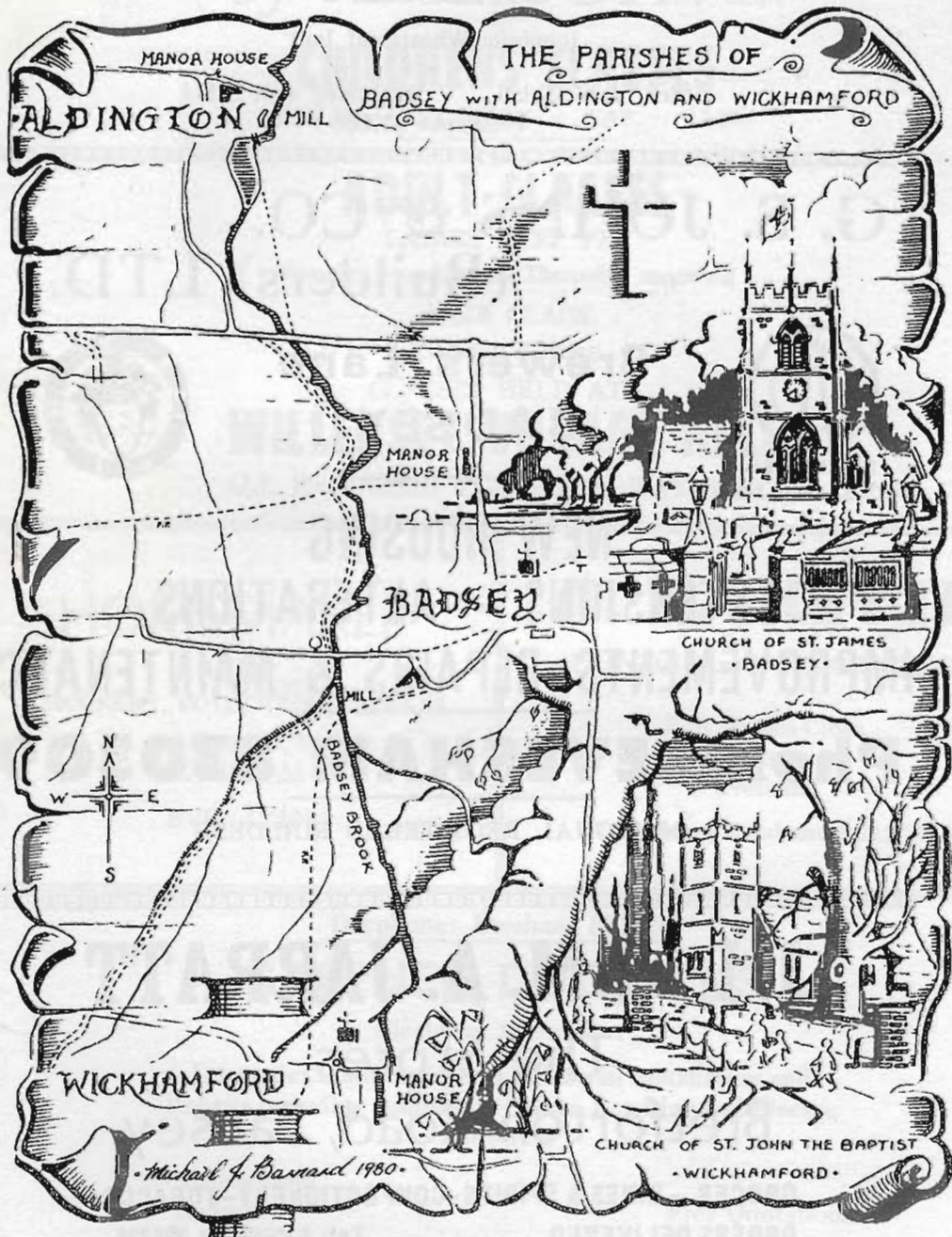


PARISH REVIEW

MAY 1985



THE VICAR'S LETTER

May 1985

My dear Friends,

The opening verse of Thomas Gray's beautiful Elegy written in a Country Churchyard is perhaps one of the best known stanzas in English poetry.

“The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me”

Today we know the inspiration for these words came from Stoke Poges churchyard in Buckinghamshire where Gray's mother and a brother were buried. The Elegy was first published in 1751 price sixpence. An original copy today would fetch many thousands of pounds. In a field near the churchyard is a monument to Gray. He was a Cambridge man, an unmarried don, a constant student and a fastidious writer. He spent almost his whole life at the University. But now our historical knowledge begins to fail. We are not certain of the precise 'parting day' when Gray received the inspiration for this poem. Nor do we know anything about the 'lowing herd'; whose they were or what kind of cattle they might have been, we can surmise, but that is all. Again we know nothing of the ploughman. Even though it might be possible to trace the family of a ploughman living in Stoke Poges at the time, there must have been more than one. Some literary writers only see the ploughman as an incidental touch to a scene depicting nightfall. 'The lea' Gray saw or envisaged may or may not have been the field in which his monument stands today. But even though many of the precise historical details and facts behind Gray's words may be very uncertain, we remain convinced that they are real. As we read these words we feel we are sharing with Thomas Gray in an historical reality that he himself experienced. We do not feel they are just a figment of Gray's own imagination and nothing else.

It is this distinction between precise historical fact and less precise historical reality that lies behind much of the present controversy surrounding the interpretation of the scriptures today. There are those who insist the scriptures can only be interpreted in terms of precise historical details and facts regardless of the many anomalies which arise as a result. On the other hand there are those who would consign whole areas of the Bible and the Gospels to the realm of purely fictitious writing simply because the precise historical details are not known, or cannot be verified. They would say that the sole purpose of such writings is to convey divine truths about God and about Jesus Christ that cannot be conveyed in any other way. But between these two positions, one a very fundamental, and one, a very liberal interpretation of the scriptures, there are those, who believe that, whilst there is no doubt the scriptures are

intended to convey divine truths about God and about Jesus Christ there still lies behind them an historical reality and foundation which cannot be denied, even though today we may never know precisely what that historical reality was. This is, I think, particularly so with the miracles and resurrection of Jesus. Furthermore, in the earliest parts of the Old Testament, as for instance with the figures of Adam and Eve or Cain and Abel we may be dealing with representative types of people rather than actual living persons. As with our ploughman at Stoke Poges homeward plodding his weary way, we know Stoke Poges is real, but the ploughman may or may not have been. He may have been just a representative figure of any ploughman living in the village at that time. But whether as types or individual people we still see them as real people. People often like ourselves whose lives are grounded in history and with whom, when we discover more of their historical background we can often identify very closely. Later in the scriptures we meet many such people who throughout history have believed they were called and chosen of God to make his ways and purposes known and who subsequently found their faith to be justified. The scriptures contain the account of this revelation and how it happened. True, it is always seen through the eyes of other human writers and therefore is sometimes less than perfect, but nevertheless we still believe it to be a revelation divinely inspired by God through the working of his Holy Spirit. In the Gospels it reaches its climax in the ultimate and perfect revelation of God in the person of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. One who was born both human and divine. The one whose own life, death and resurrection from the dead is grounded in history, and yet who, we are convinced, is one with the eternal nature and being of God himself.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
PETER MITCHELL

CHURCH SERVICES - MAY

St James' Badsey

5th 4 after Easter	11.00 am	The Eucharist (Rite B)	6.30 pm	Evensong
12th 5 after Easter	8.00 am	The Eucharist (Rite B)	6.30 pm	Evensong
14th St. Matthias	9.00 am	The Eucharist (1662)		
16th Ascension Day	7.30 pm	The Eucharist		
19th Sunday after Ascension Day	11.00 am	The Eucharist (Rite A)	6.30 pm	Evensong
26th Pentecost	8.00 am	The Eucharist (Rite A)	6.30 pm	Eucharist (Rite A)

June

2nd Trinity Sunday	11.00 am The Eucharist (Rite B)	6.30 pm Evensong
9th 2 after Pentecost	8.00 am The Eucharist (Rite B)	6.30 pm Evensong
11th St. Barnabas	9.00 am The Eucharist (1662)	

Mid week Eucharists: Wednesdays 10.00am

May 1st & 8th & 15th - Rite B. May 22nd & 29th, June 5th & 12th - Rite A

Lectionary

5th 4 after Easter	Rev 3 14-end John 21 15-22	Proverbs 4 1-18 2 Cor 4 13-5 15
12th 5 after Easter	I Cor 15 21-28 John 16 25-end	Deuteronomy 34 John 16 12-24
19th Sunday after Ascension Day	Eph 1 15-end Luke 24 45-end	2 Kings 2 1-15 John 17 1-13
26th Pentecost	Acts 2 1-21 John 20 19-23	Ezekiel 37 1-14 Romans 8 18-27

June

2nd Trinity Sunday	Eph 1 3-14 John 14 8-17	Isaiah 40 12-end Mark 1 1-13
9th 2 after Pentecost	I Peter 2 1-10 John 15 1-5	2 Samuel 7 1-17 Luke 14 7-24

Sunday Themes

Easter 4	The Charge to Peter
Easter 5	Going to the Father
Sunday after Ascension	The Ascension of Christ
Pentecost	
Trinity Sunday	
2 after Pentecost	The People of God

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

5th 4 after Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist
12th 5 after Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist
16th Ascension Day	9.00 am The Eucharist
19th Sunday after Ascension Day	9.30 am The Eucharist
26th Pentecost	11.00 am Childrens & Family Service
June	
2nd Trinity Sunday	9.30 am The Eucharist
9th 2 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist

Notes for your Diaries

Thurs May 2nd	Group Council Meeting Badsey Vicarage - 8 pm
Wed May 8th	Wickhamford P.C.C. Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm
Tues May 14th	Evesham Deanery Synod - Venue to be announced
Thurs May 23rd	Episcopal and Archdiaconal Visitation Elmley Castle - 7.30 pm
Fri May 31st	Overseas Coffee Evening 2 Chapel Street, Badsey - 7.30 pm
Tues June 4th	Standing Committee - 7.30 pm The Vicarage
Sat June 8th	St James' Badsey Church Fete

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me"

Badsey

April 21st Clare Samantha Chuter, of 11 Oak Close.
Phillip David Richard Evans, of 58 Horsebridge Avenue.

Weddings: "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder"

Badsey

April 6th Ian Donald Walker and Sally-Anne Neal
Timothy George Cotton and Sally Elizabeth Osborne

Funerals: "I am the resurrection and the life" saith the Lord

Badsey

March 29th Henry Charles Young aged 66 years of 16 St. James'
Close, Badsey (at Badsey and Hampton)

Wickhamford

March 28th Harvey John Dunkerley aged 82 years of Gallipot
House, Broadway (at Wickhamford and Cheltenham)
April 16th Melvia Rose Stanley aged 75 years of 26 Washington
Road (at Wickhamford and Cheltenham)

Donations:

Wickhamford:

in memory of the late Mr. H.J. Dunkerley — £508, towards church
funds.

MOTHERS UNION

The Holy Week Service was well attended by our members as was the Deanery Festival held at Rous Lench. The Church was packed for the Festival and the Service most enjoyable. Afterwards we were served with delightful refreshments in the local hall.

There is a slight change to our May programme in that Mr. D. Wright will be in Australia and, therefore, unable to speak to us on Zimbabwe. However, we hope to have this talk on another occasion. Do please remember our Church Fete is on 8th June and we have the Fancy Goods Stall. We shall be very grateful for all suitable items for this.

For your Diaries

Wed 1st May	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Tues 14th May		No Meeting
Wed. 15th May		Diocesan Festival, Worcester Cathedral Coach leaves Lych gate at 6.15 pm. From Sickness towards Wholeness - Mrs. J. Grove. (Please note Change of Date)
Tues 21st May	7.30 pm	Pat Mitchell

BADSEY W.I.

I do think we know a little more about the care of hair after the talk by Mr. Michael at our April meeting and a lot of interesting questions were put to him. The Competition winner of a Pomander was Mrs. M. Jarratt. The Raffle was won by Mrs. M. Atkinson which included a hair 'do' by Mr Michael.

There is a Deeko Guide Dogs Fund to be run from May-October 1985 for the training of puppies to become Guide Dogs for the blind. Collect the Deeko wrappers from any Deeko tableware or bakeware and hand them in to your local W.I. or W.I. market. Open to members and non-members. Our next meeting on May 8th covers the A.G.M. resolutions and Mrs Round is V.C.O. Do come. Social Time is Anagrams and the Competition a knitted or crocheted garment.

Win Skitt (Sec)

BADSEY SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The April meeting took the form of a "free" afternoon. When members played cards and enjoyed talking to friends. The Raffle was won by Mr. Jelfs. The next meeting will be on May 1st when a mini-auction will be run by Mrs. Skitt. We are again running the pantry stall at the fete on June 8th. Please bring items for this to the club meetings or they can be given to me or any committee members. Please support us well as in the past. It was nice to have Mrs Andrew with us again and to welcome Mrs. M. Knight as a new member of the club.

Mary Callaghan

BADSEY WIVES

Our next meeting is on May 20th to be arranged. The first one in June is on Thursday 6th June a visit to the Almonry at 7.30.

1st May Fiona's Coffee Morning 10.30 at the Police Station. May 8th Coffee Morning for mums with or without children or anyone interested at the Dance Studio Chapel Street at 10.30 - 12.00 there will be a trade-in stall etc. Everyone welcome.

Wendy Clark

Wendy Beasley

Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford Royal British Legion Women's Section

In February at the monthly meeting the Women's Section enjoyed a video film of Weston - Super - Mare Carnival. In March we held our Annual Dinner, which was served by the men. The highlight of the evening was when the County Chairman, Mrs. M. Cyril, presented several members with certificates for their work in the branch over the years. It was the first time they had been given. The ladies were as follows: Mesdames Reeve, Newbury, Grinnell Rock, Morecambe, Lake and Mrs. E. Cleaver, our eldest member. Also in March we held our Group Meeting. There were 144 ladies from different Branches present. Mrs. Reeves, Chairman, presented Mrs. M. Cyril with a County Certificate for her work in the Branch.

Church of England Children's Society

On behalf of the Children's Society, may I thank all our supporters, both those who contributed and those who collected who made our village collection so successful. As a result we were able to send the sum of £226.27 to the Society. Every year 7,000 children are helped. It is a place of hope for many who may have no-one else to turn to.

B. Owen

OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

It is proposed to hold a Coffee Evening to raise funds for the work of the Church Overseas on Friday, May 31st 1985 at the home of Miss Norah Smith, commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets price 30p each to include a cup of Coffee.

It has not been decided yet, on a particular project to which our funds will be directed, but it will be towards the work of the Church Overseas in some aspect of its work.

It is hoped that as many as possible will support this worthy project, as they have so generously done in the past.

A.V.C. Owen

WICKHAMFORD W.I.

The President said how pleased she was with the result of the Coffee Morning of March 30th which had raised £71.35. She also welcomed Mrs. Round, our V.C.O., who had come to steer us through the discussion of the Annual Resolutions. Members decided to support the Resolution dealing with the control of Acid Rain and help for the Third World countries, but had reservations about helping drug addicts and their families and the index-linking of the Death Grant.

Hilda Evans, Mrs. Litterick and Mrs. Evans provided and served delicious home made cakes, savouries and sandwiches. The Prize Winners were 'Garden in a Soup Plate' Competition:- Pat Bell, Josie Gunne. Flower of the Month Competition:- Pat Bell, Denny King, Thelma Shannon-Garvey. Raffle:- Jill Roberts.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th May at 7.30 in Wickhamford Memorial Hall when there will be a demonstration entitled 'Hair' by 'Michael'. Visitors will be very welcome, especially those with problem hair. Please ring 831965 for information.

Denny King

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The first Spring Show was held on April 3rd. Judging by the quality of the exhibits, despite the inclement season, it is likely to become a permanent fixture in our Club programme.

The successful exhibitors were:

Flowering Shrub	1 Mrs. Astley	2 Mrs. Hale	(Commended: Mrs. Gardner)
Narcissus	1 Mrs Stacey	2 Mr. Freeman	
Miniature Narcissus	1 Mrs. Stacey	2 Miss Holland	
Tulips	1 Mrs. Stacey		
Bowl of Bulbs	1 Mrs. Stacey	2 Mrs. Hale	
Spring Flowers	1 Mrs. Stacey	2Mrs Hale	(Commended Mrs. Astley)
Arrangement "Spring"	1 Mrs Knight	2 Miss Dyke	(Commended: Mrs Lewis)

Raffle Winners (Prizes generously donated by Hills Nursery): Mr. Maden, Mr. Wardle, Mrs. Sparrow and Mr. Taylor.

Next meeting will be on May 1st, when Mr. Bew will talk on "Bee Keeping"

Competition: Six mixed Spring Blooms

The Secretary would like to have names of all wishing to join the Wirley outing (and their money please) at this meeting.

W. Holland

WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

Bingo in the Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.45 pm. Good Prizes. Anyone who would like to donate anything towards a prize (item of grocery etc.) please bring it to the Post Office or Mrs. P Sutton.

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Forthcoming events:-

Wednesday, 12th June Annual Supper - 5 pm.

Saturday, 6th July Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall,
10.00 am - 12. noon.

Wednesday, 7th August Annual Outing.

Further details to be announced.

YOUR LOCAL DRIVING SCHOOL

TERRY'S SCHOOL of MOTORING



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BADSEY

EVESHAM 832367

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