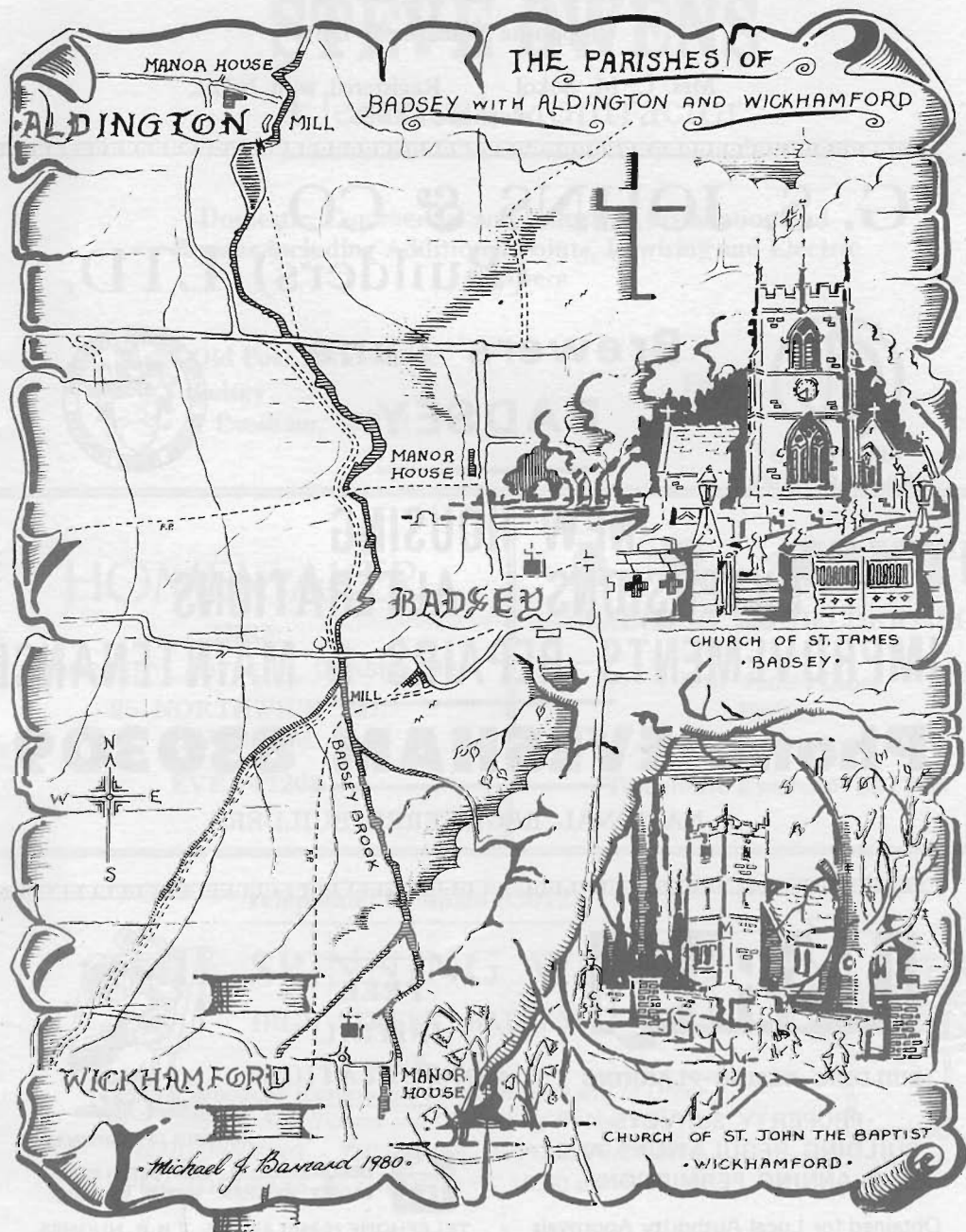


PARISH REVIEW

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

February 1987

My dear Friends,

A young pastor of the French Reformed Church speaking of the movements of renewal in his own country once said to the writer Olive Wyon, "Whenever there is new life in our church there is always renewed emphasis on three things; Prayer, the Bible and the Eucharist, and the three always go together".

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed, The motion of a hidden fire, That trembles in the breast. Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try; Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach, The Majesty on high. Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, Returning from his ways; While angels in their songs rejoice, And cry, 'Behold, he prays'. Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, The Christian's native air, His watchword at the gates of death, He enters heaven with prayer. O Thou by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way! The path of prayer thyself hast trod, Lord! teach us how to pray" Words written by the 18th century hymn writer James Montgomery and based upon the request of an unknown disciple of Jesus as recorded in St. Luke.

All prayers begin with the realisation that prayer itself is the work of the Holy Spirit, and that God is always more ready to listen than we are to pray. When prayer is difficult, as it often is, the best way to begin is to ask the Holy Spirit to help us. Prayer takes several forms. There are prayers said in church within the context of worship, when the whole body of the church prays corporately. Of necessity, such prayers must inevitably be of a more formal and general nature, and care must be taken that they do not become too repetitive or stereotyped. They must have a fresh-

ness and a spontaneity, that comes only from careful and prayerful preparation beforehand. There are the prayers of the group when more personal and particular needs of the church or of people, can be brought before God informally and in greater depth. Finally there are our own prayers, when in the quietness of our room or in the stillness of a church, at a time and place especially set aside to be with God, we let the Holy Spirit guide us in the offering of our deepest needs to God in the tranquility of our own hearts and minds.

The study, understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures is also the work of the Holy Spirit. It is very closely linked with faith and prayer. Like faith and prayer it is something in which we need help. The Holy Scriptures are a veritable storehouse and treasure of wisdom, learning and understanding, but their meaning and interpretation needs to be unlocked. In recent years the teaching of the scriptures has to a certain extent been neglected by the church the consequences of which are now becoming increasingly apparent. We can take but one example. A few years ago it was said, by a very learned person in the church, that people were abandoning principles known by Man, to be necessary for a healthy and stable society since the third millennium B.C., three thousand years before Christ. In a recent article the Chief Rabbi in this country reminded his readers that most authoratative Jewish statements on moral issues were made thousands of years ago and especially stern are the warnings of national doom consequent on any defiance of these principles. We still do well as a nation and as people, to heed what the Holy Scriptures say to us today.

Lastly the Eucharist. Here I can do no better than quote again from the writings of Olive Wyon in her book, "The Altar Fire". Of the Eucharist she writes, "From the Upper Room there stretches an unbroken chain of light - like a chain of fires burning in the darkness - down to our own day. For the eucharist is the central act of Christian worship. Wherever the Church takes root, there its life is quickened, nourished, and manifested in the celebration of the Sacrament. Just as the first thing we do in a new house is to light a fire, and the fire warms and hallows the new home, so wherever men have gone in their wanderings, the Sacrament has gone with them. For Christ is our home throughout the journey of life. "He that is near Me is near the Fire".

The Eucharist is central: because it gathers up, expresses, and makes effective the whole meaning of the spiritual life. It proclaims the Christian Gospel: in it God comes to us with His forgiveness and His strength. One by one, and as members of the Body of Christ, we respond to Him with gratitude and awe.

The meaning of the Eucharist is inexhaustible; it transcends all our efforts to explain or interpret it. We never come to the end of it. Long experience only deepens our wonder and our awe. In every age, in every part of the Church Universal, both in corporate worship, and in the experience of the

individual, glimpses are sometimes granted of the glory which lies behind the Sacrament: one part of the Church will see one aspect, and another will see something else, but the truth, the glory and the depth of the Eucharist are beyond us all".

Ash Wednesday, March 4th, marks the beginning of another Lenten Season. A time in the church's year when we seek to increase our faith and deepen our spiritual awareness in preparation for Easter. This year let us focus our endeavours upon Prayer, the Holy Scriptures and the Eucharist, and through the working of the Holy Spirit may they become a source of genuine renewal and re-generation for us all.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Peter Mitchell.

CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY

St. James', Badsey

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 before Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
22nd 8 before Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist

March

1st 7 before Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
4th Ash	10.00 am Holy Communion	7.00 pm Evensong and Litany
Wednesday		
8th 1 in Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
15th 2 in Lent	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion - February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, March 4th & 11th

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

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
22nd 8 before Easter	11.00 am Childrens and Family Service

March

1st 7 before Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist
4th Ash	9.00 am The Eucharist
Wednesday	
8th 1 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist
15th 2 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist

Sunday Themes

4th after Epiphany	Revelation - The New Temple
5 after Epiphany	Revelation - The Wisdom of God
9 before Easter	Christ the Teacher
8 before Easter	Christ the Healer
7 before Easter	Christ the Friend of Sinners
1 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : Temptation
2 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : Conflict

Lectionary

1st 4 after Epiphany	1 Cor. 3 10-17 John 2 13-22	Exodus 19 10-end Hebrews 12 14-end
8th 5 after Epiphany	1 Cor. 3 18-end Matt. 12 38-42	Job. 12 1 Cor. 1.18-2.5
15th 9 before Easter	1 Cor. 4 8-13 Matt. 5 1-12	Proverbs 3 1-18 Mark 4 1-20
22nd 8 before Easter	James 5 13-16a Mark 2 1-12	2 Kings 5 1-14 Mark 7 24-end, 8,22-26
March		
1st 7 before Easter	Philemon 1-16 Mark 2 13-17	Numbers 15 27-36 John 8 1-11
8th 1 in Lent	Heb. 2 14-end Matt. 4 1-11	Deuteronomy 6 Hebrews 4
15th 2 in Lent	1 John 4 1-6 Luke 19 43-end	Isaiah 35 Luke 11 14-26

LENT LECTURES

Canon R. Hammer, lately General Secretary and Theological Consultant to the Bible Reading Fellowship has been invited to give five Lent Lectures this year at the Evesham Arts Centre. The title of the Lectures will be "Believing with the Mind". The lectures will take place on Wednesdays in Lent, as shown below all at 7.30 p.m.. There is ample car parking at the Arts Centre and admission is free. There will be a retiring collection.

Wednesday 11th March
18th March
25th March
1st April
8th April

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

To encourage regular reading of the Bible and assist in its understanding, through the use of the Bible Reading Fellowship Notes, a group meeting of the present fellowship within the benefice of Badsey, Aldington and Wickhamford is to be held at the Vicarage on Thursday 19th March, at 7.30 pm. Members of the present fellowship, with all who would like to join, are invited to come, and share in a short time of Bible study and discussion based upon the BRF notes. The Holy Scriptures are a veritable storehouse of learning and wisdom but we do need help in understanding and interpreting them for our own day and age and spiritual needs. If successful, it is hoped to continue these meetings on a monthly basis throughout the year. Those intending to come to the first meeting, are kindly asked to let the Vicarage know beforehand.

THE COMPASS CLUB

The next confirmation is planned to take place at Badsey in November of this year. Prior to confirmation classes beginning in September, The Compass Club will open as a pre-confirmation group for young people. Activity will be centred mainly around the BRF 'Compass' notes which are aimed especially as an entertaining, attractive and instructive introduction for young people to the Bible. It is hoped to include other interests as well. Meetings are to be held monthly until July, beginning in March. Parents with young people wishing to be confirmed in November are asked to give their names to the Vicarage as soon as possible and arrange for them to come to the first meeting at the Vicarage, on Thursday March 26th at 7 pm. Soft drinks and crisps will be available. Names to the Vicarage as soon as possible please.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wed. Feb. 4th	Badsey Standing Committee. <u>8 pm</u> 10 School Lane
Thurs. Feb. 12th	Evesham Deanery Synod
Sat. Feb. 14th	St. Valentines Day Dance - Appeals Committee
Fri. Feb. 20th	Social Committee Meeting - 7.15 pm 7 School Lane
Thurs. Mar. 3rd	Badsey P.C.C.
Tues. Mar. 10th	Evesham Chapter - Badsey Mothers Union A.G.M.
Wed. Mar. 11th	Wickhamford A.V.M. & A.G.M. 7.30 Memorial Hall 1st Lent Lecture - Evesham Arts Centre - 7.30 pm

Parish Review - March issue - latest date for copy Friday, February 13th please

DONATIONS

Badsey towards the cost of the Christmas floodlighting from Mr and Mrs W. Skitt - £30
towards church funds, from Mrs H. Hartwell of High Street, Badsey - £10

Church Army Appeal

Much of the work of the Church Army is concerned with evangelical outreach in the Inner Cities. Drug abuse, destitution, deprivation, down and outs are the kind of challenges the Church Army has to face. Supporting the Church Army is a very real and tangible way in which we can express concern for the needs of those far less fortunate than ourselves. Boxes may be obtained from the Vicarage. The total raised in 1986 was £54.22 and our grateful thanks are due to all who support the Church Army in this way.

MOTHERS UNION

In January, due to the inclement weather conditions, we had to postpone the visit of our speaker from the Fire Service. Instead, with the aid of an article from the national press, we held a lively discussion which provided an interesting "follow-on" to Mrs. Ives' talk on her visit to Russia. The afternoon closed with our usual and most welcome lovely cakes and tea.

For Your Diaries

Wed. 4th Feb.	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Tues. 10th Feb.	2.30 pm	"Brunei - Abode of Peace" Miss W. Holland
Thurs. 12th Feb.	2.30 pm	Committee Meeting at 10 School Lane
Tues. 24th Feb.	7.30 pm	"The Shaftesbury Society" Mr. D. Davidson

Pat Mitchell

BADSEY W.I.

Due to the very severe weather January's meeting and its 'Mini Road Show' had to be cancelled.

Next Meeting Wednesday, 11th February - ladies, please remember your Bulbs. Speaker - Mr. Waldron, Jewellery.

PARTY - Wednesday, 18th February, at the Round of Gras, Badsey, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

BADSEY SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The first meeting of the new year was a great success. The speakers, Mr & Mrs Jelfs, told us about their holidays in York, Chester and the Lake District. They accompanied their talk with most interesting film slides and Mrs Jelfs amazed us all with her marvellous memory. I am sure it made those of us, who had not visited these lovely parts of our country, determined to do so. The speaker next month on February 4th will be Miss Pip Axe who will tell us about her holiday in Russia. From previous experience of her visits, this should be very entertaining.

The winner of the monthly raffle was Mrs S. Knight. A presentation was made to Mrs D. Richards who is retiring from the committee. She has served the club faithfully for many years and will be missed behind the scenes, but we wish her a long and happy time as a club member.

A presentation was also made to Miss N. Smith who also works so selflessly for the club, to show the appreciation of the members for all her hard work during the year.

The club continues to go from strength to strength and it is good to know we have such loyal and active members.

Our best wishes go to those members who are ill and we hope it will not be too long before they are able to join in our meetings once more.

Mary Callaghan

BADSEY WIVES

Badsey Wives over the past year have had various speakers, among them The Canine Defence League who gave a film show and talk on their work with rescued and abandoned dogs. P.C. Earle showed us a film and gave a talk on crime prevention. The Red Cross gave a talk on emergency procedure. We also had an interesting talk from Beewells on Healthy Eating. Mrs Bell came from Wickhamford and showed us how to make Christmas Crackers, several of our members tried their skill at making the crackers.

We had several social evenings such as Shoe and Clothes Parties, Skittle evenings and a Bar-b-que. To end the year we had our annual dinner at "The Round of Gras".

Our next meeting is our A.G.M. Our February dates are the 2nd and the 16th.

We are now holding meetings at the New Badsey-Scout Headquarters in Sands Lane on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 8.30, anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome.

Wendy Beasley Wendy Clark