

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

# PARISH REVIEW

10p

JUNE

1980



The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

Church of St. James  
Badsey

Churchwardens:

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

Mr. R.D.H. SEAMAN,  
31 High Street, Badsey  
Tel: 831548

Church of St. John the Baptist  
Wickhamford

Churchwardens:

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

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

Clerk:

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

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June 1980

Dear Reader,

The Thirteenth Centenary of the Worcester Diocese

Part One of the article on how the Diocese was founded and an account of progress through the centuries is presented this month.

Part Two, concluding this article, will be published next month.

George Willcox  
Robert Seaman  
Churchwardens

THE THIRTEENTH CENTENARY OF THE WORCESTER DIOCESE

When the Roman Province of Britain ceased to exist during the Fifth Century A.D., there followed a long period commonly known in the History Books as the "Dark Ages". The land was assaulted by waves of invaders - pagan, illiterate and primitive - whose origins lay outside the Roman Empire. Only slowly did a settled existence return as the newcomers cleared the land which had become overgrown and uncultivated for 200 years. We know remarkably little about them because they left no written records. Mostly they lived on the eastern side of the country because they had travelled over the north sea and penetrated the land by the rivers. Those who came to the Severn valley were known as the Hwicce; one story told was that they followed a leader named Ceawlin, who defeated the Britons at "the place which men call Fethanleag". There were but a few thousand of them and they occupied a large area, which included modern Worcestershire, much of Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds. There was little memorable about them; they were farmers, hard-working and their society was based upon family blood feuds.

This primitive society was transformed by Christianity. The Conversion commenced just before 600 AD, from Iona and from Rome. It made slow and unimpressive progress, except in the South East and the North East. But the arrival of a Greek monk, Theodore, to be Archbishop in 668 AD changed all that. He found only three Bishops in operation in the whole country and set about a vigorous series of reforms. It is of special interest to us that the building of the monastery at Monkwearmouth, where Adrian Leak now has his parish, was part of Theodore's reforms. In particular the peoples of the

Midlands can have hardly heard the Christian story and Theodore resolved to remedy this by opening up new dioceses. A renowned Celtic monk, St. Chad, was sent to Lichfield and three new Bishoprics were formed: Leicester (for the Middle Angles), Hereford (for peoples beyond the Severn) and Worcester (for the Hwicce). The arrival in Worcestershire of a Bishop with his "familia" (staff of clergy) was the first decisive phase of its conversion. It was not just that they brought the good news about Jesus Christ to its people with its sure hope of Resurrection; they came from a wider and cultured world, offering civilisation, humanity and an infinitely higher quality of life.

The second stage of the Conversion was to establish in out-lying parts of the diocese centres where groups of clergy commissioned by the Bishop became responsible for areas equivalent to our modern deaneries. They set up "minsters" or "monasteries" (in origin, the same word) from which missionary work could be carried to the peasant farmers. The great abbey at Evesham was founded in 701 by the Bishop of Worcester, St. Egwin, who nine years later resigned the See and became Abbot. This and the establishments at Pershore and Malvern were important moves in this second phase and the Bishops endowed them richly with lands; one of Evesham's earliest such endowments was Badsey, and throughout the Vale the Abbey became chiefly responsible for the maintenance and growth of culture during the Middle Ages.

The third stage of the Conversion was the creation of Parish Churches within the various settlements. These were really private Churches, owned and built by local landowners. The phase was prolonged and many communities did not have a Parish Church till after the Norman Conquest; some, like Aldington, never had one of their own. The landowners appointed the priests and these were recruited mainly from the peasantry themselves, being given a licence by the Bishop and extra land (known as the glebe) in the open fields as reward for their pastoral duties. Few of them received special education. Badsey and Wickhamford were probably fortunate in that the Abbot detailed monks to attend to their spiritual needs; only hundreds of years later did they acquire their own full time lay priests. (To be continued.....)

## Church Services during June

### St. James Church, Badsey

1st Trinity (Pentecost 1)	11.00	The Eucharist	6.30	Evensong
8th Pentecost 2 (Trinity 1)	11.00	Eucharist (said)	6.30	Evensong
15th Pentecost 3 (Trinity 2)	11.00	The Eucharist	6.30	Evensong
22nd Pentecost 4 (Trinity 3)	11.00	Eucharist (said)	6.30	Evensong
29th St. Peter the Apostle	11.00	Mattins	6.30	Evensong (Joint Service)

### St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

1st June	9.30	The Eucharist		
8th June	9.30	The Eucharist		
15th June	9.30	The Eucharist		
22nd June	11.00	Family Service		
29th June	6.30 p.m.	Evensong, Badsey.		
		(Joint Service)		

## GROUP SERVICE FOR THE 7 PARISHES

It has come round to the turn of Badsey to welcome our friends from the group of seven churches on Sunday, 29th June. We hope that many of our own members will attend this service to welcome our visitors from Offenham, Wickhamford, Bretforton, Cleeve Prior and the Littletons. The Revds. Canon Stevens and W. Bates will officiate.

### FRIDAY, 20th JUNE - The Manor, Badsey

By the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs G. Bowler we shall be holding our Annual Garden Party and Barbecue commencing at 7.00 p.m. until about 9.30. Refreshments will be available and various side shows etc. to entertain. Everyone is very welcome. Tickets will be available from all members of the P.C.C. Price 50p adults, 20p children.

### Funeral

Wednesday, 30th April in Badsey Church and Cheltenham  
Crematorium - Mrs. Rose Dunkley, 7 Hillside, Aldington.

## QUESTIONNAIRE - Wickhamford

### Is the Church Frozen Stiff?

The enclosed questions were put to the P.C.C. from the General Synod to gauge the attitudes and feelings of the members of our church. They will be discussed at the next P.C.C. Meeting on July 9th at 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, when anyone who would like to express their views would be most welcome.

As this is a genuine attempt to take a look at ourselves in the context of the church, we hope that this will prove to be a well attended and lively discussion.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Vestry and Parish Meetings were held on Sunday, April 27th, at 6.50 p.m. after a shortened Evensong. The Rural Dean was in the Chair. George Willcox paid tribute to the devoted service during the previous 8 years of Ralph Taylor as Churchwarden, since he did not wish to be re-elected for 1980. Robert Seaman and George Willcox were nominated and elected as Churchwardens.

There was some discussion as to how many persons ought to be elected to the P.C.C. and it was eventually agreed that these should number up to 20. The following were nominated and agreed to serve:- Mr & Mrs R.Cain, Mrs.C.Davies, Mr.P.Embleton, Mr & Mrs K.Felton, Mrs.J.Handy, Mr & Mrs A.F.Jenkins, Mr.C.Jones, Mr.A.Owen, Mrs.M.Perkins, Mrs.E.Seaman, Mrs.W.Skitt, Mrs.A.Smith, Mr.R.Taylor, Mr.P.S.Tucker, Miss M.Vaudin, and Mrs.J.Watkin.

Last year's Officers agreed to serve again:- Deputy Warden, Mr.P.Tucker; Treasurer, Mrs.J.Betteridge; Accountant, Mr.D.Granger; Auditor, Mr.H.L.Knight.

Mr.Granger presented the Church Accounts for 1979 which showed some relief from his anxieties of 1978, although "they showed some decline in the Church's resources". Mr.Terry Sparrow in charge of Stewardship appealed for more contributors to the Stewardship Scheme and the Covenanting Scheme.

## Badsey Women's Institute

- May 14th A.G.M. Resolutions with Mrs. Elliot.  
V.C.O. as Speaker. Mrs. Leigh gave the vote of  
thanks. The 'Drama Group' gave the play "Free  
For All" which was enjoyed by everyone. The  
competition was won by Mrs. Leigh, the raffle by  
Mrs.A.Smith. Refreshments were served by  
Mesdames: Print, Harvey, W.Smith, and Helm.
- June 11th - It's A Gas - S.W.Gas Board  
Social Time - Know your Shrubs  
Competition - Piece of commemorative china or pottery.  
Win Skitt (Hon.Sec.)

## Badsey Wives

Our next three meetings are as follows:

On 2nd June we are visiting the Fire Service Technical College  
at Moreton, and on 16th June we are going on a Ramble starting  
from 'The Mount'.

On July 7th we have a Skittles Match at 'The Butchers Arms',  
Mickleton, including a Buffet Supper. If you are interested in  
any of these meetings please contact Mrs.Christine Smith, our  
Leader, or myself. We are always pleased to welcome any new  
members.

S. Young.

## Mother's Union

Wed. June 4th, 10.00 a.m. Corporate Communion

Tues.June 10th, OUTING TO BERKELEY CASTLE

Coach leaves the Lychgate at 1.30 pm, home 8.30 pm.

Sun.June 15th, HARTLEBURY CASTLE

Picnic 12.30 pm, Festival Service 2 pm, please take  
your invitation with you.

Tues.June 24th, Mrs.Bentley to speak about "Orthodox Jews  
Today", 7.30 p.m.

Daphne Bell.

## Cream Teas - Wickhamford

As the Cream Teas were such a success last summer, it has been decided to hold them again this year, every Sunday afternoon starting on June 1st, in Wickhamford Memorial Hall.

Anyone willing to help serve teas or make cakes and scones please contact Mrs.M.Parry. Proceeds go towards Church Finance.

## Coffee Morning at Wickhamford

I would like to thank everyone who gave such wonderful support to the Coffee Morning held in the Memorial Hall in aid of Friends of Evesham Hospitals. The final amount of £186.88p is most rewarding.

E. Bowles.

