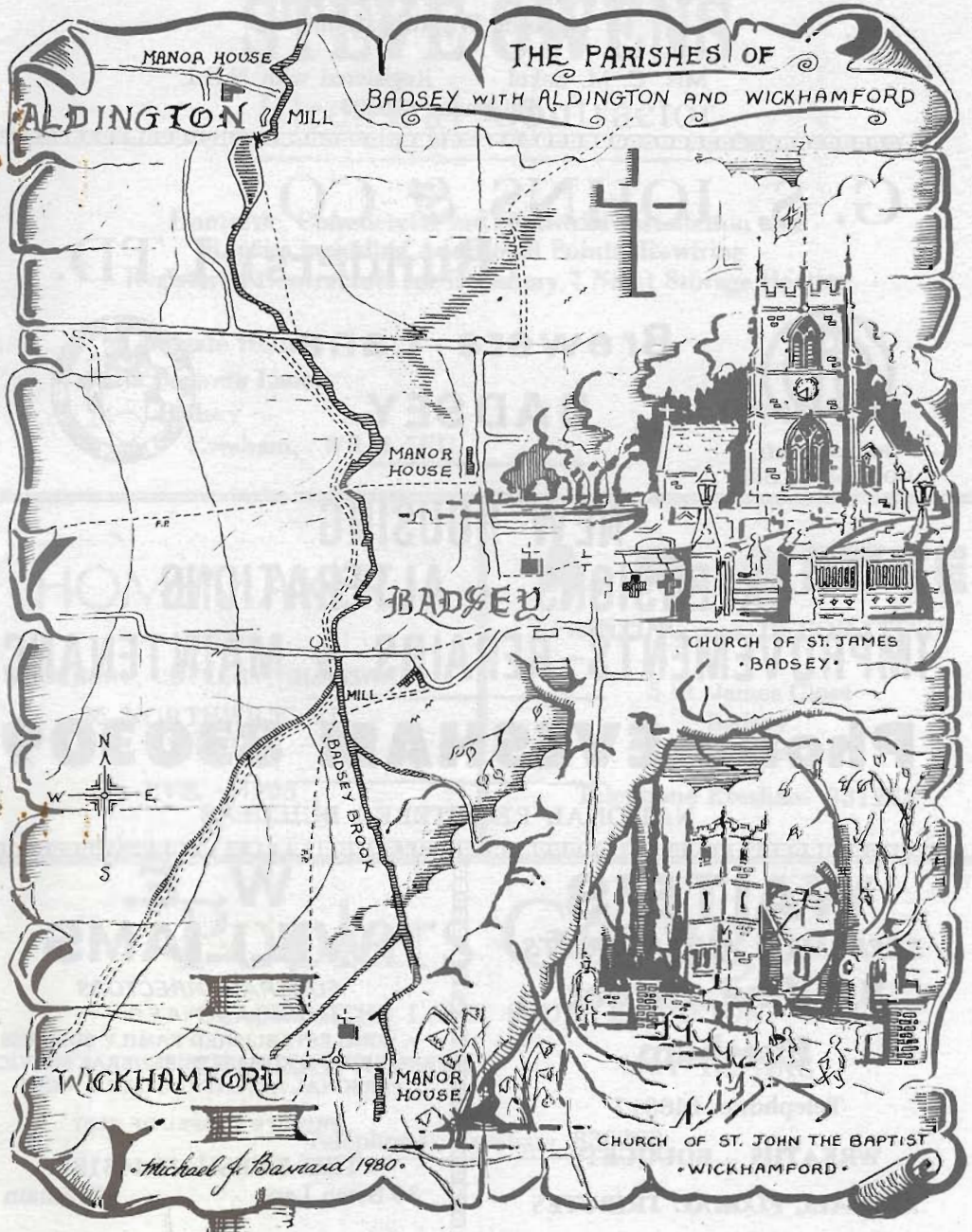


PARISH REVIEW

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The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

August 1990

My dear Friends

For some months the new Broadcasting Bill has been passing through the various Parliamentary procedures prior to becoming law. The new Bill has become necessary because of the explosion in broadcasting time and space that will soon take place. With extra channels, satellites, cables and radio stations, homes will be able to receive 26 channels of TV and 15 of radio. This will be beyond the control of the present Independent Broadcasting Authority, the IBA, who monitor closely what the present independent television companies broadcast. A new authority is to be set up, the Independent Television Commission, the ITC. This will not control what is broadcast in the same way as the IBA does at present, but will instead issue licenses to the many different broadcasting companies. What the companies are allowed to broadcast, either on TV or radio will be determined by the licence they are granted. The place of religious broadcasting under the new system has been the subject of much debate.

On the one hand, many of the religious programmes at present broadcast are among the most popular. In 1988 more than 60 per cent of the population was reported to watch a religious programme at least once a month. The BBC's Songs of Praise, both on TV and radio has been a firm favourite for many years now and the ITV's Morning Worship is one of

the most highly rated programmes in terms of viewer appreciation, with an average audience of 600,000. 'Highway' which competed with the BBC Songs of Praise, regularly achieved better audiences than Terry Wogan and averaged 7 million viewers. The outburst that followed the BBC's attempt to cancel its weekly service of Choral Evensong swiftly reached national proportions, and resulted in it being re-instated almost immediately. The BBC 10.45 am Daily Service goes back to the earliest days of radio when broadcasting did not begin until mid-morning and is one of the longest running radio programmes still broadcast. 'Thought for Today' also has a daily audience which can be numbered in millions.

Yet on the other hand, many would agree that there is a need to control the number of excessively religious broadcasts often linked with a high emotional and financial appeal such as are commonplace today in countries like America, at least whilst the number of TV channels and radio stations remain limited. The extent to which such 'evangelical programmes' as they may be called by some, should be licensed when there is almost unrestricted time and space available is still a matter of considerable concern. The Home Office has repeatedly said that "it would be wrong to allow a medium as powerful, influential and intrusive as broadcasting to be used as a vehicle for the expression of a particular religious viewpoint".

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is on record as having said of Christianity and its Jewish background, "The Christian religion - which of course, embodies many of the great spiritual and moral truths of Judaism - is a fundamental part of our national heritage. For centuries it has been our very life blood. Indeed we are a nation whose ideals are founded on the Bible. Also, it is quite impossible to understand our history or literature without grasping this fact.... I believe that by taking together these key elements from the Old and New Testaments we gain a view of the universe, a proper attitude to work and principles to shape economic and social life". She has also stated, "There is little hope for democracy if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call to something greater than themselves... The truths of the Judaic-Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only, as I believe, because they are true, but also because

they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace, in the true meaning of the word, for which we all long."

The Rt Hon. Douglas Hurd when Home Secretary said, "What society most desperately needs today is a clear, definite and repeated statement of personal morality.... We need to work together in Church and State to rebuild the moral standards and values which should form the sure foundations of a cohesive and united nation. We need to look to the churches to speak and insist, and insist again on the individual standards which are the foundations of a healthy society".

Few people would deny such high sentiments as expressed by two of the leading political figures of our day. The trouble is that whilst Christian broadcasts are among some of the most popular programmes on television and radio today and often attract the largest and most consistent audiences, nevertheless when such programmes begin to express a more particular Christian viewpoint or make a more personal appeal to individual people and possibly become the means whereby such moral and spiritual standards may be achieved, they run the risk of being banned or refused a license to broadcast because they are too controversial. This is one such dilemma that lies at the heart of the debate.

The other concerns the media itself. No one would deny that it is a very powerful influence indeed on the lives of people today. Peoples attitudes are easily affected by what they see and hear. Again, much of it may be good, but it must also be said that much of it is far more questionable. It seems to be contrary to Christian beliefs and standards and undermines rather than upholds them. Blasphemy, bad language, swearing, insolence, rudeness, rebelliousness, promiscuity are all too common. In 1989, the Bishop of Chester said, "We know that along with so much good on TV the moral standards of the nation have been polluted insidiously by so much of what is taken for granted as the normal way of life. We should as Christians be deeply concerned about getting the new Broadcasting Bill better adjusted to promote the good, to restrict the evil and to lessen the pollution of the minds" A writer, Simone Weil, perceptively wrote: "Nothing is so beautiful and wonderful, nothing is so full of perpetual ecstasy, as the good; no desert is so dreary, monotonous and boring as evil. But

with fantasy it is the other way round. Fictional good is boring and flat, whilst fictional evil is varied and intriguing, attractive, profound and full of charm' In the pursuit of drama and entertainment the media often exploit such fantasies to the detriment of the good.

Freedom has always been an essential part of every good and healthy society. Freedom for people to live their lives creatively and fulfil their true potential as those created in the image and likeness of God. But freedom does not mean license. License for people to do just as they like regardless of others. The medium of television and radio is likely to become an even more powerful influence on our lives in the future. The licenses granted to the new broadcasting companies must be such as to enrich and enhance the life of our society and people rather than diminish it, and safeguard the freedom of us all.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - AUGUST

St James', Badsey

5th The	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
Transfiguration (transferred from 6th)		
12th 10 after	08.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
Pentecost		
19th 11 after	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
Pentecost		
24th	09.00am Holy Communion	
St Bartholomew the Apostle		
26th 12 after	08.00am Holy Communion	No Evening service at Badsey
Pentecost		
6.30pm Songs of Praise, Wickhamford		
September		
2nd 13 after	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
Pentecost		
8th The	09.00am Holy Communion	
Blessed Virgin Mary		
9th 14 after	08.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
Pentecost		
Mid week Communion - Wednesday 10.00am September 5th & 12th		
There will be no mid-week services during August.		

Badsey Sunday School: 11.00am every Sunday during Term time
 - School Lane Playgroup.

St John the Baptist, Wickhamford

5th The 09.30 am The Eucharist
 Transfiguration
 (transferred from 6th)
 12th 10 after 09.30 am The Eucharist
 Pentecost
 19th 11 after 09.30 am The Eucharist
 Pentecost
 26th 12 after 06.30 pm Floral Festival Songs of Praise
 Pentecost
 (There will be no 11.00am Family Service on this Sunday)

September
 2nd 13 after 09.30 am The Eucharist
 Pentecost
 9th 14 after 09.30 am The Eucharist
 Pentecost

Lectionary

5th The Transfiguration	2 Cor. 3.4-end	Exodus 24.12-end
	Luke 9.28-36	1 John 3.1-3
12th 10 after Pentecost	Galatians 6.1-10	Job 38.1-11 and 42.1-6
	Luke 7.36-end	John 13.1-20
19th 11 after Pentecost	Philip 1.1-11	Isaiah 42.1-12
	Matthew 20.1-16	John 13.21-end
26th 12 after Pentecost	Acts 17.22-end	-
	Matthew 5.13-16	-
September		
2nd 13 after Pentecost	Acts 20.17-35	Isaiah 50.4-9a
	Matthew 10.16-22	1 Peter 4
9th 14 after Pentecost	Ephesians 3.14-end	Proverbs 31.10-end
	Luke 11.1-13	1 Cor.1.1-18

Sunday Themes

The Transfiguration
 10 after Pentecost - The Mind of Christ
 11 after Pentecost - The Serving Community
 12 after Pentecost - The Witnessing Community
 13 after Pentecost - The Suffering Community

14 after Pentecost - The Family

PARISH REGISTERS

Confirmation: "Defend, O Lord, your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen"

Wickhamford

24 June Lisa Collett, Beverley Collett, Tracy Corbett, Sally Heeks, Andrew Heeks, Caroline Maden, Jessica Poulter, Tammy Pryke, Eleanor Soule, Brian Spiers, Diane Spiers.

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

Badsey

14 July Grant John Davis and Joanna Elizabeth Fowler

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

Badsey

19th July Herbert George Underhill of 'Greystones', Blackminster, aged 70 years (at Badsey and Cheltenham)

DONATIONS

Badsey: from the estate of the late Mrs Nora Cook
- towards church funds - £50
Anonymously, towards church funds - £20
Anonymously, towards church funds - £5

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thurs Aug 9th Floral Festival Committee Meeting -
Gallipot House, Broadway, 7.30pm
Wed Aug 15th Finance and General Purposes Committee,
Badsey Church - 8.00 pm
Sat Aug 25th Wickhamford Floral Festival
Sun Aug 26th and
Mon Aug 27th Craft Exhibition
Thur Aug 30th Badsey PCC, Badsey Church, 7.30 pm
Wed Sep 12th Wickhamford PCC, Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm

MOTHER'S UNION

On 21st June nine members attended a concert in the Magdalen room of St George's church, Worcester, given by the ten M.U. members from the Kigezi Diocese in Uganda. These ladies were guests of the Worcester Diocese, and they sang, danced, and paraded the costumes of different parts of Uganda, or for special occasions. There was a striking Action song about a man who didn't want his wife to go to M.U., so he beat her. She went home to her mother, who soon sorted him out and all was well!

It was an evening of fun, laughter and of real communication between women of greatly differing cultures.

On 26th June, twelve members met on a mini-outing to Sudeley Castle. It was a beautiful afternoon, and everyone enjoyed it, though, lingering in the Garden shop, the Enrolling member and two other ladies managed to get themselves locked in the grounds.

On 8th July, a few members went to Rous Lench, where there was a farewell Tea Party for the Kigezi ladies, in Ann Pearce's lovely garden. It was a very happy occasion, and photographs of their visit, and other gifts were given to them. There was more singing and dancing with Deanery members taking part. As before, when other Ugandan members came, we have been impressed with the warmth, openheartedness and strong faith of these members, many of whose lives are so much more difficult than ours.

The M.U. cake stall at the Church Fete made just over £35. Thanks to all who made, gave and bought!

As usual there are no meetings in August, so enjoy the change and rest and come back in September ready for anything!

Two news items: Mrs Pagnamenta has recently died, she was known to members for many years as a lively and inspiring speaker in spite of physical disability. We have sent a card of sympathy to her family. Mrs Joan Betteridge has a new grandson. Matthew was born to Tony and Karen recently, and we send our greetings.

E Seaman. E.M.

BADSEY W.L.

The President, Mrs Cudd, opened our July meeting by welcoming members and friends.

Our entry in the Evesham Carnival Naughty Nineties earned us second place in their class. Well done ladies.

A mystery trip has been arranged for Wednesday, 25 July, the

coach leaving the Round of Gras at 6.30 pm then on to the usual picking up places.

The Knit-In for Rheumatism and Arthritis Research will be held at the home of Mrs Win Smith, Bretforton Road, at 7.00 pm on 30 July, followed by an American supper.

The W.L. 75th Birthday Party will be celebrated in Badsey with a garden party at the home of Mrs Eleanor Sams (an American supper) on Friday, 14 September at 6.45 pm.

The raffle was won by Mrs Maureen Davies and the competition for My Favourite Pot by Mrs Sandra Cudd.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Heather Bannington who gave a very interesting and amusing demonstration on Pottery. One of our members tried her hand at the craft being quite successful amid great hilarity.

The next meeting will be on 8 August when the speaker will be Miss K Moss on Flower Arranging. Social time will be a floral quiz, and the competition an Unusual Buttonhole.

G F Hughes

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

Our Annual Summer Buffet was held on July 4th at the Cricket Club where the catering was in the very capable hands of Mrs Mary Dore. Our thanks to her and her helpers for a very enjoyable meal, after which we were entertained by Mrs Eunice Rhymes who came to play for us last year too. We all enjoyed her rousing music, many members joining in the well known songs which she played.

We were all pleased to see Mr & Mrs Callaghan, also Mrs Hardwicke, and we do hope that the health of these two members continues to improve.

The evening was rounded off by a spirited rendering of "Auld Lang Syne".

Our next meeting will be on August 1st when those who wish to go on the mystery outing on August 14th are asked to pay £2 for the tea.

I'm sure all of us send our best wishes to Mrs Crisp, who is at present in Avonside; and also to all other members who are unfortunately indisposed.

K Green

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our Annual Garden Party was held in Mr & Mrs Grinnells garden and was a great success. The weather was fine and the Tombola Stall, cakes, Nearly New and White Elephant were

all very busy. Mrs Grinnell, with helpers, served hot dogs, tea and cakes to members and visitors. A draw and Guessing Competition were very well supported. All money made will go to Women's Section Schemes.

A very enjoyable evening was also spent at Legion Headquarters in July when Pinvin Women's Section were invited to a friendly skittle match. Refreshments were served and a draw took place.

A Mini-Market and Car Boot Sale will take place at Legion Headquarters on the car park on August 18th.

M Morcombe

THE ARCTIC FELLOWSHIP

Should anyone wish to support the work of the Church in the Arctic and maintain the link with the Revd. Bobby Nakoolak, I would be pleased to receive their donation by the end of September.

There is at present the latest issue of the Arctic Fellowship news magazine circulating in the parish, and should anyone wish to peruse same, will they please let me know and I will add their name to the circulation list.

Albert Owen

WICKHAMFORD W.I.

The July meeting was well attended. Mrs Sue Bearcroft welcomed the speaker, Mrs Beryl Redding, who had brought with her some exquisite samples of Lace. She explained the different sorts, history and her own involvement with Lace making.

Birthday Buttonholes were presented to Sheena Bevan, Hilda Evans, Wendy Collett, Sandra Heeks, Muriel Harrison, Eileen Bowles and Elaine Litterick.

Congratulations were given to the Skittles Team who will be competing in the Semi-finals. Members had also enjoyed the Group Garden Party. Tea Hostesses were Denny King, Sue Hancock and Connie Whiting. The Raffle was won by Elsie Hearn and Hazel Cole. Flower of the Month Competition was won by Jenny Tweney, 2nd Betty Bowles and 3rd Rosemary Hendrick. The main competition 'A Piece of Lace' was won by Pat Bell, 2nd Jenny Keepence and 3rd Betty Bowles.

The next meeting will be held on 13 September when the speaker will be Mrs Merrett and the talk will be "Corn Dollies". Members and guests welcome.

Pat Clinton

Wickhamford Floral Festival

Helpers are urgently needed to act as stewards during the Floral Festival. If you can give any time over the weekend please contact either Mr Ken Maden, of 21 Sally Close, Wickhamford, Tel 830510 or the Vicar.

REPORT OF WICKHAMFORD PCC MEETING, JULY 11th

Prospects of even cheaper electricity for church heating faded when it was found that Tariff W, especially for churches, would be double the present cost on Economy 7!

The vacuum cleaner handle is to be repaired as the cost of a new machine would be in the region of £90.

The notice in last month's Parish Review inviting more members to the Planned Giving Scheme unfortunately had no response. The extra revenue from reclaimed tax makes covenanted contributions worth 25% more.

The benefit of publicity on radio or in the local press, especially in relation to fund raising, was voiced by Dr Astley. He suggested that a Press Officer might be appointed from the council who had flair and imagination. Special help will be available for Parishes in the autumn when they will be encouraged to promote themselves by the Diocesan Committee for Mission. This will launch a decade of Evangelism under the chairmanship of Bishop Tony Dumper, who presided at our confirmation on June 24th.

Discussion on ways in which some of the newly confirmed could be invited to serve at Communion Services, emphasized the need to encourage those who would like to.

A vacancy for the third Sunday has occurred now that Giles Poulter is leaving to work away from the district.

The confidence and responsibility that serving had given him was appreciated by Gerard and Anne.

Moves to provide a forum for discussion especially for teenagers were underway and it was felt that this would be an important development for our younger members.

WICKHAMFORD FLOWER FESTIVAL

Sunday School Stall

The Sunday School children are busy making items for this stall, but we would appreciate any gifts to help swell the funds. If you can make it - we can sell it! Jam, marmalade, craft items, knitted goods, etc. Also new hankies. Please contact Mrs A Poulter (830505) or Mrs C Collis (831082)

A TOMBOLA & BRIC-A-BRAC stall will be held at Wickham House.
Any items welcome. Please contact Mrs Reynolds - 830424.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The monthly meeting of the Gardening Club was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 4th July. Many members and their friends were able to resist the temptation of watching "World-cup Football", and they were well rewarded. "Bedding plants a la Colegrave" was the title, and Denise McCreedy gave a very informative talk, which she illustrated with colour slides. Although the seeds are supplied only to the trade such as nursery-men and garden centres, it is useful to know that the young growing plants can then be purchased, by the general public, from these reputable centres. The growers are naturally looking for quality, and it is with this in mind that Colegrave Seeds purchase from as far away as Kenya and California, and then follow on with the most strict quality control tests so that very near 100% germination can be assured.

The competition table looked very tempting with dishes of strawberries, and was won by Mrs Hale, with Mrs Stacey and Mr Butcher 2nd and 3rd.

The next meeting will be an Evening Visit to Amberley Farm, Evesham, on Wednesday 1st August.

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Do you belong to your Friendship Club which meets on the 1st Wednesday in each month at 2.30 in the Memorial Hall? If not, why not come and have a pleasant afternoon. Each month a different speaker gives a talk; at the July meeting Lynn gave a Micro Wave cooking demonstration, which was appreciated by all.

Previous meetings have had talks on the history of the Needle Industry. Making a Family Tree, The work of the R.S.P.B., to mention a few.

On Wednesday 18th July the club will be on a boat trip from Droitwich to Birmingham on the Canal and includes a cream tea. We also do local half day trips to places of interest - why not join us?

We are all pleased that Alice Taylor is out of hospital and hopes to be with us on the boat trip, also best wishes to Dorothy Webb we hope to see her at next month's meeting on August 1st.