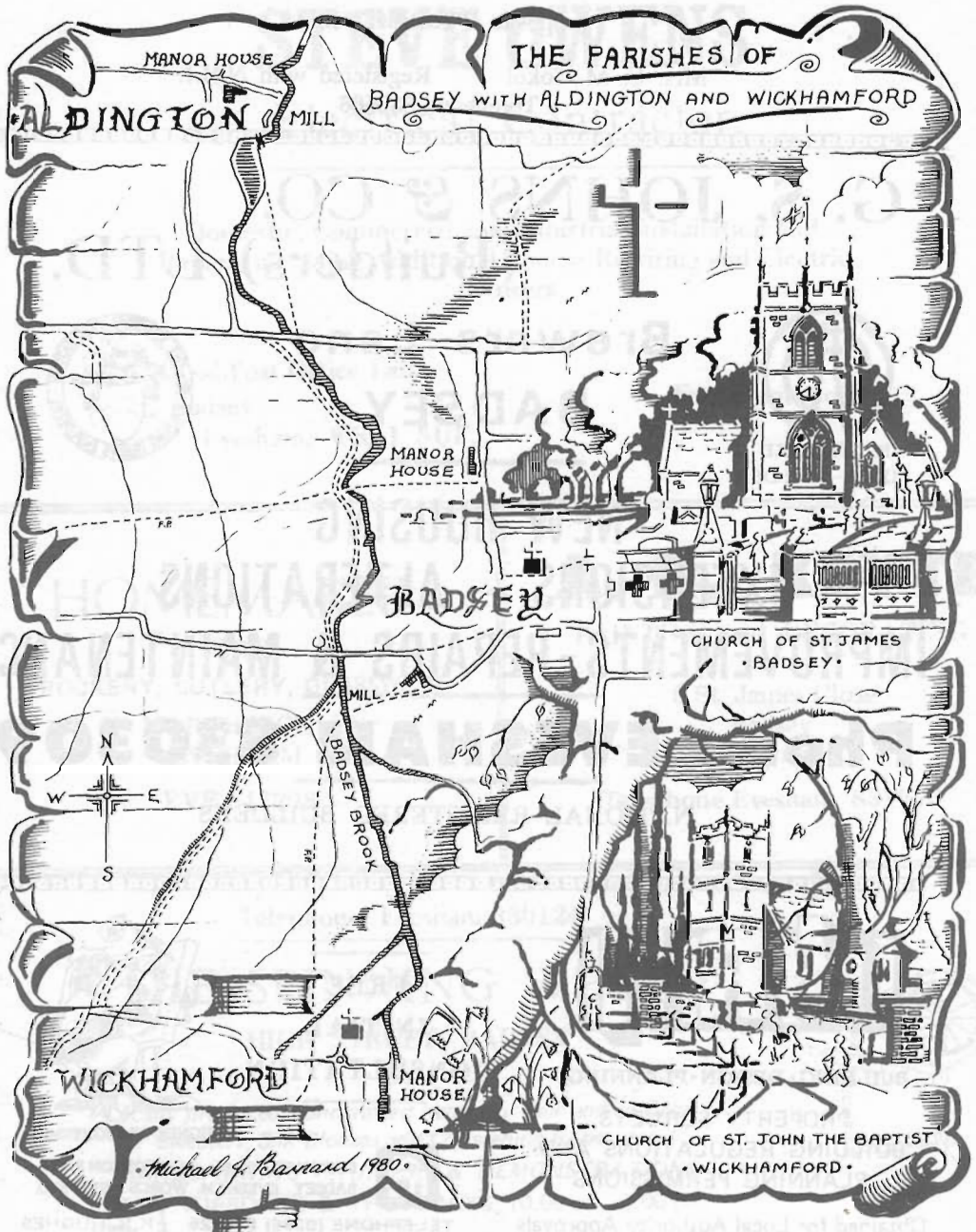


# PARISH REVIEW

MARCH 1987



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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

March 1987

My dear Friends,

The problem of suffering is one encountered by all of us at some time in our lives. Why does God allow suffering? Few people believe God deliberately inflicts suffering, but the question why it is allowed to happen is one that has troubled and perplexed man throughout his history. The word suffer means simply to allow, to let something happen. We see this meaning in another context when Jesus says, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven" It is when the disciples try to prevent mothers from bringing their children to Jesus.

In the Old Testament, the book of Job seeks an answer to suffering. The writer engages in a series of dialogues between Job and his friends over Job's misfortunes but finds no real or satisfactory answer. We read, "The Lord answers Job out of a whirlwind. Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth. Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?" The names refer, of course, to constellations in the heavens and signs of the Zodiac. Isaiah expresses similar thoughts when he writes, "Woe to him who strives with his Maker, an earthen vessel with the potter. Does the clay say to him who fashions it, What are you making? or Your work has no handles" and later, "Yet Lord, thou art our Father, we are the clay, and thou art our potter; we are all the work of thy hand" In a slightly



different context Paul uses the same example in his letter to the Romans when he writes, "But who are you, a man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, Why have you made me thus?" The mystery of the Cross and Passion of Jesus is the most profound of all. Why should Jesus die upon the Cross and suffer innocently for the wrongs and sins of others. The wrongs and sins of you and me.

There are perhaps three aspects of suffering, realisation of which might help us to bear suffering a little more easily when it comes.

First, a realisation, that no matter how much we might wish it were otherwise, life does not seem to be fair. It does not seem fair that one person should be struck down with an incurable disease early in life, however innocently contracted, whilst others, many others, live to enjoy a full and happy life over a normal life span. It does not seem fair, that one person should be seriously injured or even killed in an accident whilst others are not. It does not seem fair that thousands of people in one part of the world should suffer from starvation, malnutrition and disease whilst in another part of the world good, rich fertile agricultural land might be used for other purposes than growing food. Life does not seem fair, and first, I think we have to try and accept this.

Secondly, a realisation that whilst life may not always seem to be fair, there is nevertheless an overall balance between good and bad. Life is not wholly good or wholly bad, but rather an amazing mixture of the two, and overall the balance is towards the good. In other words, life itself, with all its light and shade its hills and valleys is something that is good and not bad. Read again the first chapter of the book of Genesis, and rediscover this profound truth anew. "And God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good" And there was an evening and a morning, a sixth day."

Thirdly, a realisation that we have to learn to accept life as it is and co-operate with it. By this I do not mean we just sit back and fold our hands and do nothing, but rather that we seek to unlock life's mysteries and understand them and work with them. The scientist, those engaged in medical research, the farmer, the market gardener know this only too well. There is no point in trying to rebel or fight against life, or force it into something other than it is intended to be. Such ways only lead to frustration, disappointment, bitterness and despair. The secret lies in understanding life as it really is and in co-operating and working with it.

Suffering is an inescapable part of life in this world and few of us are spared it. It is the way people bear it that makes the difference. We can rebel against it, and curse our misfortune. Or, with Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, on the night before the Crucifixion, we too may pray, "Father if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not mine but thy will be done" We remember that after the Cross of Suffering there came the glory of the

Resurrection. It is in this faith and hope we ask that the Risen Christ will transform our suffering and hallow it with his presence and abiding love. The words of John Wesley in one of his hymns expresses this hope so well.

Give to the winds thy fears;  
Hope, and be undismayed;  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;  
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms  
His power will clear the way;  
Wait thou his time; the darkest night  
Shall end in brightest day

Leave to his sovereign sway  
To choose and to command;  
So shalt thou, wondering, own his way,  
How wise, how strong his hand.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,  
Peter Mitchell.

### CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH

#### St. James', Badsey

1st 7 before Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
4th Ash Wednesday	10.00 am Holy Communion	7.00 pm Evensong and Litany
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
19th St. Joseph	9.00 am Holy Communion	
22nd 3 in Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
25th The Annunciation	10.00 am Holy Communion	
29th 4 in Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
	11.00 am Special Mothering Sunday Service	

April		
5th 5 in Lent	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
12th Palm Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
14th Tuesday in Holy Week	7.30 pm Evensong and Address	
15th Wednesday in Holy Week	10.00 am Holy Communion	

Mid week Communion: March 4th, 11th, 15th, 25th and April 1st, 8th and 15th.

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

1st 7 before Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist
4th Ash Wednesday	9.00 am The Eucharist
8th 1 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist
15th 2 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist
22nd 3 in Lent	11.00 am Childrens and Family Service
29th 4 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist
April	
5th 5 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist
12th Palm Sunday	9.30 am The Eucharist

Sunday Themes

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
3 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : Suffering
4 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : Transfiguration
5 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : The Victory of the Cross
Palm Sunday	The Way of the Cross

Lectionary

1st 7 before Easter	Philemon 1-16	Numbers 15 27-36
	Mark 2 13-17	John 8 1-11
8th 1 in Lent	Heb. 2 14-end	Deuteronomy 6
	Matt. 4 1-11	Hebrews 4



• 15th 2 in Lent	1 John 4 1-6 Luke 19 41-end	Isaiah 35 Luke 11 14-26
22nd 3 in Lent	Coloss. 1 24-end Luke 9 18-27	Isaiah 45 14-end Acts 12 1-17a
29th 4 in Lent	2 Cor. 3 4-end Luke 9 28-36	1 Kings 19 1-18 2 Peter 1 1-19
April		
5th 5 in Lent	Coloss 2 8-15 John 12 20-32	Jeremiah 31 27-37 Mark 10 32-45
12th Palm Sunday	Phil. 2 5-11 Mark 14.32-15.41	Isaiah 5 1-7 Mark 12 1-12

### Lent Lectures

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

Wednesday 11th, 18th, 25th March and 1st and 8th April.

### Lent at Worcester Cathedral

A series of Lent Lectures entitled "Five Ways in Prayer" is to be given on the Tuesdays in Lent, as shown below, in Worcester Cathedral. Five leading members of five different Churches - each with a distinctive approach to their understanding of prayer have been invited to talk openly about what prayer means to them. The speakers are: Tuesday March 10th, Commander Cachelin of the Salvation Army; March 17th, Father Robert Darwen of the Society of Jesus; March 24th The Revd Brian O'Gorman ex President of the Methodist Conference; March 31st The Revd Dr Howard Williams of the Baptist Church and April 7th, The Revd Canon Austin Masters of the Society of the Sacred Mission. All lectures begin at 7.30 pm.

During Holy Week on Monday, 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th April Sister Renate of the Community of the Holy Name will give three addresses entitled "Standing before God" in the Crypt at 8 pm followed by Compline.

## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thurs. Mar. 3rd	Badsey P.C.C.
Tues. Mar. 10th	Evesham Chapter - Badsey Mothers' Union AGM
Wed Mar 11th	Wickhamford AVM/AGM Memorial Hall 7.30 pm
Wed. Mar. 18th	Pastoral Committee - 2,30 pm The Vicarage
Thurs. Mar. 19th	Bible Reading Fellowship Group Meeting - The Vicarage 7.30 pm
Thurs. Mar. 26th	The Compass Club - The Vicarage 7.00 pm
Tues. Mar 31st	Badsey AVM/AGM 7.30 pm The Church.

The Bible Reading Fellowship Meeting - Thursday 19th March at 7.30 pm  
Those intending to come are kindly asked to let the Vicarage know as soon as possible please.

### The Compass Club

Just a reminder that the first meeting of the Compass Club will take place at the Vicarage on Thursday March 26th at 7.00 pm. Meetings will be held monthly prior to the beginning of the Confirmation classes in September. Full details were published in the February magazine, but names of those wishing to join the Compass Club and to be prepared for Confirmation should be given to the Vicarage as soon as possible. The activity of the Club will be centred around the attractive, entertaining and instructive BRF 'Compass' Notes designed as an introduction for young people to the Bible. It is hoped to include other interests as well. Soft drinks and crisps will be available. Names as soon as possible please.

Parish Review - April issue - latest date for copy, Wednesday March 18th please.

## PARISH REGISTERS

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

Badsey

30th January

Percy Frederick Harrison of 3 Coxlea Close, Evesham  
aged 86 years (interment only)

Barbara Maude Le Prevost of 63 Synehurst, Badsey  
aged 57 years (at Badsey)

10th February

Daisy May Addis aged 86 years, late of 17 High  
Street, Badsey (at Badsey)



Wickhamford

3rd February

Algernon Edward Newitt of Seward House Nursing Home aged 84 years (at Wickhamford)

13th February

Stanley Figgett of Seward House Nursing Home, late of 17 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford, aged 81 years (at Wickhamford and Cheltenham)

### DONATIONS

Badsey In memory of Frederick Stratford, March 25th £5, towards church funds, from Mrs M. Sparrow.  
An anonymous donation towards the work of the Church Army - £40.

Madeira and Mince Pie Evening.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr and Mrs John Callaghan for a most delightful evening in their home, and all who supported this event. The amount raised towards church funds was £70. Thank you again.

### THE MOTHERS UNION

Our party on the 27th January proved to be a very pleasurable occasion. We were entertained by "A Refugee from Austria" (Mrs Doreen Moore) who read two humorous monologues she had written and "An Improving Tale" read by Mrs Esmé Seaman, which was also most amusing. We then enjoyed a very good buffet supper followed by "Alfredo" (Mr Alfred Perry) who showed us more "magic". We rounded off the evening with Auld lang syne. Our grateful thanks to Mrs Moore and Mrs Seaman and to the two anonymous members whose generosity enabled us to have "Alfredo" with us. Also to all who gave the lovely selection of prizes for the raffle.

On February 10th Station Officer Pearson from the Evesham Headquarters of the Fire Service gave us a most interesting talk. He began by giving us an idea of the number of calls received and of the problem of hoax calls. He told us the first priority of the Fire Service was the saving of life. He explained to us the kind of information needed from a 999 call reminding us how important it was that a clear address and directions be provided, particularly if a house was not numbered, and that details of the type of fire decided what appliances were required. He mentioned the various potential fire hazards in the home and the safest way of dealing with them, stressing in particular that first, in the event of fire, the alarm should be sounded and the house or building evacuated. He pointed out the speed



with which some furniture will burn, the toxic fumes and smoke which are very quickly produced and how vital a closed door can be in keeping back fire. This was a very informative talk which set us all thinking.

Help with the making of the Mothering Sunday posies on Saturday 28th March at 9.30 a.m. at the Church will be much appreciated. Gifts of flowers before 9.30 am or on Friday at the Vicarage, will also be much appreciated.

#### For Your Diaries

Ash Wed. March 4th	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Tues. March 10th	2.30 pm	A.G.M.
Wed. March 25th	7.30 pm	Deanery Festival at St. Andrews, Hampton Time and details of transport to be notified
Sat. March 28th	9.30 am	Making of posies for Mothering Sunday Service. Gifts of flowers ( however small ) gratefully received before 9.30 am or on Friday at the Vicarage
Wed. April 1st	10.30 am	onwards including evening. Free Coffee (or Tea) and biscuits if you support the blanket raffle (reasonably priced tickets) at 6 Chapel Street, Badsey.

Pat Mitchell

Free Coffee (or Tea) and Biscuits if you Support the Raffle!  
Wednesday 1st April, at 6 Chapel Street, All day from 10.30 am onwards

The Mothers Union held a "Knit In" on 6th November in aid of The Mothers Union Overseas Fund which raised £80. The squares produced have now been worked into a blanket which will be raffled to raise extra cash for the fund. Mrs Joan Betteridge will be at home at 6 Chapel Street, Badsey, on Wednesday, 1st April, all day from 10.30 am onwards, including the evening. Coffee (or tea) and biscuits will be available free but all are asked to support the raffle on arrival. Everyone welcome - do come.

#### BADSEY W.I.

The President, Mrs Yvonne Haynes, welcomed members and visitors to the February meeting. As the January meeting had had to be cancelled because of the bad weather, and as we have experienced similar happenings in previous years, it was decided that in future Badsey W.I., would not hold a meeting in the month of January but would hold a meeting in the month of August, a previously vacant month because of holidays etc.

The cup for the highest number of points gained in the monthly competitions was won by Miss N. Smith; Mrs G. Cowley, Mrs P. Hales and Mrs M. Jarratt being equal runners-up.

The year 1987 is the Diamond Jubilee Year for Badsey W.I. having been formed originally in 1927 as the Badsey and Wickhamford Women's Institute.

It is hoped to prepare a complete 60 year history of events and items of interest - photographs or written or spoken memories would be much appreciated. Unfortunately our early records have been lost, so please help us if you possibly can. Celebrations are being planned for later in the year, details later.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr T. Waldron, Jeweller, of Broadway, who gave a most interesting and informative talk on gold and various precious stones and their countries of origin, and had a few beautiful examples of his work to show us.

### BADSEY SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The February meeting was very well attended and we were fortunate to have as our speaker, Miss Axe. Her subject was "Soviet Russia" and she was able to speak from first hand experience having spent some time out there last year. She also blew away many misconceptions which we had previously held in consequence of her excellent delivery and interesting style which completely held our attention.

The next meeting is on March 4th when Mr Joe Pearson will entertain us. The monthly raffle was won by Mrs Churchill and the bottle of sherry was won by Mrs Moore. The suggestion sheet came up with some new ideas and will certainly be very helpful when working out the activities for 1988.

Once again our best wishes are sent to all our members who are ill and we look forward to seeing them in our midst very soon.

Mary Callaghan

### BADSEY WIVES

Our A.G.M. was held on January 19th when our new Committee was formed. Our Chairwomen is now Sandra Owens, Joint Secretaries are Pam Stowe and Wendy Beasley, Treasurer is Nicky Pinkney. Committee Brenda Osbourne and Sally Thomson.

Our Meetings in March are March 2nd, a Bingo evening and the 16th is



Skittles at the Marston Arms, Long Marston. April 6th - Making a Party Hat. Anyone wishing to come along to our meeting welcome. Ring Sandra on 832505 or Wendy on 832371.

Pam Stowe

Wendy Beasley

### BADSEY CHOIR

Owing to the death of one of our Choirmen and three Choirladies leaving or having left the village I am asking for volunteers to fill their vacant places in the Chancel. It is not expected members will attend every service but if possible maintain a reasonable standard.

If anyone would care to join us a welcome is assured. Practice is usually on Friday evenings at 6.30 pm. Please help us if you can.

R.W.K.

### CLOTHES

LEADING STORES "SECONDS" SALE

SATURDAY 14th MARCH 1987

10.00 am UNTIL 12 MID-DAY

AT BADSEY REMEMBRANCE HALL

Proceeds to 1st Badsey Girl Guides

### WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

All members should now have had their membership cards containing the list of events for 1987. We have a well varied programme thanks to Mr C. Hills hard work, and there should be "something for everybody". New members are always welcome.

The March meeting, first of the year, will be on Wednesday 4th. Mr. Elliot will not be available to give his talk as planned, but Mr Stan Turner will take his place and speak on Alpine plants.

The Competition will be a Floral Pot Plant.

The Spring Show will be on April 15th, lots of entries please. Let us have a lot of Spring Flowers to chase away the Winter gloom.

Non-members always eligible to enter exhibits.

W. Holland