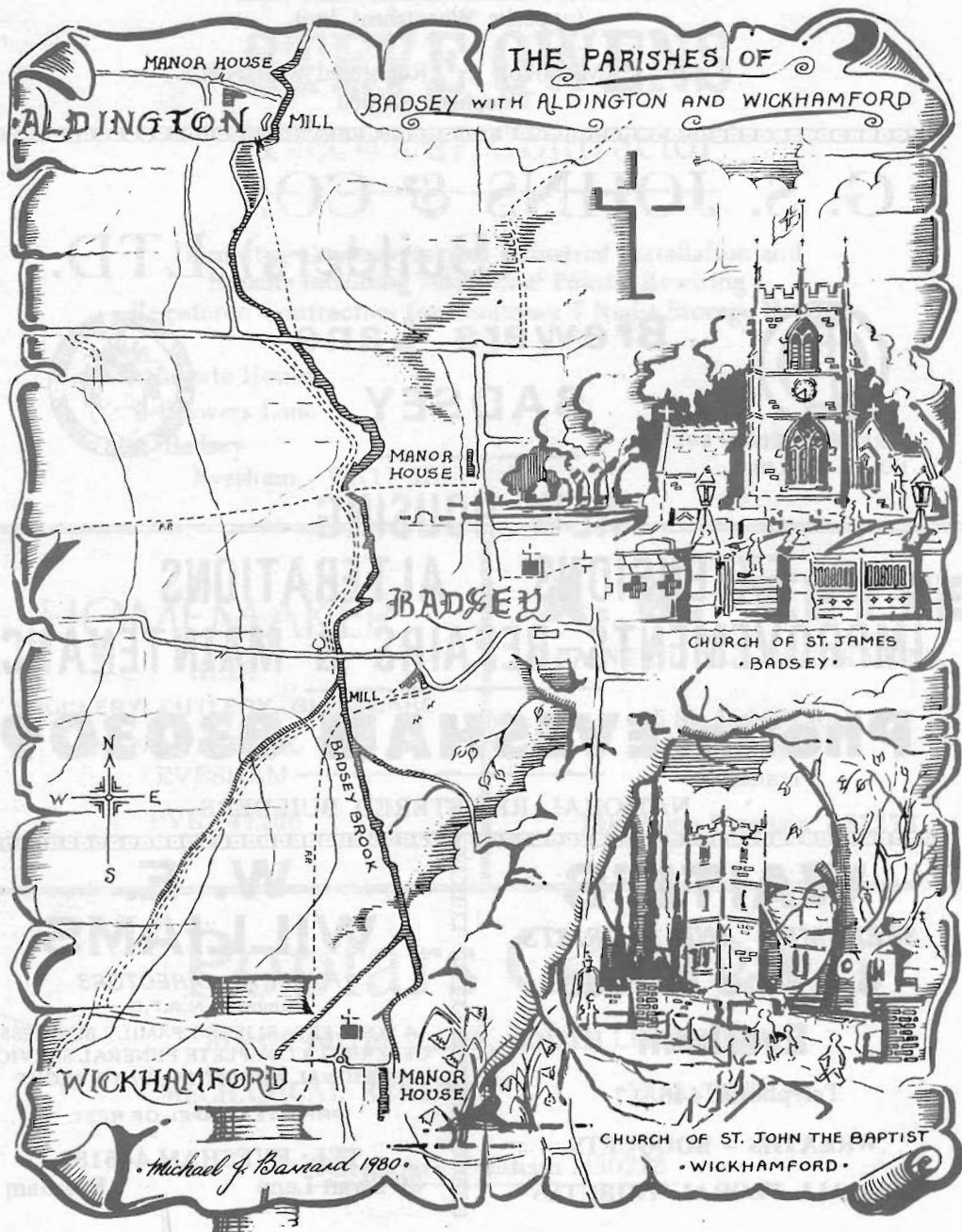


# PARISH REVIEW

20p

SEPTEMBER 1990



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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

September, 1990

My dear Friends,

A recent report 'Family Change and Future Policy' published by the Family Policies Studies Centre revealed some very disturbing trends concerning family life. It said how more people are living together for some considerable time rather than marrying, and more of these couples whose relationships are recognized neither by Church or State are having children. At present one in four or 25% of children are born to parents who are not married. By the end of the century this figure is likely to have risen to 50%.

Furthermore the report forecasts that more couples living together will never marry. One in two children will never have lived consistently together with two married parents. The divorce rate continues to rise, 10% of first marriages failing to last more than five years, and as a result this country has one of the highest percentages of single-parent families in the Western world as well as one of the highest percentages of illegitimate births. The report also says those who regret such statistics and seek a return to the moral certainties of earlier decades have no idea how to arrest the trend. Notable people such as the Princess of Wales and Mother Teresa have both spoken publicly on such issues in recent months as has the Prime Minister.

Such a situation raises very serious questions for the Church, which consistently upholds the view of the

traditional family and yet which has to cope with, if not accommodate the breakdowns when they occur. We believe in a God who we address as 'Our Father, in heaven'. The Church sees itself as 'the bride of Christ'. We believe we are all children of the one heavenly Father and heirs with Christ of the Kingdom of Heaven. Images of the family and of marriage and love are very strong in the teachings of the church as are the concepts of faithfulness and fidelity. We use them to express our relationships with God and with Jesus, and their relationships with us. If these images are eroded and undermined or even taken away altogether, what do we teach our children? If a child has never known what it is like to be brought up in a traditional family what will such images and others like them ever mean? If they feel they have never belonged to a family, where will they feel they belong?

The traditional family has been the basic unit of human society since the earliest times. As a leading Oxford theologian said in the midst of the permissive society of the 1970s and 1980s, 'people are abandoning principles which man has known to be essential for a healthy and stable society since the Third Millenium BC, three thousand years before Christ'.

What then should be the response of Christians and the Church to such disturbing trends? If we uphold the value of marriage and family life are we upholding values necessary to every day and age, values that are eternal, or are we trying to cling vainly to outworn concepts that ought to be abandoned as soon as is decently possible? Are we giving our children, and grandchildren, the right and best foundations for life, or are we still expecting them to cross the Atlantic in Noah's Ark?

First, I believe, the best witness to family life, is the family itself. A good family held together by marriage and love, both in the good times and the difficult, is still the best witness of all, especially to those who have had the misfortune to be denied it, to lose it, or to have never known it. For this reason alone the Church must continue to uphold the sanctity of the family.

Secondly, our spiritual, material and moral well-being are all bound up together. Weaken or undermine one, and the others are weakened and undermined also. There is no doubt that the single parent families are an increasing burden on

the State when it comes to maintenance, although it must be said that in a free market economy, in which both partners invariably have to work, the pressures on family life and marriage are inevitably increased. Whilst the children of single parent families should never be penalised or denied the opportunity to live equally good and rewarding lives, nevertheless the cost of such maintenance has to be shared by us all.

Lastly, in the Scriptures, God is often likened to a Rock. Something that is abiding, something that is eternal, something that is always there and can be depended upon. Jesus once told a parable of a man who built his house upon the rock and contrasted it with a man who built his house upon the sand. When the floods came and the winds blew, the house built on the rock stood firm. The house built on the sand was washed away, and great was its ruin. He said, that those who hear my words and do them, are like the man who built his house upon the rock.

In the Old Testament, in the Second book of Samuel, King David desires to build a Temple to God at his newly captured stronghold of Jerusalem. But following a vision from God, Nathan the prophet tells the King that this will not be done by him, but by his descendants. God will first establish his house, the house of David, before him. In the Hebrew there is a hidden play upon the words here. The word for 'temple', for 'place' for 'dynasty' and for 'family' are all translated by the one word 'house'. In the New Testament, in the Acts of the Apostles, the earliest Christian missionaries often worked through families and households. It was the family and the household of the jailer in Phillipi who were converted to Christianity following the miraculous release of Paul and Silas from prison.

Family life, marriage, our houses and homes are still the rock upon which every healthy and stable society is built. We shall be poorer rather than richer, weaker rather than stronger if these continue to be undermined and eroded. It is still a part of the Church's witness of love and compassion to proclaim this truth and to help our children aspire to it.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Peter Mitchell

## CHURCH SERVICES - SEPTEMBER

### St James', Badsey

2nd 13 after Pentecost	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
8th The Blessed Virgin Mary	09.00 am Holy Communion	
9th 14 after Pentecost	08.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong
16th 15 after Pentecost	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
21st St Matthew the Apostle	09.00 am Holy Communion	
23rd 16 after Pentecost	08.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
30th 17 after Pentecost	11.00 am Family Service	6.30 pm Combined Evensong - St Mary and St Melburgh, Offenham.

### October

7th Harvest Festival and 18 after Pentecost	11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.30 pm Evensong
14th 19 after Pentecost	08.00 am Holy Communion	6.30 pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion: Wednesday Sept 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and Oct 3rd and 10th

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

### St John the Baptist, Wickhamford

2nd 13 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist
9th 14 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist
16th 15 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist
23rd Harvest Festival and 16 after Pentecost	11.00 am Harvest Festival Family Service
30th 17 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist

### October

7th 18 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist
14th 19 after Pentecost	09.30 am The Eucharist

### Lectionary

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 Luke 11.1-13	Proverbs 31.10-end 1 Cor.1.1-18
16th 15 after Pentecost	1 Timothy 2.1-7 Matthew 14.1-12	Isaiah 45.1-13 Matthew 22.2-13
23rd 16 after Pentecost	1 John 4.15-end Luke 16.19-end	Lev.19.1-4,9-18 Luke 10.25-37
30th 17 after  October	Galatians 2.15-3.9 Luke 7.1-10	Joshua 14.6-14 Acts 19.21-end
7th Harvest Festival & 18 after Pentecost St James' Badsey	1 Tim.6.6-10 John 6.27-35	Deut 26.1-11 Luke 12.13-34
18 after Pentecost St John the Baptist Wickhamford	1 Peter 4.7-11 Matthew 25.14-30	Haggai 1 Matthew 5.13-26
14th 19 after Pentecost	Romans 5.1-11 Luke 19.1-10	Genesis 28.10-end Hebrews 11.1-16

### Sunday Themes

Pentecost 13	The Suffering Community
Pentecost 14	The Family
Pentecost 15	Those in Authority
Pentecost 16	The Neighbour
Pentecost 17	The Proof of Faith
Pentecost 18	The Offering of Life
Pentecost 19	The Life of Faith

### PARISH REGISTERS

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

#### Badsey

4 August	Giovanni Agrusa and Tina Louise Merriman
11 August	John Edward Sparrow and Paula Tandy
18 August	Anthony Dennis Hewlett and Deborah Ann Brown

#### Funerals:

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

#### Badsey

27 July	Cecil Reginald Haines of 24 Manor Close, Badsey, aged 84 years (at Cheltenham & Badsey)
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- 1 August Geoffrey Austen Jones, late of Norfolk House,  
Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey, aged 86 years.  
(at Ballater, Scotland & Badsey)
- 10 August Winifred Violet Mary Jones of 17 Horsebridge  
Avenue, Badsey, aged 70 years  
(at Badsey & Cheltenham)
- 14 August Irene Mary Mustoe of 24 Greenhill Gardens,  
Evesham aged 75 years (at Badsey & Cheltenham)

#### DONATIONS

- Badsey: Towards Cancer Research - in memory of  
Geoffrey Austen Jones - £98.35  
To St Richard's Hospice - in memory of  
Irene Mary Mustoe - £275

#### NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- Thur Sep 6th Post Floral Festival Committee Meeting  
- 7.30 pm, Gallipot House, Broadway
- Wed Sep 12th Wickhamford PCC - Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm
- Wed Sep 19th Pastoral Committee - The Vicarage - 2.30 pm
- Thur Sep 20 Social Committee - 7 School Lane.
- Fri Sep 28th Wickhamford Harvest Supper - Memorial Hall
- Fri Oct 5th Badsey Harvest Supper - Remembrance Hall  
- 7.30 pm
- Mon Oct 8th Distribution of Badsey Harvest Produce  
9.30 am Badsey Church
- Fri/Sat/Sun OCTOBER FEST - Worcester  
12/13/14th  
October

Parish Review - October issue - latest date for copy:  
Wednesday, 19th September

#### Decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest

The decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest will begin on  
Saturday, 6th October at 9.30 am. All offers of help, gifts  
of flowers, fruit and produce will be most welcome.

#### Distribution of Harvest Produce - Badsey with Aldington

Distribution of the Harvest Produce to the sick, elderly,  
and housebound and to the hospitals, will take place on  
Monday 6th October, beginning at 9.30 am. All offers of  
help will be very welcome together with the names and  
addresses of those who would appreciate a gift from the  
Harvest. These may be given to members of the Pastoral

Committee, or to the Vicarage beforehand. Members of the Pastoral Committee are Mrs E Seaman, Mrs C Davies, Mrs J Ives, Mrs B Owen, Mrs H Bird and Mrs M Wretham.

### MOTHER'S UNION

The Annual Garden Meeting was held at 6 Chapel Street, the home of Mr & Mrs Betteridge, on 24th July at 7.00 pm. In spite of the dry weather the garden looked beautiful and the evening was warm and sunny. Visitors welcomed to the meeting included Mrs Jean Whitehouse, Deanery Chairman, Mrs Kath Green and Miss M Vaudin. After the Hymn "Tell out my soul", the prayers were taken by the Enrolling member. Prayer link gifts were exchanged, with the usual surprises, and grateful thanks are due once again to Mrs Daphne Bell for organising this so well. Mrs K Green was given a small token of our thanks for inscribing the New Testaments, which we give to all couples married in our church. There was a raffle, and a Bring and Buy stall for our funds. Delicious refreshments, provided by the committee and Miss Vaudin, and wine made by Mr Betteridge, were enjoyed by everyone. It was an evening of warm fellowship, and thanks are due to everyone who helped, to Mrs J Ives who provided the wine glasses and to Joan and Fred Betteridge for lending us their home and garden.

The M.U. Deanery Social Evening was held at the home of Mrs Ann Pearce at Rous Lench. In spite of rain earlier in the day, the evening was dry, though rather cool. The speaker was Mrs Martineau, a former Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, who described to us the hectic year when her husband was Lord Mayor of our second city. It was a fascinating talk, spiced with humour, and her description of one day, which began at Amsterdam airport at 4.30 am and ended, after non-stop engagements, in the small hours of the next day, left us breathless. The members of Church Lench M.U. provided us with lovely refreshments, and so ended a very enjoyable evening.

We begin our programme this month with the Wave of Prayer on Friday 7th September, 11.30 - 12.00. Please do try to attend. Our Link Dioceses do need our prayers, and this half-hour is very important.

News Item Mrs Eva Crisp is now a resident of Seward House, and would welcome visitors from the M.U.

E Seaman. E.M.



Correction The amount raised by the M.U. Cake Stall at the church Fete was £53.35p, not £35.00 as printed in August Review.

Dates for your Diaries

Monday, 3 Sept 2.30 pm Committee Meeting at 31 High Street.

Wed, 5 Sept 10.00 am Corporate Communion

Fri, 7 Sept 11.30 am - 12 noon Wave of Prayer

Tue, 11 Sept 2.30 pm Talk by Rev P Mitchell

Tue, 25 Sept 7.30 pm Talk by Mr Peter Huntingdon on the work of "Relate" (marriage guidance).

BADSEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The August meeting was presided over by Mrs Sandra Cudd, President, who welcomed members and three visitors.

The President thanked members who had helped with refreshments at Badsey Flower Show, and a letter of appreciation has been received from the Flower Show Committee. From the profits of this effort a donation has been made towards next year's show.

Mrs Win Smith's mystery trip was a great success and took us through lovely countryside in the Malvern/Ledbury district to a very pleasant garden and vineyard and where we had our meal. A thoroughly enjoyable evening at Bosbury House. The sponsored 'Knit-In' for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Council was visited by Mr Terry Harrison of the Evesham Branch. He sponsored each of the ladies taking part, and hopes to be present at our September meeting to receive a cheque for the amount raised.

Badsey will be celebrating the 75th Birthday of the W.L with an American supper at the home of Eleanor Sams in Badsey on Friday, 14 September.

Our talented artist member, Mrs Helm, brought along a display of her paintings. The speaker for the evening was Miss Moss and her subject Floral Arrangements. The arrangements were given to our raffle and were won by Mrs Lashford, Mrs Keen, Mrs Anthea Smith, Mrs Eckersley and Mrs Hughes. The social time was naming wild flowers, and the competition an unusual buttonhole.

The September meeting will have Mr Lowe speaking on 'Bats and Badgers'. Social time will be our annual 'Mastermind', and the competition an Autumn Collage. G F Hughes (Mrs)

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

Our August meeting took place on Wednesday 1st, when we were entertained by slides of scenes in London and Australia and

accompanying talk by Mr & Mrs Owen, who very kindly stepped in when our expected speaker was unable to come. Our thanks to them for such an interesting show.

On Tuesday 14 August, we set off at 1.15 pm on our Mystery Outing, which took us to Bourton on the Water where we spent a pleasant one and a half hours looking around this lovely village. We then continued to Burford Garden Centre, where a very enjoyable cream tea awaited us, after which we had a little while to enjoy the Garden Centre itself. The weather was very kind to us (after a slightly damp start) and I believe we all returned well pleased with our excursion. Indeed a number of members expressed a wish to go to Burford Garden Centre in the future, so we could perhaps bear this in mind for another time.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th September.

K Green

#### BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION

Mrs Reeves, our President, took the chair at the July meeting as our Chairman Mrs Syril was unable to attend. A new member, Mrs Trotman, was welcomed. The new National Chairman is now Mrs E Nash, and the National Conference will be held at Bournemouth. Plans were made for the Car Boot Sale and Mini-Market to be held in August. A trip to Cadbury World has been arranged for members to which we look forward.

Mrs Clements won the monthly competition, and Mrs Reeves won the draw. Refreshments were served.

M Morcombe

#### SPECIAL QUARTER PEALS - at St James', Badsey

1. On Wednesday 23 July 1990 for Patronal Festival.

1260 changes in the Grandsire Triples method conducted by Mr John H Smart.

Treble - A J Brazier, 2 - R W Kyte, 3 - P S Carter

4 - A J Middlicott, 5 - F Munday, 6 - J H Smart,

7 - R C Hall, tenor - D G Hammond.

2. On Wednesday 1 August 1990 with the bells half-muffled following the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Geoffrey Austen Jones

1260 changes in the Grandsire Triples method conducted by Mr John H Smart.

Treble - A J Brazier, 2 - F Munday, 3 - R C Hall,

4 - R W Kyte, 5 - J W Nicholls, 6 - J H Smart,  
7 - Fr. J C Huntriss, tenor - F Spiers

### BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - NOTICES

Following the notice published in the July issue of the Parish Review, a revised timetable of Parish Council Meetings for 1990/1991 is published below.

Wed 3rd Oct '90	Remembrance Hall, Badsey - 7.30 pm
Wed 7th Nov '90	(Precept) - Badsey First School, Library Room - 7.30 pm
Wed 5th Dec '90	Remembrance Hall - 7.30 pm
Wed 23rd Jan '91	Remembrance Hall - 7.30 pm
Wed 6th March '91	Remembrance Hall - 7.30 pm
Wed 17th April '91	Remembrance Hall - 7.30 pm
Wed 2nd May '91	DISTRICT & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - The whole Parish Council is due for election
Wed 22nd May '91	Annual Council Meeting - Remembrance Hall - 7.30 pm (at this meeting the new Council will take their Declarations of acceptance of Office)

### CHRISTMAS CARDS 1990

This year, owing to illness, I shall be unable to supply cards, calendars, etc., for sale for Wickhamford church funds.

I am very sorry to disappoint my faithful customers and hope that 'normal service will be resumed' next year.

My thanks for past support.

Win Holland

### WICKHAMFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The council are pleased to inform parishioners that the village was awarded the grade of Very Good in the Best Kept Village Competition. The following remarks were made by the judges. The area was generally clean and free of litter.

The gardens cared for and colourful. The Churchyard was tidy and the cemetery well tended, but nearby verges lost marks.

A very good village hall was marred by weeds in the boundary fence. Notices excellently set out. The use of wild flowers on the edge of the Sports Field was very impressive. With a little more effort this attractive village, embodying some lovely buildings, could have achieved top grading.

### WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

An outing has been arranged for Wednesday 12 September to Clevedon (Nr Weston Super Mare). The coach will leave the Sandy's Arms at 1.00 pm prompt. Anyone wishing to go please give your names in to Mrs P Sutton or the Post Office, as soon as possible.

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE for St Richard's Hospice will be held at the United Reform Church in Broadway on 9th September at 4.00 pm. There will be tea and biscuits served in the Hall afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Jane Vacalopoulos

### WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club met as usual on Wednesday 1st August at 2.30. Following the handing out of birthday buttonholes and the Raffle Draw, the Club left by coach to Bourton on the Water. After a glorious summer's afternoon in Bourton, we were provided with a cream tea with ice cream to follow and a coach journey back to Wickhamford.

### WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

Members of the Gardening Club met on Wednesday 1st August when they were the guests of Messrs P & J Hoddinott at Amberley Farm, Evesham. Peter Hoddinott gave members a conducted tour of the Nurseries, starting with his speciality of aubergines. Both the treatment and growing conditions are very crucial for the first-class fruit produced here.

By way of change, Mr Hoddinott moved on with his interested party to his other speciality of climbing shrubs, which mainly include Wisteria and clematis. He quizzed the gardeners present by asking them to name a few of the more unusual varieties.

Finally, some very welcome refreshments were provided on the lawn and everyone felt they had had a very enjoyable summer evening.

The Chairman, Mr Halé, thanked Mr Hoddinott snr. and his son for making the visit so worthwhile.

In July, Wickhamford Gardening Club held a fund-raising Bar-B-Que on Mr Hills land, following which they were able to offer £125 for the Village Hall Improvement fund.

This year the Club members were pleased to participate in Badsey Flower Show with their own plant and produce stall.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5 September for the Annual Show at the Village Hall.

J Halling (Mrs)