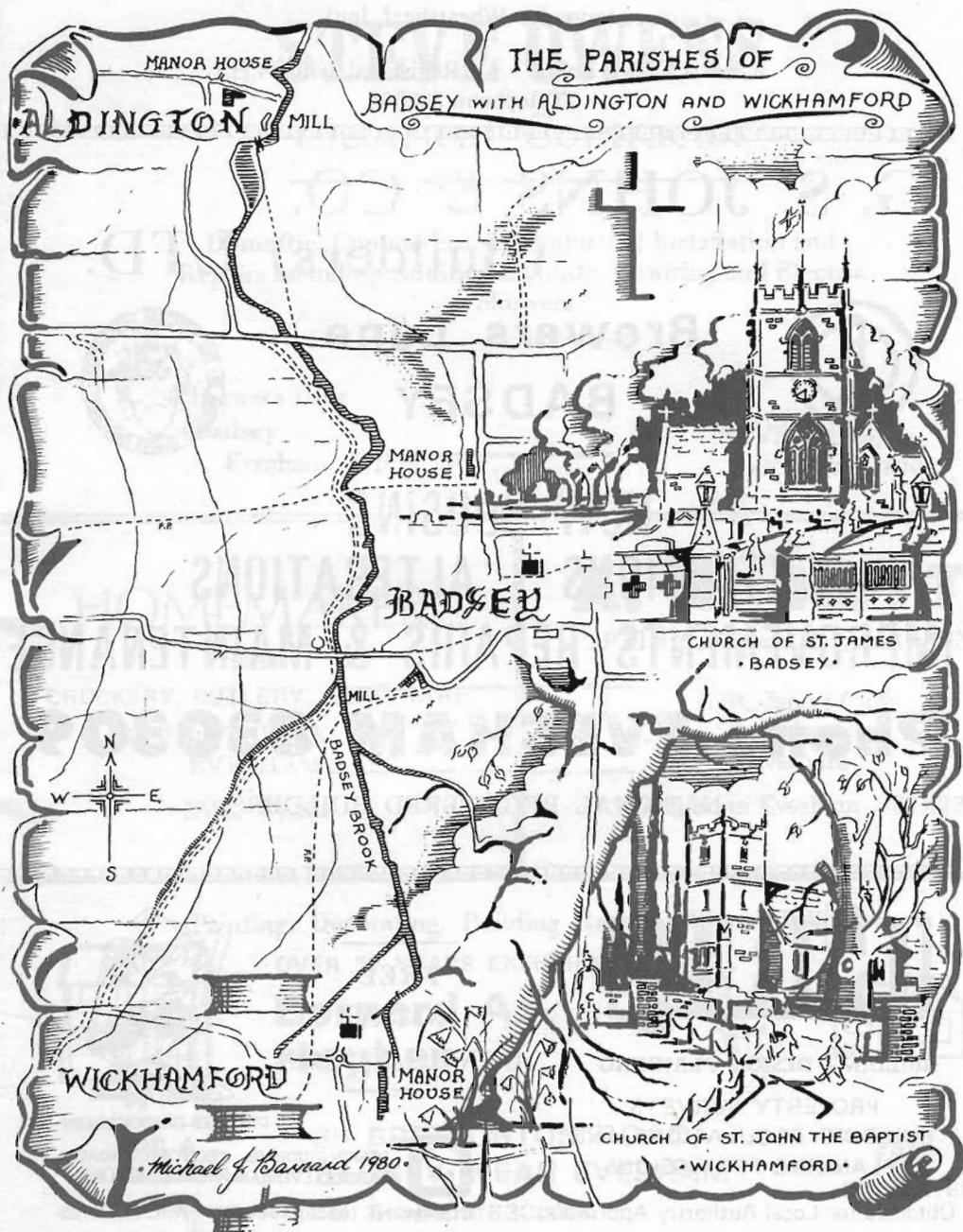


PARISH REVIEW

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

December 1988

My dear Friends,

Once again, on Christmas Day, Christian people throughout the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The one who came from God to light our way to God. The one who came to be the Light of the World. The Gospel tradition tells us that Jesus was born of lowly parents in the stable in Bethlehem and laid in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn. A scene which will be depicted on countless thousands of Christmas Cards and in many other ways this Christmas season.

This happened almost 2000 years ago. We might ask ourselves if Jesus were to be born today, in this day and age where would it be. Would it still be in Bethlehem of Judea among his own people in what has become a part of the occupied West Bank area of the old country of Palestine, an area of occupation by Israel of her Palestinian neighbours? Or somewhere very different yet in other ways similar. In one of the Urban Priority areas of this country, amidst much squalor and deprivation. Or perhaps in a Black African Township where people suffer much because of their culture, race and colour. Or in one of the world's many refugee camps, in Ethiopia, the Sudan or Kampuchea. Or in the squalid slums to be found in parts of Central and Southern America. Is this where we would have to journey with the shepherds and the wise men if we were to visit the infant Jesus and the Holy Family this Christmastime? Even in our churches, and certainly outside them it is very easy to clothe the Christmas Story with the beauty and loveliness, joy and merrymaking of Christmas whilst losing sight of the harsher realities which lie just below the surface. It is very easy

to cloak our celebration of Christmas with sentimentality and pleasure whilst losing sight of its true message and meaning.

The word 'hypocrite' comes from a Greek word meaning simply 'a mask' one who wears a mask. In ancient times, Greek actors wore a mask to depict the person or character being portrayed. Many of us have seen the television commercial in which a series of models walk towards the camera holding a mask of a famous person in front of their face. For a moment they appear to be that person until we realise it is only a mask. One model actually carries two masks and removes the first only to reveal the second.

Are we in danger of becoming hypocrites at Christmastime? Someone who wears a mask. Someone who appears to be celebrating the birth of Jesus yet who in their heart remains someone else? A person for whom the needs of the poor the lowly and the oppressed are not things about which they wish to be reminded lest they should spoil their merrymaking and enjoyment.

Jesus still comes at Christmas. He comes to us wherever we are and whoever we are. He comes as the infant babe born in the humility of the stable in Bethlehem. He comes as our Lord and Master, whose words point the way to the reality of Christmas and the true meaning of love. The one who says, "Forasmuch as you do it (or do not do it) to the least of these my little ones, you do it (or do not do it) unto Me" and who warns us against the dangers of self-deception when he says, "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Christ came to fill our hearts with the joy and the glory of His Love. Let his love shine ever more brightly and effectively in our hearts this coming Christmastide. That in our giving, our sharing, our caring and our loving, we may know his presence with us always.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER

St. James', Badsey

4th 2 in Advent	11.00 am Christingle Service	6.30 pm Evensong
11th 3 in Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
18th 4 in Advent	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Carol Service
24th Christmas Eve	11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist	
25th Christmas Day	8.00 am Holy Communion	
	11.00 am Childrens' Christmas Morning Service	
	11.45 am Holy Communion	

January 1989

1st Sunday after Christmas	11.00 am Said Eucharist	4.00 pm Said Evensong
6th Epiphany	9.00 am Holy Communion	
8th 1 after Epiphany	8.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion: 7th, 14th and 21st December, 4th and 11th
January 1989 at 10.00 am.

There will be no Mid-Week Communion on Wednesday, 28th December.

St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

4th 2 in Advent	9.30 am The Eucharist	
11th 3 in Advent	9.30 am The Eucharist	
18th 4 in Advent	9.30 am The Eucharist	3.00 pm Carol Service
25th Christmas Day January 1989	9.30 am The Eucharist	
1st Sunday after Christmas	9.30 am The Eucharist	
8th 1 after Epiphany	9.30 am The Eucharist	

Lectionary

4th 2 in Advent	2 Timothy 3.14-4.5	Amos 8 4-12
	John 5 36b-end	Luke 4 14-30
11th 3 in Advent	1 Cor. 4 1-5	Malachi 3 1-5 and ch 4
	John 1 19-28	Matt 11 2-19
18th 4 in Advent	1 Cor. 1 26-end	Zechariah 2
	Luke 1 26-38a	Rev. 20 11-21,7
24th Christmas Eve	1 John 4 7-14	
	Luke 2 8-20	
25th Christmas Day	Heb.1 1-5	
	John 1 1-14	
January		
1st Sunday after Christmas	Gal. 4 1-7	Isaiah 12
Christmas	John 1 14-18	Philippians 2 1-11
8th 1 after Epiphany	Acts 10 34-38a	Joshua 3
	Matt 3 13-end	Mark 1 1-13

Sunday Themes

2 in Advent	The Word of God in the Old Testament
3 in Advent	The Forerunner
4 in Advent	The Annunciation

1st Sunday after Christmas	The Incarnation
1 after Epiphany	Revelation : The Baptism of Jesus

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"

Oct 23rd Sally Eve Suzanna Shepherd daughter of Clive and Susan Shepherd of "Mileaway" Aldington.

Oct 30th Kayley Michelle Dore daughter of Martin and Gillian Dore of 4 Seward Road, Badsey

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

Badsey

29th Oct Nicholas John Southorn and Janet Elizabeth Sherlock

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

Badsey

2nd Nov Cynthia Cora Hayes of 14 Oak Close, Badsey aged 87 years (at Cheltenham)

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thurs 1 Dec Christmas Coffee Evening - The Vicarage, 7 - 9 pm
in aid of Badsey Church Funds

Tues 6 Dec Guild of St James Badsey Bell Ringers AGM Badsey
Church - 7.30 pm

Thurs 8 Dec Finance and General Purposes Committee Badsey Church
- 8 pm

Fri 6 Jan '89 Social Committee - 7.15 pm 7 School Lane

Wed 11 Jan Wickhamford PCC - 7.30 pm

Thurs 12 Jan Badsey PCC - 7.30 pm

January Parish Review - latest date for copy - Wednesday 14th December

Badsey Church - Christmas Decorations

The decoration of Badsey Church for Christmas will take place on 24th December from 9.30 am onwards. Gifts of flowers, evergreen and offers of help will be very welcome. Donations towards the Christmas Decorations will also be most welcome and may be given to Mrs Marjorie Perkins.

Church Army Collection Boxes

Church Army Collection boxes should be given to the Vicar as soon as possible in the New Year. New Collectors are always welcome and boxes may be obtained from the Vicarage. The work of the Church Army is especially concerned with evangelical outreach to the underprivileged and deprived areas of our society today. It is very challenging and often dangerous work and the need will always be there. Please give your prayers and support.

Parish Review

Subscriptions for the Parish Review are due in January, and once again we would like to thank our subscribers for their support and our distributors for their tireless help. Because of rising costs in 1988, the price of the Review will be increased to 20p a copy from January 1989, or £2.40 per annum but we feel it is still very good value for money. Copy and notices for publication in the Review are most welcome and can nearly always be accepted. Thank you for your support in the past. We hope it will continue in the future.

Badsey Sunday School

It is with pleasure we announce the re-opening of Badsey Sunday School on Sunday, 8th January 1989 under the leadership of Mrs Yvonne Haynes and her helpers. Sunday school will commence at 11.00 am every Sunday during term time (except half term) at School Lane Nursery Group. All children between the ages of 4+ and 9+ will be welcome.

A Sunday School is a very vital and precious part of the life of any church, and in recent months there have been many enquiries about a Sunday School in Badsey. The formative years in a young child's life are among the most receptive for sowing the first seeds of the Christian faith. Don't leave it until it is too late. The opportunity may never come again.

MOTHERS UNION

The meeting on 25th October commenced with prayers taken by Mrs Jean Ives. Mrs Daphne Cook the Diocesan President elect, gave an excellent talk, taken from the Women of Faith series, concerning the woman who humbly touched the hem of Christ's cloak, and was healed of her sickness because of her great faith. Groups were formed and discussed various aspects of the story, and Mrs Cook's comments on the results of the discussions were very lively and enlightening. It was a most inspiring meeting and enjoyed by everyone.

On 8th November the speaker was Mrs. D. English who talked to us about the Evesham branch of 'Mencap' which is affiliated to Royal Mencap. It does excellent work, running a Day centre in Davies Road for 5 - 16 year olds and two houses for adults, one in Four Pools, and one in Port Street. More accomodation and more money is always needed, and more help and facilities for young parents with mentally handicapped children. A donation of £22 was collected.

Mrs Betteridge gave us a glowing description of the visit to Mary Sumner House by four of our members recently, which was a great success, and ended with Evensong in Westminster Abbey where special seats had been reserved for the Diocesan party.

The skittle evening at Church Lench with members of their M.U. was much enjoyed by our team, and a return match is planned for January 1989.

Dates for your Diaries

Wed 7th December	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
Tues 13th December	2.30 pm	Christmas Symposium
		E. Seaman

BADSEY W.I.

Our November meeting was opened by our newly elected President, Mrs Carrie John, who welcomed members and visitors. Our newly elected Secretary, Mrs Esme Seaman, read the minutes and correspondence.

Mrs Yvonne Haynes, retiring President and Mrs Barbara Bennett, retiring Secretary, were presented with gifts in appreciation of their hard work over the last three years.

Members who attended the Group Meeting at Childswickham spent a very enjoyable evening.

Mrs Win Smith's coffee evening and a Sew, Cook and Sell stall has enabled the sum of £100 to be donated to the Worcester Scanner Appeal. On Saturday, 19 November, an Olde-Time Music Hall will be held at Badsey Village Hall, and the proceeds of this will be sent to the Worcester Scanner Appeal.

Badsey Skittles team have this year won the County Skittles and Group Skittles events and have received two trophies and individual medals to commemorate their success. Congratulations girls.

Mrs Pat Goldstraw is the winner of our 1988 Mastermind Competition.

Mrs Haynes gave a report of the Half-Yearly Council Meeting held in Worcester on a very wet and windy evening.

The Worcestershire W.I. Train Outing for 1989 will be to Portsmouth on 23 May, when it is hoped to make a Hovercraft trip to the Isle of Wight.

Birthday posies were distributed.

The speaker for the evening was Miss Simey, who gave an interesting and varied talk on the Celtic Harp with songs and music from Great Britain, Brittany and Spain.

The raffle was won by Mrs J. Sparrow: the Competition, a Musical Box, by 1 Mrs W. Smith and Mrs R. Merrett, 2 Mrs E. Sams, 3 Mrs G. Cowley, and the Social time - Songs from the Shows - by Mrs M. East.

The December meeting will be held on the 14th. The speaker will be Mr E. Ott on Marriage of Wine to Food. Social Time - Carols by Candlelight. Competition - Marzipan Christmas Novelty. Please bring candles and gifts for Durcott Lodge.

G.F. Hughes

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The November meeting was well attended when Mr Colbourne showed us his slides. The theme was Christmas and it was a most enjoyable show. It was especially pleasing that several of our members who have been ill recently were able to be with us for the afternoon.

The next meeting is on December 7th and this will be our Christmas Party. A full afternoon of entertainment is promised ending with a Christmas Tea. We hope to have a very pleasant afternoon.

Our best wishes are sent for a very Happy Christmas to all members and friends, of the club. My personal thanks go to the very hard working members of the committee for their dedication and help in ensuring the continued success of our club.

Mary Callaghan

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The Annual General Meeting was held at Legion Headquarters. Mrs Syril gave her speech as President, and Mrs Reeves thanked all members and committee for all their hard work and support while she was chairman.

Mrs Syril was elected chairman and Mrs Reeves was made President. The committee was voted back en bloc plus two new members. The Secretary, Mrs Westmacote, and Treasurer, Mrs Grinnel, gave their reports and will carry on in these capacities.

Mrs Moore, our speaker from County Committee, gave an interesting talk. Mrs Reeves thanked Mrs Moore and presented her with a pot plant.

The Competition was "Something for Halloween" and was won by Mrs Clements and Mrs Brown. The draw was won by Mrs Cleaver.

M. Morcombe

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The total amount collected in boxes was £253.00. On behalf of the Children's Society I would like to pass on their sincere thanks to all who have so kindly contributed. This money will help to alleviate the hardship and suffering experienced by many children in England and Wales.

I shall be relinquishing the post of secretary and Mrs Jean Ives will be taking over. I would like to thank you for the support you have given me over the past years, and I am sure you will continue to give the same support to Mrs Ives.

B. Owen

BINGO

The former Appeal Committee are holding a Prize Bingo at Badsey Remembrance Hall on Saturday 10th December, commencing at 7.30 pm, in aid of Church Funds. Offers of prizes will be most welcome and may be given to either Mary Dore at 26 Seward Road or Terry Sparrow at 36 Brewers Lane

COLDLINE

Coldline is an emergency phone line, run by the counties leading charities and voluntary agencies throughout Hereford and Worcester. Its aim is to give advice and, wherever possible, practical help, to those who need it during prolonged periods of bleak weather. If you are concerned about an elderly neighbour, have very small children, are disabled or elderly, and worried about bad weather, give us a ring on Worcester 350450 - or look for your local Coldline number - and we will do what we can to help.

W.R.V.S. Age Concern

Badsey with Aldington Parish Council Notice.

With the kind permission of the Postmaster arrangements have been made for a copy of the Parish Council agenda to be made available for public inspection in the Post Office. The Council are also arranging for a supply of local bus timetables to be provided as well.

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Next meeting is on Wednesday 7th December at 2 pm (note change of time, but only for this meeting!) The entertainment for the afternoon, will be by the choir of St Egwins Middle School. All the members who attended the May meeting at which the choir entertained us, will know that we have a treat in store.

Anyone who would like to bring a friend or neighbour as their guest, please do so, as I am sure that they will have a most enjoyable afternoon, and they will be made very welcome. [

The Christmas party is on Saturday 10th December at 5 pm. If you haven't already given your name in, please do so now

WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

At the moment we have enough names to fill the coach to Birmingham Hippodrome to see Russ Abbot in Jack and the Beanstalk on Wednesday 22nd February, but if anyone would like to give their names in as reserves for cancellations, which we sometimes get through illness etc, will you please do so now, as it will be first come, first served.. A charge of £2 will be made for the over 65's and just the price of the theatre ticket i.e. £6.50 for anyone under that age wishing to come.

The Senior Residents Christmas Party has been arranged for Saturday 21st January at 5 pm. Please make a note in your diaries.

WICKHAMFORD W.I.

November is our Annual Meeting Month when following the monthly business, Mrs Betty Padmore V.C.O., was welcomed to the meeting. Reports on the financial position and the activities of the Institute in 1988 were given. We have had a very successful and busy year with a wide range of speakers. Members have represented us at the group and council meetings. We have enjoyed and been very successful in County Competitions, and an entry about our village has been printed in the Worcestershire Village Book. We have elected a committee of 12 and Sue Bearcroft will be President for 1989. Members thanks were given to the retiring committee and to Muriel Harrison as President. A small presentation was made to Adelaide Waldron who will be leaving the village soon and will be greatly missed. Mrs Padmore talked to members about W.I. House in Worcester, which was bought by members subscription more than 40 years ago. It is open to all members. There is always a display of craft items which are continually changing. Betty Bowles gave the vote of thanks, following refreshments a Mini Auction was held, conducted by Pat Bell and Hazel Cole, this is an annual event and raises money for Institute funds.

Sue Bearcroft

Report of Wickhamford P.C.C. meeting - November 16th

A major review of the values placed on the Church and its contents for insurance purposes, has been carried out. These total over £500,000 for which a premium of £539 will give us full cover. This compares with our present premium of £370 for a total value of about £300,000. In view of the increase in building repair costs, it was thought that the premium was not unreasonable and that we should accept the quotation.

It was announced that Miss Evelyn Cox would be playing the organ for us on Sunday November 27th for the last time. The occasion will be marked by a small presentation for her faithful service over several years.

The sale of Christmas Cards by Miss Holland had raised £75 which was very much appreciated. A drawing of the Madonna and Child made by Miss Anna Hulbert in the form of a Christmas card, was presented to the committee. She had previously been responsible for the restoration of the Coat of Arms.

Our Quota for this year will be just under £2000 which will include a contribution of £123 towards the Badsey allocation as agreed previously.

The target of £200,000 for the Diocese towards the Church Urban fund is hoped to be met early next year. Our contribution will be £463 out of our funds rather than making another appeal to parishioners.

The MEB has carried out a full survey of the electrical wiring in the Church and regrettably a complete replacement will be necessary as the majority is lead covered. Estimates are to be obtained and the work put in hand as soon as possible.

A small increase in the cost of the magazine is proposed to allow for the inclusion of more pages on a regular basis.

Mr G. Poulter reported on the visit of the Archdeacon to the Pastoral Committee, and outlined the difficulties that Bengeworth and Hampton were facing coping with the tremendous increase in their populations due to new development. Despite this the number of clergy will have to be reduced in the deanery by one.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club's monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd November. Members and friends were soon assured of the current popularity of both ferns and ivies, during a talk by Ursula Key-Davis of Fibrex Nurseries Ltd., Pebworth. Ferns were apparently great favourites in Victorian times, when people simply collected them from the wild. Nowadays, the same varieties are propagated and nurtured by specialist nurseries.

Ivies (I. Hedera) deserve their high reputation as decorative plants. They make excellent climbers, and are also useful in hanging baskets, or as ground cover between larger plants. The talk was illustrated by a varied selection of both ferns and ivies.

The competition for a vase of dried flowers was won by Mr Tayler, 2nd Mrs Stratton, 3rd Mrs Stone.

Club members are reminded that their Christmas Social will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 7th December, when we are to be entertained by "Willersey Footlights".

J.Y. Halling

Christian Crackers

Parishioner to Vicar's wife: "Did you wake up grumpy this morning?"

Vicar's wife: "No, I though I'd let him sleep on"

Notice on a Church Notice Board

Jumble Sale - next Saturday 3 pm.

Get rid of anything not worth keeping

Don't forget to bring your Husbands.