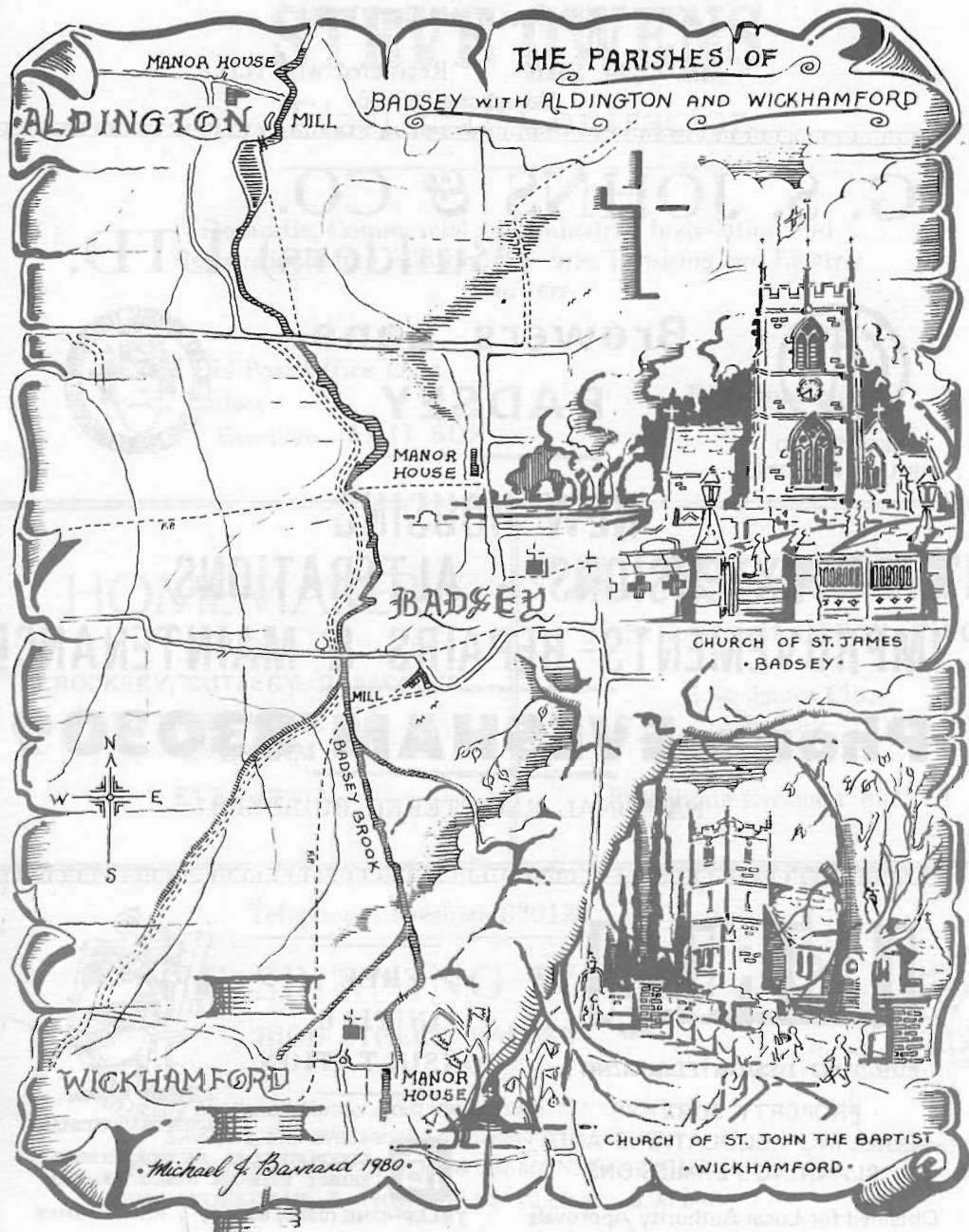


PARISH REVIEW

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

April 1987

My dear Friends,

At its recent February sessions, the General Synod voted to accept the House of Bishop's report and prepare legislation for the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England. Supporters of the cause expressed themselves as 'absolutely delighted' by the result, whilst opponents predicted the legislation itself would fail to gain the necessary majority when it comes before the General Synod in four to five years time. In the present voting it failed to gain the necessary two thirds majority in the House of Clergy by two votes, 135 being for and 70 against.

Many arguments have been put forward for and against this issue in recent years and are impossible to summarise in a few words. But the issue has to do with our understanding of ministry and the nature of ministry. What it is and whose it is. In a recent essay on the subject, "Take a long and steady look" (1) Deaconess Diana McClatchey, of Worcester diocese and for many years a strong advocate of this cause, writes, "Service takes many forms, but all ministry is one. It is his" In other words, the ministry at present exercised by bishops, priests and deacons, is not their own, but the ministry of the one who called them to it. Namely our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is his ministry, not theirs. What then, we might ask, determines the kind of people, male or female, Christ calls into his ministry and who exercise it on his behalf?

Intellectual ability will always be important, but never absolutely so. We know from our reading of the Acts of the Apostles when Peter and John were brought before the rulers, elders and scribes of the Temple in Jerusalem, they saw the boldness of the apostles and perceived that they were uneducated common men, so that they wondered, and recognized that they had been with Jesus. Paul who himself was a man of no mean intellectual stature among his own people the Jews, puts it in even stronger terms when he says in his first letter to the Corinthians, "Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world" And again earlier, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart' What was it then that made Christ choose men such as Peter and John and others like them to be his first disciples, to be the witnesses, both of his death and resurrection? Was it that they were men, and not women, or were there other reasons as well. Their faithfulness, their trust, their loyalty, their willingness to learn even though they so often failed to understand must have come very high on the list. We know they continued to follow Jesus even when others had turned back, although at the end of the day they all fled, after one of their number, Judas Iscariot, had betrayed Jesus into the hands of wicked and sinful men. But I like to think there was another reason why Jesus chose men such as the first disciples to be his closest followers and friends. It is a reason that runs like a golden cord throughout the ministry of the church from those earliest times. Jesus chose them because they were people with whom other people could identify. They were not people who stood apart or aloof from those he had come to save. They were those through whom his own ministry would eventually be expressed to others. This was why, at first, they had to be men. There was no other alternative. The women had a role to play it is true, indeed one of them, Mary Magdalene, became the first witness of the resurrection, but in the Jewish society of those times life for the women was very different. Theirs was the role of the mother, the home and the family. They took little or no part at all in public life outside the home. It was only with the men that others could identify publicly.

Today we live in a vastly different age and society. When the Christian Gospel burst out from its Jewish chrysalis into the Gentile world, the ministry of the Risen Christ could no longer be confined exclusively to Jewish men from Palestine. First it embraced other Greek speaking Jews elsewhere around the Mediterranean and later Gentiles from the many different countries, cultures and nationalities that made up the Roman Empire. As the church grew, the ministry of the church grew with it. The kingdom of the Risen Lord knew no bounds or barriers.

Our age, our culture is one in which, rightly or wrongly, for better or for worse, it is intended that women should enjoy equal status and equal rights with men if they are to fulfil their true potential, and there are already many walks of life where this has happened or is happening now. It must therefore surely follow that if the Church, and especially the Church of England as the established church of the nation, is to truly exercise the ministry of Christ, then such a ministry must be one with which men and women alike can identify. The male priest will always stand closest to Christ because Christ himself was a man, but the ministry of the Risen Christ today, must surely be expressed by both men and women if it is to be truly representative of our society in which we live.

No one can prophesy the outcome of the vote to be taken in four or five years time. We can but pray that as in all other things the Holy Spirit of Christ will continue to direct the life of his church and his ministry aright. To the glory of his holy name and the furtherance of his kingdom. For it is still his ministry and not ours.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell.

- (1) 'The Reality of God' Essays in honour of Tom Baker, Dean of Worcester, 1975-1986, edited by James Butterworth and published by Severn House.

CHURCH SERVICES - APRIL

St. James', Badsey

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	
16th Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm Sung Eucharist	
17th Good Friday	2 - 3 pm Devotional Service	
18th Easter Eve	8.00 pm Easter Eve Service	
19th Easter Day	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	7.40 pm Holy Communion
26th 1 after Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist

May		
1st St. Philip and St. James, Apostles	9.00 am Holy Communion	
3rd 2 after Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
10th 3 after Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
14th St. Matthias, Apostle	9.00 am Holy Communion	

Mid Week Communions April 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th, May 6th and 13th
There will be no mid week communion on April 22nd.

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

5th 5 in Lent	9.30 am The Eucharist	
12th Palm Sunday	9.30 am The Eucharist	
16th Maundy Thursday	9.00 am The Eucharist	
17th Good Friday	11.00 am Matins	
	OT Lesson : Genesis 22, 1-18	
	NT Lesson : John 18	
19th Easter Day	9.30 am The Eucharist	
26th 1 after Easter	11.00 am Childrens and Family Service	
May		
3rd 2 after Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist	
10th 3 after Easter	9.30 am The Eucharist	

Lectionary

5th 5 in Lent	Coloss 2 8-15	Jeremiah 31 27-37
	John 12 20-32	Mark 10 32-45
12th Palm Sunday	Phil 2.5-11	Isaiah 5 1-7
	Mark 14.32-15.41	Mark 12 1-12
16th Maundy Thursday	I Cor. 11 23-29	
	John 13 1-15	
19th Easter Day	Col. 3 1-11	Exodus 14 5-end
	Mark 16 1-8	John 20 11-23
26th 1 after Easter	1 Peter 1 3-9	Exodus 16 1-15
	John 20 19-29	John 6 24-51
May		
3rd 2 after Easter	Revelation 19 6-9	Ezekiel 34 1-16
	Luke 24 13-35	John 10 1-18
10th 3 after Easter	1 Cor. 15 1-11	1 Kings 17 8-end
	John 21 1-14	John 11 17-44

Sunday Themes

5 in Lent	The King and the Kingdom : The Victory of the Cross
Palm Sunday	The Way of the Cross
Easter Day	
1 after Easter	The Upper Room
2 after Easter	The Emmaus Road
3 after Easter	The Lakeside

PARISH REGISTERS

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

Badsey

22nd February Benjamin David Tustin of 46, Sycamore Avenue,
Evesham

Christopher James Ridgers of 53, Seward Road,
Badsey

22nd March

Kate Jane Mitchell of 91, Bretforton Road, Badsey

Wickhamford

15th March

Donna Teresa Allchurch of 11, Coombefield Road,
Wickhamford

Christopher William Woods of 71, Pitchers Hill,
Wickhamford

Weddings "God is love, and those who live in love, live in God: and God
lives in them."

Wickhamford

Ian James Wride and Deborah Jane Smith

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

Badsey

27th February

John Barnard of 21, Bretforton Road, Badsey,
aged 88 years (at Badsey)

4th March

Bertram Alexander Hatcher of 12a Green Leys,
Badsey, aged 88 years (at Badsey)

11th March

Kathleen Annie Brewer of 27, Brewers Lane, aged
87 years (at Badsey and Cheltenham)

12th & 13th March

Gladys Mary Mitchell of 'Ty Wylan', Gwbert on
Sea, Cardigan, Dyfed, W. Wales aged 81 years
(at Naberth, Badsey and Cheltenham)

Wickhamford

20th March

John Thomas William Haines of 26, Washington
Road, Wickhamford aged 66 years.

DONATIONS

- In memory of Mr Stanley Figgett, to Wickhamford Church, - £25
In memory of Mr Cyril Warren, to Wickhamford Church, - £20
In memory of Mr John Barnard, to Badsey Church - £61.10
In memory of Mr Phil Sparrow, April 1st 1976, to Badsey Church - £5
from Mrs Margaret Sparrow.
In memory of Mr. John Haines, to Wickhamford Church - £30

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 3rd April Social Committee - 7.15 pm, 7 School Lane.
29th April Compass Club - The Vicarage - 7 pm - 8 pm.
30th April Flower Festival Committee - 7.30 pm Wickhamford
5th May Badsey P.C.C. - 7.30 pm Badsey Church
7th May Bible Reading Fellowship meeting - 7.30 pm The Vicarage
(provisional)
13th May Wickhamford P.C.C. - 7.30 pm Memorial Hall.

THE MOTHERS UNION

At our February 24th Meeting Mr. D. Davidson talked and showed slides on the work of the Shaftesbury Society founded in 1844 as 'The Ragged School Union' and through nearly a century and a half of meeting real need still very active. The slides included early photographs of very poor children suffering the kind of poverty thankfully never seen in this country today and progressed to show present work in educating and providing residential care for the profoundly handicapped, training of mentally impaired adults to integrate into the community and the provision of seaside holidays for lonely disadvantaged city dwellers. Also further education and independence training centres for older children, the work of the Urban Missions in Greater London ranging from single parent family welfare to drop in centres for down and outs, pre-school play groups, OAP lunch centres, sheltered housing, frail elderly units and welfare distribution. Mr. Davidson's talk left us full of admiration for the work of the Society. At the end we were able to buy from Mrs Davidson various small items of very good value in aid of the Society's funds.

On March 10th we held our Annual General Meeting and as always this was devoted to business matters.

Our very grateful thanks to all who so kindly gave flowers and helped with the Mothering Sunday posies and for the very generous donations received from two of our members towards the cost. All help is much appreciated.

To our member, Mrs Joyce Watkin and her family we offer our deepest sympathy in their recent bereavement. They are much in our thoughts and prayers.

For Your Diaries

1st April 10.00 am Corporate Communion
1st April 10.30 am onwards Coffee (and Blanket Raffle) 6 Chapel St.
9th April 2.30 pm Committee Meeting at 6 Chapel Street
14th April 7.30 pm Holy Week Service
28th April 7.30 pm The Quakers Mrs. A. Tyas

Wishing all our members and friends a very happy Easter

Pat Mitchell

BADSEY W.I.

Our March meeting was well attended and we welcomed several visitors again this month.

Mrs Freeman was our speaker this month giving a very interesting talk and show of creative embroidery and collage design.

Mrs Yvonne Haynes our president presented Mrs W. Harrison with a gift from us all as she is leaving the village to return to Yorkshire, we all wished her well and thanked her for all her support in the years she has spent in the W.I.

Our monthly competition which presented our speaker with the very difficult task of having to judge it was won by Mrs. Helm with one of her oil paintings, second place with a woven shawl was Mrs Lashford and third place went to Mrs. Osbourne with a small bridal bouquet of silk flowers.

The social time which was a village quiz was won by Mrs. S. Cudd.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April at 7.15 pm the speaker will be Mr. Betterton subject Geneology. Everyone welcome.

BADSEY SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The March meeting got off to a good start with our entertainer, Mr. Joe Pearson, playing a medley of songs, old and new. Members sang these with great gusto, many seeming to know all the words! A very pleasant hour passed all too quickly!

The monthly raffle was won by Mrs. Harman.

The next meeting is on 1st April when our speaker will be the owner of "Beewell", Health Food Shop. She will bring samples with her and, no doubt, tell us how to eat more sensibly. Just the thing, (with Spring around the corner) if it helps us lose those extra pounds gained over the Winter months!

Don't forget, please, to keep the evening of 1st July free. This gathering will be in place of the afternoon meeting. More details nearer the time.

The May meeting will be the Mini-Auction. This is a prior notice for you to start looking out those unwanted Christmas gifts, etc. This meeting is always fun and I know you will all give generously as in the past. Proceeds to club funds.

It is nice to know that several of our members who have been ill are now on the road to recovery and, hopefully, will soon be able to join in our club afternoons.

Mary Callaghan

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

One day during the week beginning April 5th an envelope will be handed to you or put through your letterbox. Please look at it carefully. You will see it comes from the Children's Society.

Because the society is helping children, young people, and families affected by unemployment, sickness, handicap or inadequate housing, and such work costs money, the Children's Society asks you to place a gift in the envelope. You will then be sharing in a service to families who can feel forgotten, unwanted and overwhelmed by problems. You will be showing them that some people do care.

Please use your envelope to make a gift and help The Children's Society to continue and develop its work. There are now over 100 homes, centres or projects in England and Wales.

Please pray for collectors and all the people they will visit in this parish. Thank you.

B. Owen

WICKHAMFORD W.I.

At the February meeting of the W.I. names were taken for a trip to the Arts Centre to see "Night must Fall" and also for the Group meeting at Bretforton on March 25th. Members were asked to bring pictures or craft items of the last ten years to be displayed at the Group meeting. Jenny Tweney said she would go as delegate to the Council meeting at Malvern in March. It was decided to buy a large electric kettle with the money raised from raffling the quilt.

The Misses Lewis of Broadway showed slides of their holidays in Turkey. The Flower competition was won by Mrs Harrison with Mrs Tweney second. The raffle was won by Pat Bell. Refreshments were served by Pat Bell, Stella Hoadly and Dolly Harman.

Thirty members were present at the March meeting and all enjoyed an interesting and very amusing talk by Mrs Cathy Evans of Evesham Library. She was thanked by Mrs Gunn.

Members were reminded about the Group meeting and told that a Skittles evening had been arranged at Norton on April 1st. It was decided to hold a Coffee morning in the Memorial Hall on April 11th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to boost Branch finances Mrs Bearcroft gave the treasurer a cheque for £10 from the Vale of Evesham Show. The Secretary read a letter from Mrs Dunkerley of the Wickhamford P.C.C. saying that it had been decided to buy a carpet for the Church in memory of the late Miss Cox. Members decided they would like to hold a collection for this memorial at the April meeting. The meeting ended with a lighthearted quiz on Food and Drink arranged by Adelaide Waldron, after refreshments had been served by Betty Bowles, Elaine Litterick and Jenny Tweney. The raffle was won by Jean Aston and the Flower of the Month competition by Peggy Hancock.

B. Bowles

1st BADSEY SCOUTS

Congratulations to Giles Poulter on being selected as one of eight scouts from Hereford and Worcester, to attend the 16th World Scout Jamboree in Australia, this December/January.

As well as helping the Scout Troop to raise money he is very willing to do odd jobs e.g. car cleaning, gardening. He also does a good deal in F.Y.M. (farm yard manure) at 50p a bag - keen gardeners take note. If you can help Giles by giving him a job please contact Eve. 830505.

WICKHAMFORD FLOWER FESTIVAL 1987

There will be a "homemade" stall at the Flower Festival this year. If you would like to contribute to this stall - there is no time like the present to start sewing, knitting, carpentry, pantry produce or other crafts.

Report of Wickhamford P.C.C. Annual General and Vestry Meetings

Mrs Thelma Dunkerley and Mr Gerard Poulter were re-elected as Church wardens for the coming year at the Vestry meeting.

At the A.G.M. the usual reports were submitted and summarised as follows:-

Electoral Roll Mrs Baker confirmed the number of residents now stand at 60 with 13 non resident.

Accounts Mrs Astley in presenting the accounts was pleased to say that thanks to special efforts such as cream teas - £1168, and the loyal and generous support from Church members, we had met our quota of £2150 and general expenses. Donations to charities were £329.

Vicar's Report Church attendance had remained at about the same level as previous years, and he was pleased to see that the younger generation were coming forward to act as servers. Last July the Confirmation of four children from this parish brought a visit from the Bishop of Worcester.

Church Fabric Mr Poulter reported that the main change during the year was the installation of Economy 7. Whilst this had reduced the cost of electricity by a third, it had also limited the extra requirement for Sunday services. An additional adjustment to our supply had to be done to overcome this problem. The filling of a 2 inch gap around the main door with draught excluders, should reduce heat loss, but he had obtained an estimate to fit a 'hot air curtain' over the door, which would be the best way of retaining and adding to Church heating.

Only two small tiles had been lost from the roof and the gutters had been cleared and were in good order. The car parking area had received a dressing of stone by Mr Ryan Bell, and an offer to pay for this had been made as a small contribution towards its maintenance. The Churchyard had been well cared for by Mr Robin Cox but a spring clean was due.

Elections It was regretted that Mr & Mrs Harry Mason felt unable to continue as members of the P.C.C., however, Mrs Launchbury was welcomed as a new member. It was agreed that a suitable inscription to the memory of Miss Alice Cox, should be made to signify the laying of a new carpet in the Gallery and down the Aisle from the proceeds of her memorial fund. A further contribution from Wickhamford W.I. was gratefully accepted to help meet the estimated cost of doing this.

The organ has been serviced by the gentleman who originally built it. Needless to say, he was very pleased to report that it was in good order and only needed a new valve.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

Wickhamford Gardening Club held the first meeting of 1987 on Wednesday 4th March at Wickhamford Village Hall when Mr. Stan Taylor of Warwick gave a lecture on Alpines.

Mr Wardle the Chairman opened the meeting by commenting that it had been decided that the first meeting of the year should be scheduled for March to avoid bad winter evenings and yet that morning we had had snow. However, the day ended on a promising spring note as the good attendance for the evening proved.

Mr Taylor's excellent talk was illustrated by slides of the natural habitat in which the alpines grow at high altitudes and then went on to show the variety of forms and delightful range of colour of the many beautiful species. Mr Taylor advised on the right environment which can be achieved fairly simply in a scree garden, frame, sink container etc. so that even in a very small garden room can be found for alpines. A vote of thanks was given by Mr Hale.

The competition for a flowering pot plant was won by Mrs Hale with Mr Tayler 2nd and Miss Dyke 3rd.

The Chairman was glad to announce that Miss Holland who had had to resign from the committee for health reasons was much improved and had enjoyed the flowers sent to her on behalf of the club.

Schedules for the Annual Show to be held on August 11th will be available at the May 6th meeting.

The Spring Show meeting is on the 15th April and all entries are very welcome. As Mrs Astley, the club's President, emphasised, the more entries we have the more interesting the show will be for all concerned. Hope to see you there!

B.S. Peberdy

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