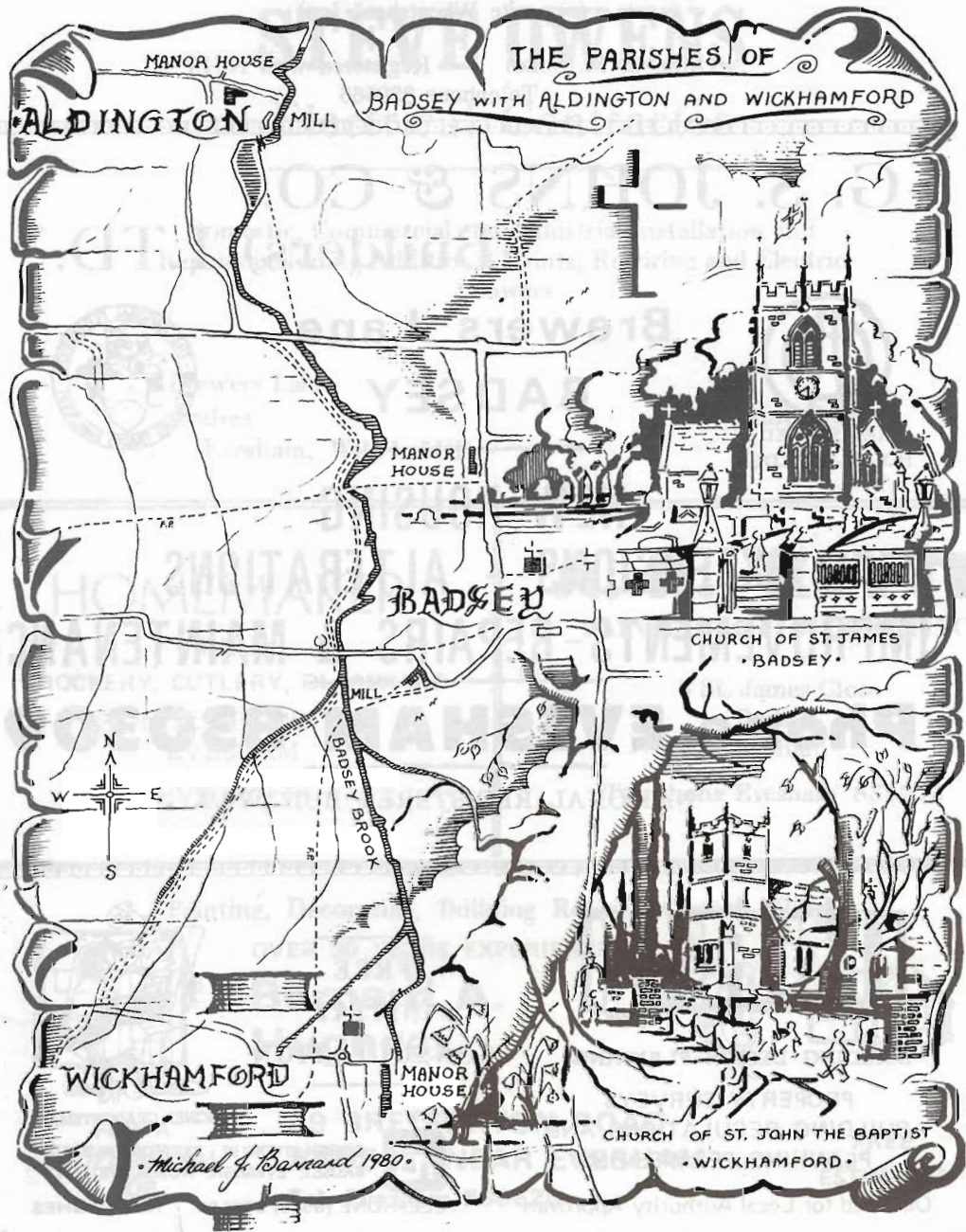


BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

PARISH REVIEW

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JANUARY 1988



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THE VICAR'S LETTER

January 1988

My dear Friends,

I expect many of you were as saddened as I was by the recent events surrounding the leadership of the Church of England following publication of the latest Crockford's Clerical Directory. Events which culminated in an eminent and highly respected Oxford historian and theologian apparently taking his own life. Once more the Church of England found itself engulfed in a controversy which attracted the full glare of media publicity from which few of those most closely concerned emerged unscathed. Such an image does little to enhance the church. It causes only more wounds to the Body of Christ. When the outcome is as tragic as in this instance, the damage done can never be wholly healed or restored.

Many will be the lessons learnt from these sad happenings. Once again we see how dangerous words can be. "Sticks and stones, may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" says the old childhood proverb. But they can and they do. Words can wound very deeply and destroy the spirit, and there are those skilled and clever in their use. Jesus said, "Do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul, rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell" We recall again the words from the letter of James. "So the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire" Some people fall into the temptation of thinking they can say what they like in the church simply because it is the church and that somehow it doesn't matter. But it does matter. Lack of self-control,

lack of respect, lack of charity, lack of integrity are as harmful and unprofessional in the church as anywhere else. Furthermore, it has been said, in the church, a complaining fault finding spirit can be devastating.

Secondly, we realise that the ancient prophecy of Micah still holds true. That a man's enemies are those of his own house. We recall the words of our Lord in similar vein. "A prophet is not without honour save in his own country". We remember it was the authorities of Jesus' own day, who out of envy and jealousy plotted his downfall, delivered him up and cried "Crucify him".

Thirdly, comes the realisation that in the life and teaching of Jesus, God has shown us that the path of love may lead to the Cross and the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns. At the time of his enthronement in Canterbury Cathedral, a previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Donald Coggan, humorously commented upon a typing error spotted in the draft Order of Service for that occasion. It referred to his enthornment rather than his enthronement. The significance of the slip would have been quickly appreciated by Christian people, lay and ordained alike.

Fourthly, we see again what it really means to live a Christian life. To follow Jesus. A life, a discipleship in which success and failure can mean something very different than in the eyes of the world. Where reviling and rejection can be as much a sign of righteousness as popularity and acceptance.

I can do no better than quote the words of yet another Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, from his book, "Readings in St John's Gospel". He writes of what it is like to live one's life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as an Archbishop. He says, "When we pray, 'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire' we had better know what we are about. He will not carry us to easy triumphs and gratifying success; more probably He will set us to some task for God in the full intention that we shall fail, so that others, learning wisdom by our failure, may carry the good cause forward. He may take us through loneliness, desertion by friends, apparent desertion even by God; that was the way Christ went to the Father. He may drive us into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. He may lead us from the Mount of Transfiguration (if He ever lets us climb it) to the hill that is called the Place of a Skull. For if we invoke Him, it must be to help us in doing God's will, not ours. We cannot call upon the "Creator Spirit, by whose aid, The world's foundations first were laid" in order to use omnipotence for the supply of our futile pleasures or the success of our futile plans. If we invoke Him, we must be ready for the glorious pain of being caught by his power out of our petty orbit into the eternal purposes of the Almighty,

in whose onward sweep our lives are as a speck of dust. The soul that is filled with the Spirit must have become purged of all pride or love of ease, all self-complacence and self-reliance; but that soul has found the only real dignity, the only lasting joy. Come then, great Spirit, come. Convict the world; and convict my timid soul”.

As with the Crucifixion, the true significance of these unhappy events and much of what previously led up to them, will only be seen as they take their place in the history of the church and the history of the nation. Only then will judgement be possible. A disaster today can be a triumph tomorrow. But of one thing we may be sure. The path of love will always be a path of sacrifice, and sometimes the sacrifice may be very costly. But it is still a path which leads to the only true glory.

In 1988, may the light of God's love continue to shine on a sadder and wiser church.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 1988

St. James', Badsey

3rd 2 after Christmas	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
6th Epiphany	10.00 am Holy Communion (1662)	
10th 1 after Epiphany	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
17th 2 after Epiphany	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
24th 3 after Epiphany	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
31st 9 before Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Combined Service of Evensong St John the Baptist, Wickhamford.

February

2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple	9.00 am Holy Communion	
7th 8 before Easter	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
14th 7 before Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
Mid-week communions: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th January, and 3rd & 10th February.		

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

3rd 2 after Christmas	9.30 am The Eucharist
10th 1 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
17th 2 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist
24th 3 after Epiphany	11.00 am Childrens and Family Service

31st 9 before Easter 9.30 am The Eucharist (said with devotional reading)
6.30 pm Combined Service of Evensong (sung)

February

7th 8 before Easter 9.30 am The Eucharist
14th 7 before Easter 9.30 am The Eucharist

Sunday Themes

1 after Epiphany Revelation : The Baptism of Jesus
2 after Epiphany Revelation : The First Disciples
3 after Epiphany Revelation : Signs of Glory
9 before Easter Christ the Teacher
8 before Easter Christ the Healer
7 before Easter Christ the Friend of Sinners

Lectionary

January 1988

3rd 2 after Christmas	Rev 21.22-22.5 Matt 2 1-12, 19-end	Isaiah 60 13-end I Cor 2
10th 1 after Epiphany	Eph 2 1-10 John 1 29-34	1 Samuel 16 1-13a Matthew 3
17th 2 after Epiphany	Gal 1 11-end John 1 35-end	Jeremiah 1 4-end Luke 5 1-11
24th 3 after Epiphany	Philippians 4 10-20 John 6 1-14	Exodus 33 7-end John 2 1-11
31st 9 before Easter	I Cor 2 1-10 Luke 8 4-15	Isaiah 30 8-21 Matthew 4.23-5.12

February

7th 8 before Easter	2 Cor 12 1-10 Mark 7 24-end	2 Kings 20 Mark 5 1-20
14th 7 before Easter	Col 1 18-23 John 8 2-11	Hosea 14 Philemon

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th to 25th January 1988

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thursday 7th January Badsey P.C.C. - 7.30 pm (please note change of day and date)
Wed. 13th January Wickhamford P.C.C.
Fri. 29th January Social Committee Meeting - 7.15 pm, 7 School Lane

Fri. 8th February Mince Pies and Wine Evening - at the home of
Mr and Mrs A. Smith, "Mallory" 6 Birmingham Rd.

PARISH REGISTERS

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

Badsey

27th November Walter Charles Godwin of 19 Old Post Office Lane,
aged 85 years (at Badsey and Worcester)

1st December Leslie John Bell of The Corner House, Aldington,
aged 57 years (at Cheltenham)

Valerie Diane Hunt of 54 Synehurst, aged 46 years
(at Badsey)

Confirmation - St James' Church, Badsey, by the Bishop of Dudley.

22nd November David John Beasley, James Kenneth Felton,
Paul Henry Charles Felton, Ben Alun Lee Cain,
Lee Anthony Smith, Ian Craig Robbins,
Faye-Louise Smith, Rachel Ann Caswell,
Claire Louise Print, Joanna May Haines,
Rachel Joy Hartwell, Sharon Grinnell

DONATIONS

Badsey towards the cost of the Christmas floodlighting
from Mr and Mrs J. Skitt - £30
towards the upkeep of the churchyard from the Poplars
Garage - £3.95 (being the cost of petrol supplied)
anonymously by post, towards the Restoration Appeal - £10.

Church Army Boxes

Just a reminder that Church Army Boxes should be given into the
Vicarage as soon as possible during January and that new subscribers
are always welcome.

Badsey - Upkeep of the Churchyard

Our most sincere and grateful thanks are due to those who on Saturday,
5th December cleared away all the unwanted rubbish, dead flowers, etc
from the churchyard and disposed of the tip. It was a considerable and
necessary task very well done. Thank you again.

PDM

Bellringers - Badsey Church

New bellringers are always welcome. Please contact Mr Clint Evans, 15 St James' Close, or Mr John Bolton, 37 Badsey Fields Lane, Tel. 830246
Learners and beginners especially so.

MOTHERS UNION

Mrs Jan Wood of the Worcester Marriage Guidance Council was our speaker on the 24th November and gave a most interesting insight into the work of the Council. She described the training given to Counsellors and the type of relationships in which they endeavoured to help. She said couples were able to meet in an informal atmosphere, a sitting room rather than an office. Although present at meetings a Counsellor was there to listen and in no way intrude. Total confidentiality was ensured. Listening to Mrs Wood we were able to appreciate how very unobtrusive the help offered was and how counselling could help people make more satisfactory relationships in the future. As far as cost is concerned Counsellors usually discuss this with their clients as contributions form a necessary part of M.G. service. The same service is available to everybody whether or not they can afford to pay. A very good discussion followed.

Yet another Christmas Symposium has come and gone. We spent a pleasant afternoon on December 8th when we sang carols and listened to readings. These included "Susan's Christmas Stocking" by Alison Uttley, "Footprints", author unknown, "The Innkeeper" by Antonia Ridge, two extracts from "God so Loved the World" by Elizabeth Gouge and "Christmas" by John Betjeman. The readers were Mrs E. Seamen, Mrs J. Reeves, Miss M. Vaudin, Mrs J. Ives, Mrs C. Davies and Miss R. Davies. A group of our members made a small choir and, accompanied on the organ by Mrs D. Moore, sang "O Holy Night" which was so much enjoyed it received a spontaneous round of applause. Our grateful thanks to Mr R. Kyte for so kindly playing the organ for the other carols, to our readers, Mrs Moore and the choir, and to the Committee who provided the very enjoyable Christmas tea. The afternoon was a good beginning to the Christmas festivities.

For Your Diaries

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Wed. 6th Jan. | 10.00 am | Corporate Communion |
| Tues. 12th Jan. | 2.30 pm | 'On the Bench' Mrs D. Sainsbury |
| Tues. 26th Jan. | 7.30 pm | Fancy Dress Party at The Wheatsheaf
Prizes, raffle and entertainment |

Don't forget Corporate Communion on the 6th.

A very happy New Year to all members and friends,
Pat Mitchell

For our December meeting the President and Committee arrived early to prepare the room and refreshments. As members arrived the Christmas tree was quickly surrounded by presents for the residents of Durcott Lodge. Each member was presented with a booklet on the history of Badsey W.I. This booklet had been researched and produced by the President with help and contributions from members, former members, and members' relatives, and covers the sixty years from the formation of Badsey W.I. in 1927 to its Diamond Jubilee Year in 1987.

Members and visitors were welcomed by Mrs Yvonne Haynes, President who said we had increased our membership over the past year by twelve. Tickets are now available for Wembley Ice Show and Orpheus and the Underworld, and a skittles evening has been arranged for Friday, 22nd January, at Badsey Cricket Club. Names were taken for the Train Outing to Salisbury on 24th May. Birthday posies were distributed, and we extended our very best wishes to one of our members on her forthcoming 80th Birthday.

Mrs Haynes introduced the Buckle Street Handbell Ringers who entertained us superbly with music from the Ash Grove to the Can Can, Christmas Carols and Old-Tyme songs. A thoroughly enjoyable performance. The Bellringers joined us for refreshment time which included a glass of wine anonymously donated for the festive evening.

Our table lamp entry for the Treasures and Pleasures exhibition was raffled and won by Mrs Hilda Stewart. The monthly raffle was won by Mrs Brenda Osbourne. The competition for a Christmas decoration was won by Mrs Sheila Knight, with Mrs Brenda Osbourne second and Mrs Wyn Skitt third.

The evening was rounded off by Carols by Candlelight.

There will NOT be a meeting during January. The next meeting - on 10th February - will have Mr D. Hartwell-Smith as the speaker on Unusual Methods of Healing - Aromotherapy. Social Time - What's my Line. Competition - Bulbs.

G. Hughes

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The Christmas party got off to a good start with entertainment by Mr Trevor Jones and the Avonside Hospital Choir. Their programme, was, as usual, appropriate and imaginative. Members joined in the singing. The Brownies (led by Brown Owl and Tawny Owl) sang and danced for us. They then presented each member with a decorated candle. The Guides with their leader, Mrs Bolland, gave everyone a beautifully made Christmas card. The participation of the young people and their dedicated leaders ensured the success of the party.

The prizes for the raffle once again were donated by one of our local supermarkets. The Christmas cake was made and given by a friend of the club and the mince pies were made by the committee and members. Our grateful thanks to all these people for their help and kindness.

The next meeting is on January 6th when Mr & Mrs Colebourne will be showing us slides. The title of this programme is "God's Garden".

Once again our kindest thoughts are sent to all club invalids.

My best wishes to all members and friends for a happy New Year.

Mary Callaghan

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The monthly meeting was held at Legion Headquarters. The Chairman, Mrs Reeves, read the monthly letter about the Rest Homes for members who need to convalesce after illness.

Mrs Newbury had attended the Conference at Guild Hall Worcester. She gave an interesting report.

Mrs Taylor, one of our members, gave us a very interesting demonstration with a spinning wheel, spinning wool from a fleece and showed us sweaters she had made with the wool.

Mrs Lord won the draw, a woollen hat made by Mrs Taylor.

The competition for this month was a verse about "Poppies". This was won by Mrs Brown.

M. Morcombe

BADSEY CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

The Dance held at the Recreation Club on 27th November was another very enjoyable occasion, and although not quite so well supported as previous Dances, raised another £45 for the appeal.

The following day our annual Christmas Bingo attracted a large crowd to the Remembrance Hall and a profit of about £240 resulted. We are most grateful to all those who donated prizes for the Bingo.

Church of England Children's Society

I have just received a letter from the Children's Society which reads as follows:

"We are most grateful to you for the sum of £262.46 which you have sent us as the result of your recent box collection.

We would appreciate it if you would convey our sincere thanks to all boxholders.

The Society now helps over 10,000 children annually and we should be unable to maintain and develop our caring work without the kindness of

our boxholders and friends.

Thank you once again for all your help, prayers and support."

Yours sincerely,

Freda Roberts

Many thanks for such a good effort.

B. Owen

CHURCH DONATION

Once again the members of Wickhamford P.C.C. express their grateful thanks to Miss Holland for a very generous donation of £87.00 from the sale of Christmas Cards and gifts.

Report of Wickhamford P.C.C. meeting - November 25th

There was a long agenda covering several important items needing positive decisions.

Following a recommendation in the Architect's quinquennial report that there was evidence of a serious deterioration in the condition of the Church roof, the Vicar had established from Church records that the whole roof had been re-slatted, to a very high standard, in 1954. Furthermore the Architect at the time had declared his complete satisfaction with the quality of workmanship by Mr Savage, the contractor. Apart from the very few slates that have slipped and been replaced regularly over the intervening years, there really should not be any deterioration to the degree indicated. It was agreed that a meeting with the Architect to clarify the position, should be arranged in the near future.

Church fires have become more prevalent in recent years necessitating maximum precaution and insurance cover. A report from the Fire Officer recommended the extinguishers required which were best suited to the church. It was also decided to review the insurance cover, even though the policy is index linked.

A Church Urban Fund is to be launched in April by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. This special appeal has been backed by the Bishop of Worcester who recommends all parishes to contribute £100 minimum to establish the fund - hoped to raise £18 million. It was felt that the urban areas supported our Flower Festivals and that we should give this fund our full support donating £100 as suggested. In view of this, the Donations to Charities will remain as last year with perhaps an increase next year.

A wrought iron Baptismal candle stand is to be made by Mr David Caswell in memory of Miss Alice Cox and stand near the font at the back of the church.

Recent thefts from local churches had highlighted the threat posed by professional thieves. Although keeping a church locked prevents the genuine visitor enjoying the beauty of the church, this has to be weighed against the need to protect the church against such risks. Regrettably therefore it was decided that the church will normally be kept locked during winter months.

A request that the organ might be made available for playing by other than our regular organists was reluctantly declined.

The Vicar asked that because of his increasing commitments in the parishes, he be kept informed of those who would appreciate a visit, either at home or when in hospital. Names of those wishing to be included in the public intercessions offered in church may be given to the Vicar at any time.

For the purposes of the new Patronage Measure it was confirmed that the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, were the patrons of the parish.

Wychavon District Council had notified the P.C.C. that the church had been re-classified from a Grade A to a Grade 1 listed building, indicating that it is of exceptional interest. Hear! Hear!

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The village hall looked resplendent with holly, balloons and Christmas decorations arranged by committee members for the Wickhamford Gardening Club's December meeting.

Before the evening's entertainment commenced Mrs Astley, the club's President, made a presentation to Mr Albert Wardle who has retired from Chairmanship of the club and thanked him for his years of valued service. Mrs Astley presented the silver rose bowl to Mr Tayler for the most points gained over the year in the monthly club competition.

Superb entertainment was provided by the Blockley Ladies Choir with their pianist and young musicians group. The choir was formed only a short time ago and they are sure to be in demand in the future giving such an excellent performance. A reading of Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' reminded us nostalgically of Christmas in 'the old days' and we all joined in singing with gusto the Christmas carols, helped along no doubt by the sherry and mince pies!

A bumper selection of raffle prizes brought to a very happy finale the club's 1987 programme and we meet again on Wednesday 2nd March 1988 at the new time of 7.30 p.m.

B. Peberdy

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At the first meeting in the New Year which is Wednesday 6th January 1988, we have Mr Dixon from Pershore, coming to give us a talk on Home Winemaking. We are getting fresh speakers each month which we hope will encourage old members to re-join the club.

WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

Just to remind you that the coach for the outing to Birmingham Pantomime on Wednesday 13th January 1988 will leave the Sandys Arms at 1 p.m. prompt. Will all members going on the trip please let us have their £2 as soon as possible.

The Christmas Party will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday 30th January. Will you please give your names in to the Post Office or Mrs Sutton, if you wish to come.

WICKHAMFORD W.I.

The new President Mrs Muriel Harrison welcomed members to the Annual Members Night. The business was swiftly dealt with and the evening handed over to Mrs Anne Soule, who introduced Mrs Lemont from Broadway who told us about her absorbing hobby of competitions, the prizes she had won and the friendships that she had made with other enthusiasts. A cookery quiz followed which was won by Mrs Pat Bell. Refreshments were served, and then candles were lit for our now traditional carol singing during which sherry and mince pies were enjoyed, this put us in fine voice ready for our carol singing on Monday 21st December. The President closed the evening and wished everyone a Very Happy Christmas. New members are always welcome, notices of W.I. meetings are displayed on the village notice boards.

S. Bearcroft

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