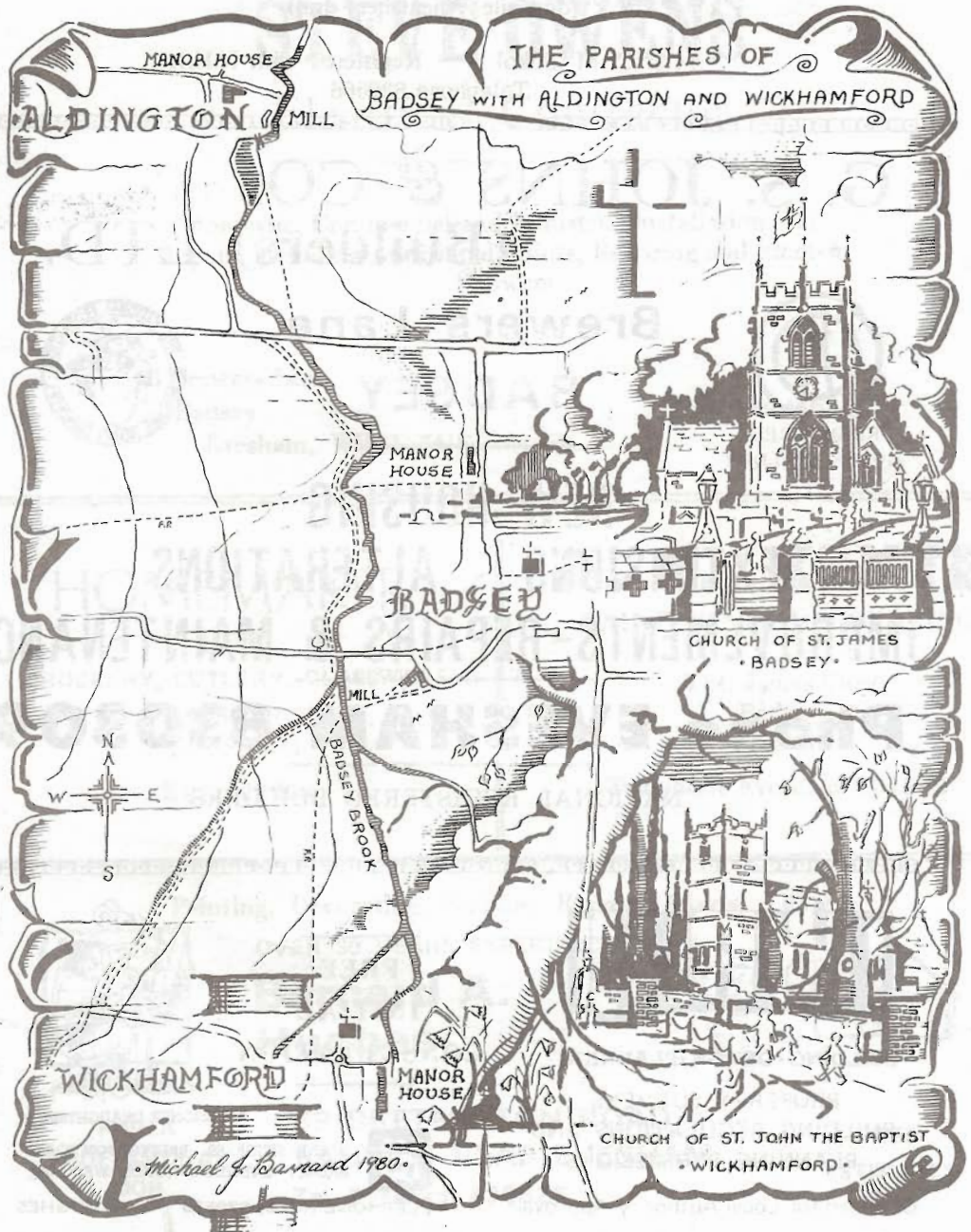


# PARISH REVIEW

16p

SEPTEMBER 1988



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Wickhamford

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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

September 1988

My dear Friends,

In June I wrote about an important debate taking place in Parliament. It concerned the place of religious education and more specifically Christian education in the new school curriculum. An amendment put forward by Baroness Cox to the Government legislation sought to specify that 'predominantly Christian' teaching is what is to be understood when the Bill refers to 'religious education'. In the House of Lords this amendment was subsequently reworded to 'broadly Christian' (rather than predominantly) and in this form was accepted later by the House of Commons without a vote, in spite of some strong opposition that would have removed all reference to 'Christian' whatsoever.

From the Christian point of view it might be thought that this change from 'predominantly' to 'broadly' was a watering down of the legislation to make it more vague, more general and thereby more acceptable, but in a multi racial, multi cultural, multi religious society such as ours has become, an intolerant Christianity could do more harm than good. For Christianity has to do with love, the love of God, the love of Jesus Christ, the love of ones neighbour. It has to do with the nature of love itself, and one requirement of love is that it must be free. Free to choose. If our love for God, for Jesus Christ, for our neighbour is put under any kind of threat, or coercion, fear or duress, than that love can never be perfect. Furthermore those who exert such pressure or duress, however well intentioned they may be, are being less than true to the love they claim to represent. In the long term they can do more harm than good to the faith they would have others believe. It would be most unwise for a teacher in any school to be forced to teach christian beliefs if they them-



selves were a member of another faith or of no faith at all. With the sharpness of childrens' perception they would soon see through such hypocrisy. It would be quite wrong for a teacher's professional career to be impaired because they did not profess the Christian faith. Yet on the other hand it must be said that in a country which is still predominantly christian no teacher should be allowed to influence children in ways which are specifically un-Christian especially in moral or spiritual behaviour. Such are some of the complex issues at stake in the consideration of religious education in our schools today.

But what of our Christianity? How would we define our lives? How would we define the life of our Church? As predominantly Christian or just broadly Christian?

A few weeks ago I heard of a Muslim visitor to this country who arrived at London Airport from Malaysia. Before leaving the airport he insisted on knowing the five times during the day when Muslims in this country went to prayer. Such was the devotion to his faith. Or again, the Spanish business man who when visiting this country always insists on staying at the same hotel in Birmingham so that he can attend Mass every day before going to work.

However tolerant and understanding we may need to be of those of other faiths or of no faith at all, surely our own lives and that of the church should be more than just broadly Christian or even predominantly Christian. It should be positively Christian if others would see something of the Master we profess to love and serve.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,  
Peter Mitchell

### CHURCH SERVICES - SEPTEMBER

#### St. James' Badsey

4th 15 after Pentecost	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
8th The Bessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am Holy Communion	
11th 16 after Pentecost	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
18th 17 after Pentecost	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
25th 18 after Pentecost	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
29th St Michael and All Angels	9.00 am Holy Communion	
October		
2nd Harvest Festival & Pentecost 19	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong

9th 20 after Pentecost 8.00 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Evensong

Mid Week Communions: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th September, 5th & 12th  
October.

St John the Baptist, Wickhamford

4th 15 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist
11th 16 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist
18th Harvest Festival and 17 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist
25th 18 after Pentecost October	11.00 am Childrens' and Family Service
2nd 19 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist
9th 20 after Pentecost	9.30 am The Eucharist

Lectionary

4th 15 after Pentecost	1 Timothy 2 1-7 Matthew 14 1-12	Isaiah 45 1-13 Matthew 22 1-33
11th 16 after Pentecost	1 John 4 15-end Luke 16 19-end	Lev 19 1-4, 9-18 Luke 10 25-37
18th 17 after Pentecost St James' Badsey Harvest Festival St John the Baptist Wickhamford	Galatians 2.15-3.9 Luke 7 1-10 Galatians 6 6-10 John 4 31-38	Joshua 14 6-14 Acts 19 21-end
25th 18 after Pentecost October	1 Peter 4.7-11 Matthew 25 14-30	Haggai 1 Matthew 5 13-26
2nd Harvest Festival & Pentecost 19 St James' Badsey Pentecost 19 St John the Baptist Wickhamford	1 Tim 6 6-10 John 6 27-35 Romans 5 1-11 Luke 19 1-10	Deut 26 1-11 Luke 12 13-34
9th 20 after Pentecost	1 Cor 9 19-end Matthew 7 13-27	Daniel 3 Hebrews 11.32-12.2

Sunday Themes

15 after Pentecost	Those in Authority
16 after Pentecost	The Neighbour

17 after Pentecost	The Proof of Faith
18 after Pentecost	The Offering of Life
19 after Pentecost	The Life of Faith
20 after Pentecost	Endurance

### PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these"

Badsey

31st July Kayleigh Ann Emms, daughter of Graham and Jackqueline Emms of 32 Synehurst, Badsey.

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

23 July Clive Derek Jones and Ingrid Olivia Carmichael

6 August Jeremy Charles Dodsworth and Carie Helen Bolton

Service of Prayer and Dedication of Marriage

16 July Martin Eric Burford and Janet Ann Grove

Funerals Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies"

Badsey

July 25 John Cull of Bowers Hill and 21 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford, aged 66 years (at Badsey)

August 8 Patrick Dilmott de la Cour Sladden aged 80 years (at Worcester and Badsey)

Wickhamford

August 10 Justin Neil Gilks of 25 Drysdale Close, Wickhamford, aged 19 years (interment of ashes)

### DONATIONS

Badsey

To the Fabric Fund, in memory of Ernest and Nancy Lardner  
- £500, from Mr. W.E. Lardner of Ontario, Canada.



## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

2nd September	Social Committee - 7 School Lane - 7.15 pm
8th September	Badsey PCC
10th September	Sponsored Cycle Ride visiting both Churches
14th September	Wickhamford PCC
21st September	Pastoral Committee - The Vicarage - 2.30 pm Wickhamford Harvest Supper
28th September	Friends of Worcester Cathedral Fund Raising Day 1 Binyon Close, Badsey 10 am - 12 noon, 2.30 - 5 pm Bring and Buy, Coffee, Tea and Biscuits
6th October	Evesham Deanery Synod
7th October	Badsey Harvest Supper
10th October	Evesham Deanery Pastoral Committee - 7.30 pm Broadway Vicarage

October Parish Review - latest date for copy Wednesday, September 14th.

### Decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest

The decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest will begin at 9.30 am on Saturday, 1st October. Offers of help, gifts of fruit, flowers and produce will be most welcome.

### Distribution of Harvest Produce - Badsey with Aldington

Distribution of the Harvest Produce to the sick, elderly and housebound will take place on Monday, 3rd October beginning at 9.30 am. All offers of help will be welcome especially those with cars. Names and addresses of those who would welcome a gift from the Harvest may be given to Mrs Marjorie Perkins, the Vicarage, or any member of the PCC beforehand.

## MOTHERS UNION

The evening was dry and bright for our garden meeting on 26th July, which was another happy occasion. We had three African and five Diocesan visitors besides a full complement of members present. Small gifts were given to our guests and, as is our custom, we each exchanged gifts with our prayer partner. This, as always, was cause for much amusement - everyone dodging around delivering parcels as their names were called. Gifts were presented to the Treasurer and Enrolling Member as both relinquish their appointments this month. Three Mothers Union shopping bags (greatly prized by African members) packed with wool, cottons, needles, materials etc. collected in the Deanery, were given to the African ladies, who at present have great difficulty in obtaining such

items. There followed a very enjoyable buffet with wine. The annual garden meeting is always a very pleasant event and this particular one seemed even more so. Our grateful thanks to Mr & Mrs Betteridge for the use of their home and garden yet again and for the wine they so kindly provided.

#### For Your Diaries

Wed. 7th Sept.	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Sat. 10th Sept.	2.30 pm)	Wave of Prayer in Church
	-3.00 pm)	
Tues. 13th Sept.	2.30 pm	'St. James' Talk by the Vicar
Tues. 27th Sept.	7.30 pm	Talk on the work of the Samaritans Pat Mitchell

#### BADSEY W.I.

On Wednesday 10th August we held our first August meeting as this now replaces our January meeting which over many years has had to be cancelled due to bad weather. It was a very enjoyable evening on which we welcomed several visitors two of whom were from Australia. They had come along for the evening with our speaker, Mrs Hand, who gave us a wonderful Floral Art display which she called the 'Good Earth'. She was thanked on behalf of us all by Mrs Daphne Bell. During the refreshments which were served by Mrs J. Hesketh, Mrs P. Mitchell, Mrs K. Harrison and Mrs G. Hughes, members were issued with a raffle ticket to be drawn for the beautiful floral decorations. Needless to say there were some very pleased members at the end of the evening.

Mrs Sheila Knight had a stall of bric-a-brac etc. during the evening to raise funds for the W.I. and had a very successful evening.

Members had thoroughly enjoyed another trip to the Malvern Festival Theatre to see "No Sex Please We're British" and are now looking forward to another visit soon.

The monthly raffle was won by Mrs C. Print and the competition was won by Mrs Hall, 2nd Mrs Corbett, 3rd Mrs Haynes.

Next months speaker is Mr Tyler - subject 'Tapestry'.

B. Bennett

#### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

At the July meeting the Chairman, Mrs J. Reeves, welcomed another new member, Mrs Gorin, and hoped she would enjoy our meetings. Members voted on where to send our "Purse" money this year and it was decided on Widows Pensions, Headquarters and Rest Homes. Joanne Hodgkins read her report from the Conference which was very



good. The competition was a coloured piece of glass, won by Mrs Clements and the draw was won by Mrs Brown.

Members went to Weston-super-Mare on August 10th and many took children, the weather was unsettled but everyone enjoyed themselves.

M. Morcombe

### SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The August meeting was well attended when we were entertained by Mr Trevor Jones and the Avonside Hospital Choir. They were, as usual, excellent and members joined in the singing of many old favourites.

The raffle for the plant container was won by Mrs P. Knight.

There will be no Wednesday meeting next month, but the Mystery Tour is on THURSDAY 8th September. The coach will pick up in Willersey Road (first stop) at 5.30 pm prompt. Other picking up places are the Lych Gate and the British Legion Club.

The October meeting will be our annual Harvest Festival Service. Please bring your goods and produce on the afternoon. These will be auctioned after the service. Later in October there will be the Open Day, date to be announced.

At the time of writing, Mrs Annie Harwood is due to go back to hospital for further examination of her leg. I know you all join me in wishing her well.

Mary Callaghan

### Sponsored Bicycle Ride for The Churches and Chapels of Worcestershire and Dudley

On Saturday 10th September there will be a sponsored bike ride to raise money for the Cathedral Appeal and the Church Urban Appeal.

There are many churches taking part and cyclists will be calling at St James Church among many others in the area. Our church will be open from 10.0 till 6.00 to welcome these cyclists and I should be grateful for volunteers to make sure the whole time is manned.

I am compiling a rota, please contact me if you can help.

J. Betteridge, Tel: 831343

### FRIENDS OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

#### FUND RAISING DAY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28th

10.00 am - 12 noon

2.30 pm - 5.00 pm

at 1 Binyon Close, Badsey.

Bring & Buy Stall Coffee, Tea & Biscuits.



## Badsey with Aldington Parish Council

The Council have asked if they may occasionally insert news of parish interest in the Review. To start the ball rolling a list of the present Parish Councillors is included herewith.

Badsey Ward (9 members)

G. A. Aldrich, 18A High Street, Badsey. C. J. Beddis, "Easton", Birmingham Road, Blackminster, Badsey. D. W. Hartwell, 35 Willersey Road, Badsey. C. J. Helm (Vice Chairman) 22 Seward Road, Badsey. A. J. Hemming, 6 Manor Close, Badsey. D. E. John, 4 Allesbrook Gardens, Badsey. P. M. Smith, Lonsdale House, 19 Bretforton Road, Badsey. Mrs W. Smith, Wickliffe House, 66 Bretforton Road, Badsey. E. T. Warne, 1 Old Post Office Lane, Badsey.

Blackminster Ward (1 member)

A. J. Canning, Rose Cottage, Blackminster, Badsey.

Bowers Hill Ward (1 member)

Mrs E. Bent, Bowers Hill Farm, Bowers Hill, Badsey.

Parish of Aldington (2 members)

Mrs B. Burton (Chairman) 3 Manor Gardens, Aldington. N. G. D. Bury, Half Acre, Main Street, Aldington.

### FOR SALE

The Ferguson Unit Audio advertised in the August issue of the Review is still available. Offers to the Vicarage please.

## Mothers' Union Young Peoples Walk

As part of the Mothers' Union Evesham Deanery Spotlight activities, a Young Peoples Walk was held on Saturday, July 16th from Evesham to Norton along the river bank. It was followed by a short service and refreshments in Norton church. Several young people went from Badsey church. This is a description as written afterwards by one of those who took part, Laura Ayshford. It was thought many would enjoy reading it.

"About half past one everyone who were going on the walk were at Mrs Bells house. Then we set off to the Bell Tower in Evesham. We met party's from Pershore and places like that. My friend and I went to have a look in All Saints Church. It was so big and beautiful and the stained glass windows were exquisite. Soon we were all stood under the Bell Tower whilst a vicar from Norton read us a prayer. Soon we were all packed and ready for our four mile walk. We went up by the lock keepers house and started our walk from there. After my friend kicking me and my jeans getting really messy we walked under a bridge. Then we came to our second bog and this was much bigger than the first one and so a lady

carried me across and a fisherman carried Sarah across but his big waders triped him and he fell down. We had to cope with steep hills, slimey mud and electric fences. We coped with these things but had to disconnect the electric fences but once we had all walked through we had to connect them back up again. After about an hour Mrs Bell sent us all a matchmaker each with Emma. Soon the rain poured down and hoods and umbrellas went up. We had about 2 miles to go and our shoes were filling up with water and everyone wanted to wring them out. The rain kept pouring down and soon we came to a lot of trees where we could shelter and wait for the Badsey people who were slacking, (apart from Sarah and I who were at the front) we waited for about five minutes and finally they showed up so, we started up again and we came to some steps which we had to go up but, to our dismay we saw a lot of hills which we had to go along. We had taken about ten minutes when we came to a style and then it took us ten more minutes to get to another style and then the field narrowed and we (at last) were facing the little chef. The rain was still pouring down and in about 4 minutes we got to the church where the Norton vicar said we could take our shoes and socks off. We left our socks and shoes in the porch and towels were handed out to dry our hair. I unfortunately had to take my jeans off because they were so wet but my mum said to put a long jumper on before we set off. When we were mostly all dry we had a small service which contained three hymns a reading and a prayer. We then were showed the food which we were allowed to eat. Soon it was time to go and I went with Sarah, Rachel, Mrs Seaman, and the Vicar in his car. We walked out of the church in bare feet to the car. The Vicar very kindly stopped at the service station and brought us a cornetto and Mrs Seaman a bar of chocolate. Again we plodded out of the service station in bare feet. Next we went through the car wash and Rachel left her window slightly open. It was a great, great day and if you mist it you mist a load of fun".

by Laura Ayshford  
age 11

### WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 7th September at 2.30 pm, when we will be joined by the two Miss Lewis's from Broadway who are going to give us a slide show on Travel - Gardens and local places of interest.

### WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

An outing to Croft Castle and Berrington Hall, near Leominster, has been arranged for Wednesday 21st September. Names in to Mrs Sutton or the Post Office please.

Coach will leave the Sandys Arms at 1 pm.



## WICKHAMFORD W.I.

Mrs Muriel Harrison welcomed members and visitors to a very full July meeting. The Scanner Appeal Market had made £366 and members agreed to make this up to £400 from the proceeds of the catering undertaken at The Vale of Evesham Show in June. There was a very full business agenda and items from the County Newsletter were noted. The date for the group meeting in October was announced and also a group visit to Stanway House.

Mrs Stella Wallis from Inkberrow demonstrated and talked about 'Summer Flowers'. Three very different arrangements were completed and kindly donated to the raffle where they were won by Jane Bailey, Diane Maden and Josie Gunn. A very fascinating and helpful evening to everyone whether they were experienced or amateur flower arrangers, a vote of thanks was given by Elaine Litterick. The competition for 'Who's Baby?' was won by Pam Corbett, 21 members brought photographs for the competition and the 'Flower of the month' was won by Betty Bowles. There will be no meeting in August, the September meeting will welcome Mrs M. Milner who will talk about 'Colour Coding'.

S. Bearcroft.

## WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

An enjoyable talk, unconnected with gardening but with another type of outdoor pursuit, their experience of journeys along the network of canals throughout England and Wales, was given by Mr & Mrs E. Butcher and illustrated by film at Wickhamford Gardening Club's August meeting.

The canals and aqueducts are a monument to the early builders when canals were the transport arteries of the country, but they gradually fell into disuse for commercial carrying. Fortunately in time their leisure potential was realised and many stretches cleared after years of neglect for the pleasure of those wishing to travel on tranquil waterways. The Avon countryside bounded by meadows with its Cathedrals and Church Spires rising in the near distance provides a peaceful perspective to that normally experienced travelling by road.

The club competition of five cut herbs was won by Mrs Stacey, 2nd Mrs Fairbrother, 3rd Mrs Stone.

On the 21st September the club will be visiting the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham by coach and there are a few seats still available.

Wednesday 7th September is the Annual Show and the classes are open to non-members as well as members and we look forward to a well attended show.

B. Peberdy.

## LIFE IN POPLAR

Earlier in this Parish Review an article appears written by Laura Ayshford aged 11. It is a charming picture of life for a child in the Vale of Evesham. By way of contrast, the following article is by Miss Sue Chilver, a teacher in a Primary School in Poplar, London, one of the Inner City Urban Areas. It presents a very different picture and raises questions (or should raise questions) in all our consciences. Miss Chilver is the daughter of Mrs Pat Chilver who for many years was the leader of our Brownie pack and the niece of Miss Jean Dyke. In a further Parish Review it is hoped to include an article (or articles) by the Revd. David Vince, who is also well known in both parishes and is at present a parish priest at All Hallows by the Tower, Tower Hamlets, which adjoins Poplar.

PDM.

“In one sense all children are vulnerable and likely to experience unhappiness and stress. In addition, certain groups are made doubly vulnerable because of detrimental personal, family or social circumstances. The urban environment is hostile to the young.”

Mia Keller Pringle - “The Needs of Children”.

I was born in Evesham, brought up there, studied in Reading, and always considered myself to be a ‘country person’ at heart. I pictured a rosy future spent teaching clean, well fed, pink cheeked children in a cosy little Primary school somewhere in the Cotswolds! Instead on leaving College I took a job at a large Primary school in Poplar, East London where four lanes of traffic roar continuously past, council flats tower up all around and small, litter strewn patches of green are few and far between. Yet the four years I have spent there have been without doubt the most interesting, challenging and rewarding of my life.

The experience has not only deepened my awareness of the very real inequalities and injustices of Great Britain in the 1980’s but has also strengthened my vision of God’s love for the needy and oppressed and the responsibility we all have to get involved for - ‘is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen, to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Is. 58: 6 and 7.



But what effects, if any, do the rather abstract sounding factors such as unemployment, bad housing, single parenthood and racism have on the children I teach? Obviously every child has a different story to tell, some happy, some real horror stories. The sort of things I frequently have to deal with are the following:-

The child who comes to school late everyday, or hardly at all.

The child who comes to school in torn, dirty clothes, with no warm coat or proper shoes.

The aggressive, anti-social child.

The small, tired, child who arrives without breakfast and for whom school dinner is the only nourishing meal of the day.

The Asian child who has stones thrown at him on the way to school.

The boisterous five year old who lives in a tiny flat with nowhere to let off steam.

Yet amidst all this there have been so many unexpected bonuses:-  
The toughness, honesty, and brilliant sense of humour of some of the East Enders.

The brightness, enthusiasm and astonishing intelligence of some of the children, standing out in sharp contrast to their depressing, dreary surroundings.

The high level of care and commitment shown by the staff.

The richness which children from other countries and cultures can contribute to a school, In my class there are children from Vietnam, Turkey, Bangladesh, Ireland, Spain, Pakistan and Jamaica.

All this has been underpinned until now by first class funding, resourcing and support from I.L.E.A., but I.L.E.A. is now being dismantled and we are already feeling the pinch.

Since Easter the children have not had milk.

Many children are no longer entitled to free lunches.

Money for resources and extra staff has been cut drastically.

Class sizes are increasing.

We now have to cram children into every spare inch of space.

Essential support services (psychological, welfare, etc) are vanishing.

As I write, I am about to take two terms leave to travel, and I really wonder what to expect when I return, and yet:

“A willingness to devote adequate resources to the care of children is the hallmark of a civilised society as well as an investment in our future.”

Mia Kellmer Pringle - “The Needs of Children”.

Sue Chilver.

\*I.L.E.A. - Inner London Education Authority.