latter part of the 17th century. Some of Tate & Brady's versions of the psalms are still sung as hymns ('As pants the hart', 'Through all the changing scenes of life'). Apart from these versions, others have become popular from time to time and found their way into our worship.

For example, take a look at the following different translations of part of psalm 23.

In pastures green he feedeth me where I do safely lie;
And after leads me to the streams which run most pleasantly.

(Sternhold & Hopkins)

In tender grass he makes me feed and gently there repose;
Then leads me to cool shades, and where refreshing water flows.

('New Version')

He leads me to the tender grass, where I both feed and rest;
Then to the streams that gently pass; in both I have the best.

(George Herbert)

When in the sultry glebe I faint, or on the thirsty mountain pant,
To fertile vales and dewy meads my weary wandering steps
he leads,
Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow, amid the verdant
landscape flow. (J. Addison)

Which do you prefer? In my opinion Herbert's & Addison's versions leave the other two at the starting post. If you want to read them in their entirety you can find them in Hymns Ancient & Modern (revised) No.178 and No.179. Addison's poem is wholly delightful. For example in verse 3:

The barren wilderness shall smile
With sudden greens and herbage crowned,
And streams shall murmur all around.

But I wonder whether it is not just a little self-indulgent... a tribute to the delights of the English language rather than an act of praise to God. Perhaps, Herbert's simpler style makes a better prayer.

Anglican Piety

George Herbert's quiet, restrained style of verse is polished without being mannered. The content of his poems combines a devotional fervour with a simple, earth-bound common sense. His poem, 'Teach me my God and King in all things Thee to see', which can be found in most hymnals, is, I believe, a clear statement of Anglican piety at its purest. It steers a straight course between emotionalism on the one hand and, on the other, formalism; theologically sound, devotionally well balanced, stylistically impeccable.

As I write this letter it is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; a time when we and our fellow Christians lament our unhappy divisions. However, in doing so it would be a grave mistake not to acknowledge with gratitude the particular gifts we have received from our differing traditions, and of these gifts surely one of the most gracious must be that gentle note of practical piety which has sounded down the centuries of Anglican worship. It would behove us ill to neglect what we have received from our forbears, and it would be the worst sort of modesty to conceal in the interests of ecumenism one of the God-given glories of our Church of England; a Spirituality which stands up to the rigour of theological orthodoxy and yet is not too high-falutin' for day-to-day experience; which is at home in both the study and the kitchen.

For seven years I have worshipped in our two Churches (I must learn to call them now 'your' Churches), and one of the many things for which I am so grateful is just that unfussy style of devotion which is so true of the Church of England. At Badsey and at Wickhamford, as in so many other Parish Churches, it is something which springs from the architecture, the furnishings and ornamentation of the churches, redolent of the prayers of former generations; it comes, too, from the music and the words of the liturgy; but, probably most of all, it comes from the faith of the worshippers themselves. As members of the congregation, you've given more to your priest than you probably imagine.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Leak

Adrian Leak (Vicar)

Church Services during February

St James' Church, Badsey

2nd Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	8.00	The Eucharist	
3rd 9th Sunday before Easter (Septuagesima)	11.00	The Eucharist	6.30 Evensong
6th Wednesday	10.00	The Eucharist	
10th 8th Sunday before Easter (Sexagesima)	8.00	The Eucharist	6.30 Evensong
13th Wednesday	10.00	The Eucharist	
17th 7th Sunday before Easter (Quinquagesima)	11.00	The Eucharist	6.30 Evensong
24th Lent 1	11.00	The Eucharist (said)	6.30 Evensong
March 2nd Lent 2	11.00	The Eucharist	6.30 Evensong
March 9th Lent 3	11.00	The Eucharist (said)	6.30 Evensong

Please Note that after February 17th and until further notice there will be no Wednesday services, nor will there be any 8.0'clock Sunday services; instead there will be an 11 0'clock Eucharist every Sunday, choral on the 1st and 3rd and 'said' on the 2nd and 4th. On the 4th Sunday the 6.30 p.m. Eucharist will be replaced by Evensong.

Donation (to Badsey Church funds)

£10 from Mr & Mrs Cecil Jones and Mrs Caddick in memory of their father, mother and their brother.

St John the Baptist Church, Wickhamford

3rd 9th Sunday before Easter(Septuagesima)	9.30	The Eucharist
10th 8th Sunday before Easter(Sexagesima)	9.30	The Eucharist
17th 7th Sunday before Easter(Quinquagesima)	9.30	The Eucharist
24th Lent 1	11.00	Mattins
March 2nd Lent 2	9.30	The Eucharist
March 9th Lent 3	9.30	The Eucharist

Please Note that during the interregnum the timetable of Sunday services at Wickhamford will be the same as heretofore.

Holy Baptism (in Badsey Church)

On January 20th: Alexis Philip Grout-Smith.

Funeral

At Worcester Crematorium: George Povey (of Binyon Close, Badsey)

Wednesday Mothers-and-Toddlers Group

We meet for a very informal gathering on Wednesday afternoons (but not the first Wednesday in each month) in Badsey Church from 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. Any Mum (or Granny) is welcome to bring her baby/toddler along. We usually sing a couple of nursery rhymes and have a cup of tea or squash. We hope to continue after the Vicar's departure as before.

Saturday Evening Prayer

For some years now it has been customary for a small group of us to say Evensong together on Saturday evening at 6.30 pm in Badsey Church. We find the quiet recitation of the psalms and reading of the Scriptures a valuable devotion as well as a good preparation for Sunday's worship. The prayers are usually concluded by 6.30 pm. It is our intention to continue this service after the Vicar's departure. As you read these words it might occur to you to come along and join the 'two or three' from time to time.

Badsey Scouts and Cubs Group

HELP! We need help from adults at our Cub and Scout meetings at the Scout Hut. If you are reasonably bomb-proof and would like to help in this very important youth work, please get in touch with Mr Peter Smith, 19 Bretforton Road.

Sunday Themes

February 3rd

9th Sunday before Easter Theme: Christ the Teacher

At the Eucharist: 1 Corinthians 2.1-10 Luke 8.4-15
At Evensong: Isaiah 30.8-21 Matthew 4.23-5.12

February 10th

8th Sunday before Easter Theme: Christ the Healer

At the Eucharist: 2 Corinthians 12.1-10 Mark 7.24-end
At Evensong: 2 Kings 20 Mark 5.1-20

February 17th

7th Sunday before Easter Theme: Christ the friend of sinners

At the Eucharist: Colossians 1.18-23 John 8.1-11
At Evensong: Hosea 14 Philemon

February 24th

1st Sunday in Lent Theme: Temptation

At the Eucharist: Hebrew 4.12-end Luke 4.1-13
At Evensong: Deuteronomy 30.11-end Hebrews 2.5-end

Mothers Union

Sunday February 10th, admission of four members with evensong
6.30 p.m. followed by Coffee and Biscuits in the Transcept.
Wednesday February 6th, 10.00 a.m. Corporate Communion.
Tuesday February 12th, 2.30 p.m. discussion groups and questions.
Tuesday February 26th, 7.30 p.m. Mr & Mrs Bartlett
Talk and slides about 'A Canadian Holiday'. D. Bell.

Badsey Women's Institute

Mrs. Lashford opened the meeting by wishing everyone a
Happy New Year. Mrs. Phil Cooke gave a talk on 'Slim and
Trim' which was very amusing and interesting. The more
energetic members joined in the exercises to music.
Teas were served by Mesdames: Harrison, Stanton, N. Smith and
Stockwin. The draw was won by Mrs J. Sparrow. The competition
by Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Cudd jointly.
February 13th - Horoscopes, Mrs. D. Bell. Social Time, Stars
and Stars. Competition, Hand Painted Pebble. Win Skitt (Hon. Sec)

Sixty Plus Club (Badsey)

Wednesday, February 20th, 2.30 p.m.

At our January meeting the usual draw was won by Mr. Hemming. An extra draw was won by Miss Smith - a cake. Our Christmas afternoon was held too late to report last month. Instead of going out for an evening, we spent the money on our December afternoon. Tea was provided and a present for everyone. We were entertained by Mr Trevor Jones and his choir. The Guide Leader and one Guide came and distributed cards made by the Guides. Later in the afternoon the Brownies arrived, sang carols and distributed floral decorations made in shells. A sincere "Thank You" to Guides and Brownies for their kindness to the club. The Christmas draw - a chicken dinner and tea, was won by Mrs Abbiss.

P. I. Churchill.

Under 8's Sunday School (Badsey)

On Saturday January 12th about 26 children joined together for about 2½ hours of happy games - and - noise at their annual party leaving tired but happy with a small book, a balloon, an orange and sweets. The teachers and I would like to thank some of the Mothers Union members who gave money and young mothers who made things and Mrs A Smith who gave her afternoon to help, and the Vicar who joined in the games and handed out sweets etc, also thanks to Mrs Goldstraw who lent us her school - well warmed and lighted - The children all say a big Thank You.

Daphnie Bell, Carol & Lesley.

Badsey Wives

On Monday February 4th we will meet at the Village Hall at 8 0'clock, where we will be swopping "Favourite Recipes", so bring pen and paper.

On Monday February 18th we will meet at the 'Round of Gras' at 8 0'clock for the A.G.M. Will all members and any new comers please come along. Your vote is needed. As a bonus, food will be provided free.

Wickhamford Friendship Club

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 13th February, 2.30 pm.

Subject: Making the 'Staff of Life'.

Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall on the first Wednesday in the month, unless otherwise notified. Annual membership fee 55p. This is a club for the over 60's and new members are welcomed.

H. Mason.