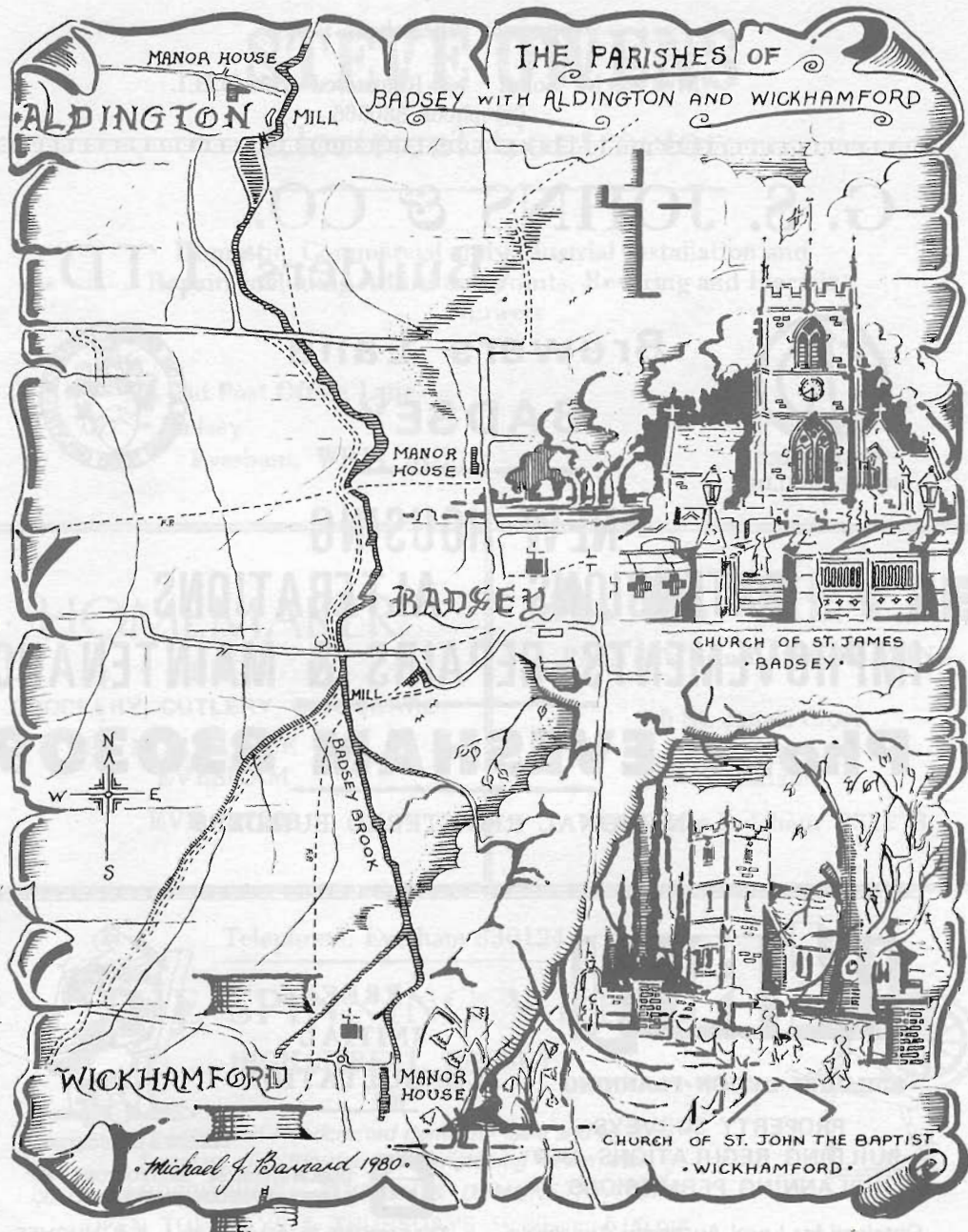


# PARISH REVIEW

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JANUARY 1987



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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

January 1987

My dear Friends,

Time in the Bible is not always easy to define. There are many instances when it is almost impossible to say when a certain event happened even though we know it must have taken place. The date of the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites under Moses can vary by as much as three centuries. This is equally true of the New Testament. Throughout the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Pauline writings, there are only three verses that pin-point in time, when the events of the New Testament took place, and even then there is an element of doubt about one of them. The first is in St Luke's Gospel when, at the birth of Jesus, we read of the first enrolment that took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria (here there is doubt about the date), secondly, also in Luke, when we read of the word of God coming to John the Baptist in the wilderness, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, and thirdly in the Acts of the Apostles, when Paul appears before Gallio "when he was proconsul of Achaia".

B.C. and A.D. traditionally mean Before and After the birth of Christ, but again, by our reckoning today, it is believed that Jesus's birth should be dated in either 5 or 6 B:C., and the date of his death in either A.D. 28 or 29; Jesus being about thirty years of age when his ministry began. There is also uncertainty surrounding the date of the Crucifixion. All the Gospel writers believe it took place on a Friday, but for Matthew, Mark and Luke this was the day following the Feast of the Passover, the Last Supper having been the Passover Meal. John, on the other hand, seems to say that the Friday was the Feast of the Passover and the Crucifixion took place while the Passover lambs were being slain.

Such examples only serve to illustrate the foolishness of those who try and use certain parts of the Bible to predict the end of the world. They quote from books such as Daniel in the Old Testament and the Revelation of St John the Divine in the New. But to use the Bible in this way is to abuse its text and distort its meaning.

What the Bible does teach is that all time is in God's hands. "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night" (Psalm 90, v.4) With God, time as we measure it chronologically in minutes, hours, days, even years becomes secondary. With God, the important time is the right time, whenever it may come. The market gardener and the farmer whose lives are closely linked with the land and with the natural order of creation know this well already. It is almost impossible to predict in terms of minutes or hours or even days, precisely when the asparagus crop will be ready, or the strawberries ripe for picking, the wheat for harvesting, the fruit for gathering. It is enough to know that whether in May, June, July, August, September, or even later, the right time will come, and that when it does the grower and the farmer must be ready for it.

So too in lives lived with God, whether on the land, in the shop, the office, the factory, the home, the school, the Church. There will always be a right time to do things, a right time for things to happen. We must be ready and prepared for it when it comes. We stand again at the threshold of another year. None of us know for certain what it will bring or when. With God we need have no anxiety. In Christ we have his promise he will be with us always, even to the end of the world, to the end of time and in this promise we find hope and peace.

May God's blessing be upon us all, throughout the coming year.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell

Family Service - St. James' Church, Badsey.

The first Family Service of 1987 will take place in Badsey Church on Sunday 18th January. The Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts have all been invited and the Guides are to take part in the service. It is hoped that many will come and support this service aimed specially for younger members of the parish, although many adults enjoy them too. In addition to the Mothering Sunday service to be held on March 29th, other Family Services will be held on Sunday 19th July and the 18th October.

#### CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 1987

St. James', Badsey

4th 2 after Christmas	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
6th Epiphany	9.00 am Holy Communion	

11th 1 after Epiphany	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
18th 2 after Epiphany	11.00 am Family Service	6.30 pm Evensong
	12.00 noon Holy Communion	
25th Conversion of St. Paul	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
February		
1st 4 after Epiphany	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
8th 5 after Epiphany	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
15th 9 after Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion: January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, February 4th & 11th

### St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

4th 2 after Christmas	9.30 am The Eucharist
11th 1 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
18th 2 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
25th Conversion of St. Paul	11.00 am Childrens' & Family Service
February	
1st 4 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
8th 5 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
15th 9 before Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist

### Sunday Themes

2 after Christmas	The Holy Family
1 after Epiphany	Revelation: The Baptism of Jesus
2 after Epiphany	Revelation: The First Disciples
3 after Epiphany	Revelation: Signs of Glory
4 after Epiphany	Revelation: The New Temple
5 after Epiphany	Revelation: The Wisdom of God
9 before Easter	Christ the Teacher

### Lectionary

4th 2 after Christmas	Romans 8 11-17	I Samuel 1
	Luke 2 41-end	John 4 19-26
11th 1 after Epiphany	Acts 10 34-48a	Joshua 3
	Matthew 3 13-end	Mark 1 1-13
18th 2 after Epiphany	Acts 26 1.9-20	1 Samuel 3.1-4.1a
	Mark 1 14-20	John 1 35-end
25th Conversion of St. Paul	Acts 9 1-22	Isaiah 56 1-8
February	Matthew 19 27-end	Philippians 3 1-14
1st 4 after Epiphany	1 Cor. 3 10-17	Exodus 19 10-end
	John 2 13-22	Hebrews 12 14-end

8th 5 after Epiphany	1 Cor. 3 18-end Matthew 12 38-42	Job 12 I Cor. 1.18-2.5
15th 9 before Easter	1 Cor. 4 8-13 Matthew 5 1-12	Proverbs 3 1-18 Mark 4 1-20

### NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tues. Jan 6th	Badsey P.C.C.
Tues. Jan. 13th	Appeals Committee Meeting - 8 pm 26 Seward Road.
Wed. Jan. 14th	Extra-ordinary meeting of Evesham Deanery Synod St. Peter's Bengeworth, 7.30 pm
Wed. Jan. 21st	Wickhamford P.C.C. (please note later date) Memorial Hall 7.30 pm
Fri. Jan. 23rd	Wine and Cheese Evening - 7 School Lane
Tues. Jan. 27th	M.U. New Year Party - The Wheatsheaf
Wed. Feb. 4th	Standing Committee - Badsey 8 pm 10 School Lane
Tues. Feb. 12th	Evesham Deanery Synod
Sat. Feb. 14th	St. Valentines Day Dance - Appeals Committee

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18th - 25th

Clockwinder - Badsey Church. A vacancy has arisen for a clockwinder at Badsey Church. About 20 minutes once a fortnight on a Wednesday. Would suit anyone living and working locally. If able to help please contact either Mr. T. Sparrow or the Vicarage.

### PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals "I am the Resurrection and the Life", saith the Lord  
Badsey

10th December Henry Forrest Brailsford of 5 Orchard Way, Badsey,  
aged 73 years.

Wickhamford

9th December Violet May Smith of 29 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford,  
aged 67 years (at Wickhamford)

Church Army Collection Boxes

Church Army Collection Boxes should be given to the Vicar as soon as possible after the 1st January. New collectors are always welcome and boxes may be obtained from the Vicarage. The Church Army is particularly concerned with evangelical outreach and mission in many of the under privileged and the deprived areas of our country today, especially in the inner cities. Your prayers and support are constantly needed.

Parish Review - February issue. Latest date for copy Wednesday 14th  
January please.

### DONATIONS

Badsey

Christmas Pension Bonus - Anonymous Donation of £10, towards the  
Restoration Appeal. Received with most grateful thanks.

Guild of St. James' Badsey Change Ringers

The Annual meeting of the Guild was held in Badsey Church on Tuesday,

9th December. Mr Clint Evans was unanimously re-elected Tower Captain, Mr John Bolton as assistant Tower Captain and Miss Cary Bolton as Ringing Master. The funds stand at just over £300. New Bell ringers are always welcome. If you would like to learn the art of change ringing in one of the finest church towers in the district, please contact either, Mr Clint Evans, Mr John Bolton, Miss Cary Bolton, or any of the regular Bell Ringers.

### St. James Badsey Restoration Appeal

An anonymous donation of £5 in memory of the late Mr Henry Brailsford has been received towards the Appeal.

The Christmas Bingo held on the 6th December, was a huge success with £250 being made towards the Appeal Fund. Many thanks are due to all who supported this event either by donating prizes or by their attendance.

The Appeal fund has now reached £25,000, and again our grateful thanks are due to all who in many various ways have contributed towards this magnificent response.

The next event planned is a St Valentine's Dance on February 14th.

### MOTHERS UNION

We had to change our programme for the November 25th meeting, which provided a very welcome opportunity for us to hear Mrs. Jean Ives speak about a visit she had made with her husband and daughter to Russia. She told us how they had flown to Leningrad, then travelled to Tashkent, Bokhara, Samarkand, Dunshanke, Alma-Ata and Moscow, then back to Leningrad, travelling mainly by air and by train. She described the countryside, the places of interest they had visited in the various towns and cities and the people they had met and how they had sought and visited a Baptist Church. She had brought a lovely selection of colour slides and we were impressed by the beauty of the old buildings. Mrs. Ives had also brought along some very interesting photographs and booklets. We were very grateful to her for a very absorbing and enjoyable evening.

We held our annual Symposium on December 9th. The readings interspersed with carols were "Christmas in Austria" from "The Trapp Family Singers", "The Story of The Welsh Plygain Service" (depicted on the 1986 18p Christmas stamp), "Christmas 1942 in Occupied Jersey" by M. Vaudin, "Goose for the Cratchits" from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", "The Christmas Crib" from "Christmas Legends" and "Behold a Rose is Springing" translated from a German Carol. This was followed by a lovely Christmas Tea. Our grateful thanks to the ladies of the Committee who were the readers and who also prepared tea, and to Mrs. W. Harrison who played the organ.

## Mothers Union Overseas

I am sure members will be interested to know that the following grants were made last year from the Diocesan Relief Fund. This Fund is part of our overseas giving and is available to provide instant aid:

£1,000 to Ethiopia for support of USPG's provision for homeless children, £1,000 to Kigali, Rwanda, for hurricane damage at Gahini, £500 to Namirebe and £500 to Soroti, £1,000 to Uganda towards help for women, orphans and displaced persons, £500 to Toamasina for cyclone damage, £1,000 to Fiji for hurricane and flood damage, £2,000 to the Solomon Islands for flood damage, £500 to Poland to provide powdered milk for new born babies following Chernobyl, £2,000 to Jamaica for flood damage, £3,000 to M.U. in South Africa for help in present situation.

Through the Project Fund, made possible by an anonymous donor, £500 to a Day Care Centre in Guyana, £500 for roofing material for Churches in Burundi and £500 to the Young Families Diocesan Centre in Juba.

## New Members and Visitors

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors to our meetings. As it is not always convenient for everyone to attend every meeting and in order to suit as many as possible we meet at 2.30 p.m. on the second Tuesday and 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday in the month. Anyone interested will be most welcome, and can be accompanied, if they would like to contact me on Evesham 830343 or any member. We meet in the North Transept which becomes a comfortable little meeting room when our chairs and tea are laid out.

## For Your Diaries

Wed. 7th Jan.	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Tues. 13th Jan.	2.30 pm	The Fire Service. Station Officer Pearson
Tues. 27th Jan.	7.30 pm	Annual Party at 'The Wheatsheaf'

Buffet Supper, Raffle and Entertainment.  
Wishing everyone a very happy new year,  
Pat Mitchell.

## BADSEY W.I.

The afternoon and early-evening activities of our Committee resulted in our Meeting being held in a truly festive setting, and the arrival of gaily wrapped parcels for the residents of Durcott Lodge soon surrounded our Christmas tree. Thank you ladies.

Mrs Yvonne Haines, our President, conducted the evening and welcomed members, two visitors, and a past member returning to the fold. Mrs. Win Smith, a long-time member and very active Committee member and Outings secretary has been advised to take things easier and has resigned from

the Committee. In appreciation of all her hard work over the years she was presented with a brooch. We hope she will be able to settle with her new role in the W.I. !

In a recent Skittles tournament Evesham Group beat Avon Group with Badsey attaining the highest score and winning a tin of biscuits. This was raffled for our own funds and was won by Mrs. Josie Dudfield.

Our efforts to help Denman College Appeal Fund enabled us to send a handsome cheque, and letters of appreciation have been received from National and Worcestershire Federations. Some events were arranged by individuals and supported by our members, and our main event, our 'Harry Frost Evening' was a huge success. It is nice to know our efforts are appreciated.

Our speaker, Mrs Freeman, started her talk on Dolls in National Costume with a Quiz on which countries we thought provided the various costumes worn by her dolls. Clues were contained in such things as coloured tassels etc. denoting marital status, and the shape of clogs relating to employment of the wearers. Many of these customs have now disappeared, but the beautiful costumes and stories about them made a very interesting talk.

Mrs. Win Skitt gave the vote of thanks.

Our usual refreshments were augmented by some from the Committee, and taken at small tables decorated with greenery and candles, and made us feel Christmas is near.

The evening closed with the singing of Carols by Candlelight.

Members wishing to join the Scouts in carol-singing should meet outside Badsey Post Office at 6.30 pm on Monday, 22nd December.

Our January meeting will be a Mini Road Show, and the competition My Favourite Christmas Card. Refreshments will be arranged by Mrs. Atkinson Mrs. Butcher, Mrs Bell.

Our Annual Party will be held at The Round of Gras on Wednesday, 18th February 1987.

Gwen Hughes

### BADSEY SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The Christmas party in December was a very happy occasion. The afternoon began when the Avonside Hospital Choir entertained us with a collection of songs including many seasonal items. They are a joy to hear and their obvious pleasure in singing comes over very strongly. The next part of the afternoon was organised by the Brownies. They too sang some delightful songs. Much practice must have taken place to enable them to reach such a high standard. They then gave to each member a handmade basket filled with home made sweets and carried trays filled with other goodies. The Guides followed on, giving each of our members a beautifully hand made Christmas card. Here again much time must have been given to their making. Next came the cutting of the cake which once again was donated, made and iced by our anonymous friend. It was lovely, and with mince pies made by



members of the committee and friends, was enjoyed by us all. Our free raffle with more than twenty prizes was made possible by the generosity of one of our local Supermarkets. Our very grateful thanks must go to all concerned and involved in making our party such a success - the festive season had truly had a splendid start!

The next meeting is on January 7th, when Mr. & Mrs. Jelfs will be showing us slides of their holiday in York and Chester.

The outing to "Aladdin" at the Arts Centre is on January 22nd. The coach will leave the British Legion Club at 6.45 pm and then pick up at the usual places. The cost is £2.50 for members and for non members £3. (the difference being the cost of the coach which is paid by the club for its members).

In wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year may I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to each member of the Committee. Without their loyalty and ever willing support the Club just could not function.

Mary Callaghan

### WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on November 19th under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Wardle. The Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer presented their reports giving details of another successful year. Our President, Mrs. W.D. Astley gave a summary of the Club's activities and thanked her Committee for their efforts and congratulated the Club on its continued success. A Ballot was held to appoint one new member to the Committee and Mrs. Pemberdy was duly elected. The President presented the Club's trophy awarded for the winner of the years competitions, to Mrs Stacey achieving her second triumph, and also proving that she knows how to polish silver. The Officers having agreed to serve for another year the business meeting ended. As a token of the Club's respect and affection the President was presented with a bouquet of carnations. Sherry and mince pies were then served and, apparently much enjoyed. To end the evening and to entertain members and guests the Just-Us Players of Littleton gave a lively performance of an extract from Fielding's "Tom Jones". So a good time was had by all.

Next Meeting March 4th 1987. Subject: Alpine Gardens

Competition: Flowering Pot Plant

Programmes will soon be available for 1987 and will be distributed to members. Happy New Year to all.

W. Holland

### WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

A pantomime outing has been arranged to Cheltenham on Wednesday 7th January to see "Cinderella". Also

The Christmas Party is on Saturday 24th January at 5 pm.

Anyone wishing to go to either, names please to Mrs Sutton or the Post Office as soon as possible.