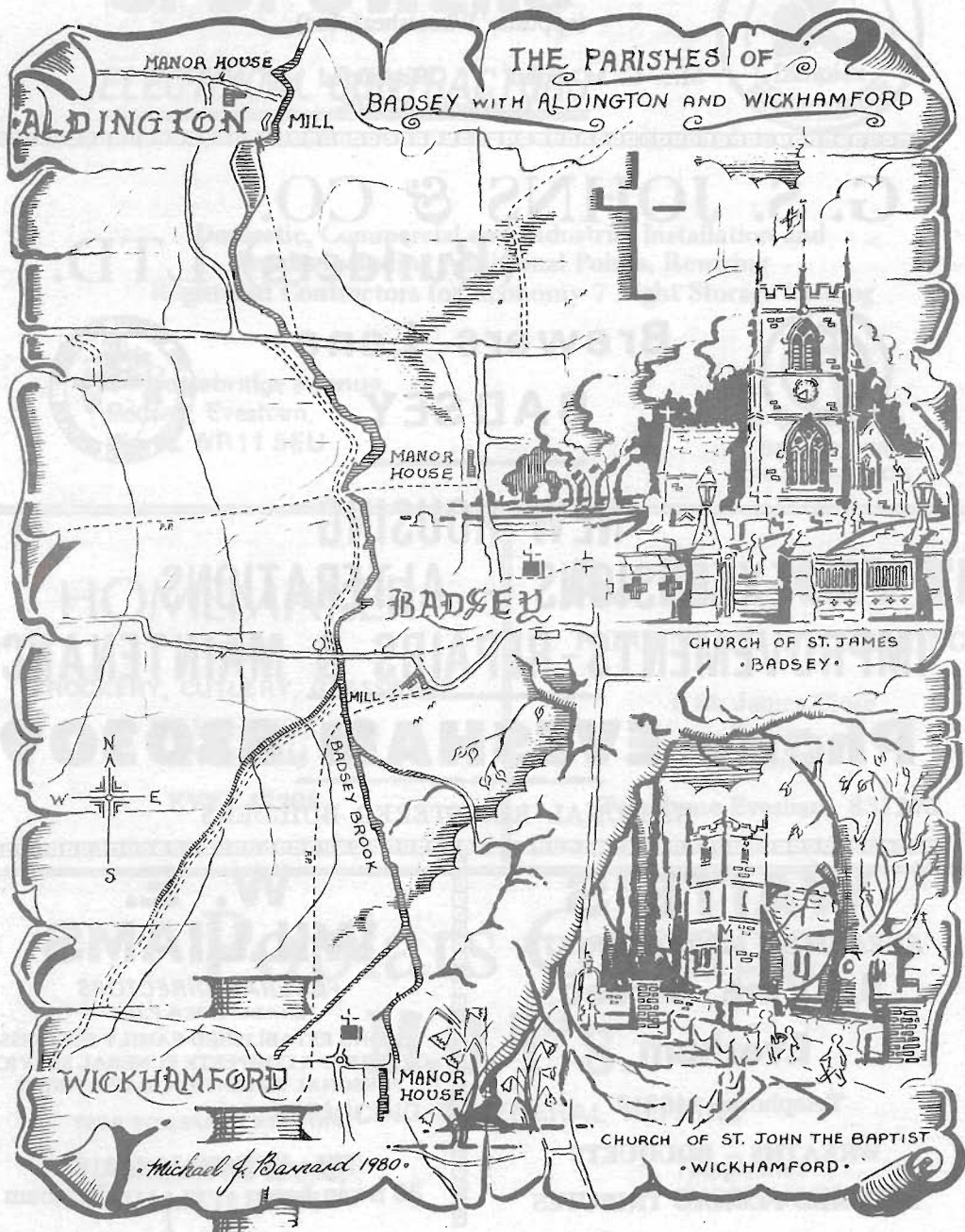


PARISH REVIEW

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FEBRUARY 1992



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THE VICAR'S LETTER

February, 1992

My dear Friends,

We have been considering in our PCCs, Mission MOT and the decade of Evangelism, about which I wrote in the November issue of the Parish Review.

We have been wrestling with what we are being asked to do. We have recognised the need to prepare the ground and sow the seed, and whilst we have realised we cannot expect to achieve everything all at once, nevertheless we must not be complacent. Time is short. There is a sense of immediacy and urgency which cannot be denied and brooks no delay. We must sow the seed but not let the grass grow under our feet. Now another aspect of evangelism has begun to emerge and for which the church must be prepared. Conflict. Already on the national scene tensions have appeared with those of other faiths and with those of no faith at all. Tensions have arisen with our Jewish brethren over the Jews for Jesus Movement. The British Moslem Community is launching its own Decade of Revitalism. In the secular world, with those whose lives seem to have no eternal dimension whatsoever, the Church has come into conflict with others over the disregard of the Sunday Trading Laws. In the Anglican Church tensions and the risk of division seems to have become more apparent, and in the ecumenical field

relationships between the Catholic and Evangelical churches are not perhaps as sympathetic as they have been in the past.

The proclamation of the Gospel, the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven, almost invariably involves conflict as well. To think that evangelism is something which happens easily and naturally and without much effort on our part is to delude ourselves. It does not. We find we are up against forces and influences that do not give in easily and are not quickly overcome. Forces such as pride and greed, selfishness and hate, slothfulness and laziness, boredom and pleasure seeking. Peoples' understanding of God and of the things of God. Their beliefs about what is true and what is not true. Paul knew what it meant to encounter these things. Christ knew it too: So did the other apostles. Almost immediately after Pentecost. Peter and John were the first to be thrown into prison. Stephen was stoned to death. After his conversion on the Damascus Road Paul was in constant conflict with others. He was imprisoned, beaten and flogged. He was in conflict with his own people the Jews, with those of the Gentile world and with many of the pagan religions, and superstitious practices of his day, even with his own fellow Christians in the newly founded churches throughout the eastern Mediterranean. The Acts of the Apostles contains many stories of conflict and struggle.

Christ too experienced conflicts, first in his temptations in the wilderness, as he wrestled with the true nature and form that his ministry should take. In the earliest days of the Gospel story, there were conflicts with the scribes and the Pharisees, the lawyers and the Herodians and later the Sadducees. Even the people for whom he did so much. People who one moment could cry out "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" and then within four days, "Crucify him, Crucify him, we have no king but Caesar" Christ knew the conflict people have within themselves when it comes to wrestling and struggling with God. It was a road he walked to the end. A road of self giving, self sacrificing love that led to the Cross, to the Resurrection and to the new life beyond, The new life born out of the old.

When we speak of evangelism, we are in for a struggle. It means signing on, enlisting with Christ. Joining the Colours. It means not only believing the Gospel, not even preaching and proclaiming it. It means living it as well. Living out the Gospel in our lives just as countless other

Christians have lived it out in theirs. Living it in faith and hope and love. A love that is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful, not arrogant or rude. A love that does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful. Does not rejoice at the wrong, but rejoices in the right. A love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. A love that never ends. A love that is eternal because it is of the very nature of God himself. This is the love that triumphs over all else. A love that disarms all its foes. For in this love, the love of God revealed in Christ, we know we are on the winning side, come what may. Those who will eventually triumph. Those for whom the final victory is assured, now and in the life to come.

"And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Peter Mitchell

Church Services - February 1992

St James' Badsey

2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
9th	5 after Epiphany	08.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
16th	9 before Easter	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
20th	Thursday	7.00pm Said Evensong, Prayers and	Compline
23rd	8 before Easter	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
March			
1st	7 before Easter	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
4th	Ash Wednesday	10.00 Holy Communion	7.00pm Evensong and Litany
8th	1 in Lent	08.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong

Mid Week Communion: Every Wednesday at 10.00am except on February 5th. The Mothers Union Corporate Communion will be on Wednesday, 12 February.

Badsey Sunday School: 10am every Sunday during Term
Time - at School Lane Playgroup.

St John the Baptist, Wickhamford

2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	09.30	The Eucharist
9th	5 after Epiphany	09.30am	The Eucharist
16th	9 before Easter	09.30am	The Eucharist
23rd	8 before Easter	11.00am	Family Service
March			
1st	7 before Easter	09.30am	The Eucharist
4th	Ash Wednesday	09.00am	The Eucharist
8th	1 in Lent	09.30am	The Eucharist

Lectionary

2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	1 Peter 2. 1-10 Luke 2.22-35	1 Samuel 1. 20-end Romans 12. 1-8
9th	5 after Epiphany	1 Cor. 3. 18-end Matthew 12. 38-42	Job 12 1 Cor. 1.18-2.5
16th	9 before Easter	1 Cor. 2. 1-10 Luke 8. 4b-15	Isaiah 30. 8-21 Matthew 4. 23-5.12
23rd	8 before Easter	2 Cor.12 1-10 Mark 7. 24-end	2 Kings 20 Mark 5. 1.20
March			
1st	7 before Easter	Col. 1. 18-23 John 8. 2-11	Hosea 14 Philemon
8th	1 in Lent	Hebrews4. 12-end Luke 4. 1-13	Deut 30. 11-end Hebrews 2. 5-end

Sunday Themes: Sundays after the Epiphany: Revelation:
4. The New Temple; 5. The Wisdom of God. Sundays
before Easter: 9. Christ the Teacher; 8. Christ the
Healer; 7. Christ the Friend of Sinners; Sundays in
Lent: The King and the Kingdom: 1. Temptation;

Parish Registers

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

Badsey

20 Dec Edna May Bubb of 20, Binyon Close,
Badsey, aged 71 (at Stratford)

30 Dec Reginald Arthur Hunt of 54, Synhurst,
Badsey, aged 55 years (at Badsey)

Henry John Brotherton of 21, Sands Lane,
Badsey, aged 82 years (at Cheltenham)

9 Jan Nellie Harwood of 19, Badsey Fields Lane,
Badsey, aged 76 years (at Badsey)

Wickhamford

19 Dec Ena Ettie Webb of 12, Coombefield Road,
Wickhamford, aged 84 years (at
Cheltenham)

Donations

"All things come of thee, O Lord, and of
thine own do we give thee"

Badsey

From Bill and Doris Sparrow on the
occasion of their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary - £100, towards church
funds.

From the Mothers' Union, in memory of
Dorothy Stanton - £31, towards church
funds.

Notes for your Diaries

Thur 6 Feb	Evesham Deanery Synod - Holland House Supper at 6.30pm. Meeting begins at 7.15pm
Thur 13 Feb	Finance and General Purposes Committee Badsey Church - 7.30pm
Thur 20 Feb	Joint Meeting of Mission MOT Committee - The Vicarage, 7.30pm
Sat 15 Feb to Mon 24 Feb	Revision of Wickhamford Church Electoral Roll
Fri 28 Feb	Madeira and Mince Pie Evening - The Vicarage, 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Wed 11 Mar	Wickhamford AGM
Thur 12 Mar	Badsey PCC

Parish Review: March issue - latest date for copy
Wednesday, 12th February

Revision of Church Electoral Rolls - 1992

The revision of Wickhamford Church Electoral Roll will take place from Saturday 15th February to Monday 24th February inclusive prior to the AGM on Wednesday, 11th March. The revision of Badsey Church Electoral Roll will take place from Saturday 28th March to Monday, 6th April inclusive prior to the AGM on Wednesday 23th April.

Madeira and Mince Pie Evening

A Madeira and Mince Pie Evening will be held at the Vicarage on Friday, 28th February from 7.30pm to 9.00pm in aid of church funds. There will be the usual Games, Raffle and Bring and Buy.

Tickets are available now from members of the Social Committee and the Vicarage, Adults £1 and Children 60p. This is the first Social Event of the New year. All are welcome. Do come and bring your friends and enjoy a happy evening in support of your church.

Lent - 1992

The Evesham Council of Churches is holding a Lent Course on Sharing and Understanding Spirituality on Thursdays during Lent.

The meetings will begin at 7.30pm and end at 9pm and will include a diversity of speakers followed by group discussions. The details are as follows:

What is Spirituality?
March 12 - Public Hall

Biblical Spirituality
March 19 - Public Hall

Traditional Spirituality
March 26 - Town Hall

Secular Spirituality
April 2 - Public Hall

Spirituality Discovered
April 9 - Public Hall

Offers of transport would be welcome. Would anyone requiring transport please contact the Vicarage.

Church Army Boxes - 1991

The total amount collected during 1991 for the Church Army from the Collecting Boxes was £156.37, an increase of just over £52 on last year's figure. Once again we extend our most grateful thanks to all who help towards the work of Church Army in this way. New Subscribers are always welcome and boxes can be obtained from the Vicarage at any time Thank you again.

Peter Mitchell

MOTHERS UNION

We began our first meeting of 1992 by singing the Hymn 239, "Forth in thy name O Lord I go", the choice of Mrs Hilda Byrd. After prayers, various matters were discussed including the celebration of our 70th anniversary this year. Also, another happy occasion, the Diamond Wedding of Doris and Bill Sparrow, and members were told that flowers would arrive on 16th from our branch with our love and congratulations.

We have acquired a new teapot, an essential item for any MU branch!

A donation is to be given to the church in memory of Dorothy Stanton, from all our members.

Mrs Elizabeth Kearney, our Diocesan rep for literature, was our speaker, and she gave an interesting and comprehensive talk on MU and other literature of an inspiring and helpful nature, as well as cards and other items. After the vote of thanks, members were able to purchase items, and there was a brisk trade while the tea circulated.

Badsey MU wishes a Happy New Year to all Review readers.

E Seaman EM

Dates for your Diaries

Feb 11th	2.30pm	Mr J Callaghan, Bible Talk
Feb 12th	7.30pm	MU Corporate Communion
Feb 25th	7.30pm	Mrs D Bell, Women of Faith
Mar 3rd	2pm	Committee Meeting at "Janus Cote", home of Mrs J Nettley, Blackminster.

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

It has almost become traditional that at our January meeting we are entertained by young people; and this year that entertainment was truly superb. Becky and Carrie Thompson opened the afternoon with poems and songs, the supporting music being played by their grandmother, Mrs. Ellison. The major part of the afternoon was filled with a medley of dance by Natasha Boon and musical items by Philip and Peter Moore and Ben Nabarro. 'Tasha's own choreography to the music she had selected was much appreciated and piano duets, guitar and piano solos and a truly brilliant violin and piano recital produced a performance which would have surpassed many professionals. The other entertainer of the afternoon was James Felton and his solo violin items were extremely well received. He was obviously enjoying himself as well as providing entertainment for the rest of us. Mr. Lionel Knight gave a most appropriate vote of thanks and members of the club responded with a standing ovation. Two of our longest standing and most popular members, Mr. and Mrs. W. Sparrow celebrated their Diamond Wedding in January. A small presentation was made to them to mark this happy occasion and members expressed their best wishes for the future.

Our speaker at the meeting on the 5th February will be Mr Tony King. His subject is "Backyard Poultry" but, I understand, it has nothing to do with our feathered friends!! Come along to the meeting to find out more. Our condolences are extended to Mrs K Brotherton upon the

death of her husband, Harry, at Evesham Community Hospital where Mrs Brotherton was also a patient at the same time. She is still in hospital and we hope she will make a speedy recovery in order to be able to cope more ably with her bereavement. Our best wishes also go to Mrs Margaret Sparrow recovering from a broken leg and to our other members who are ill.

Mary Callaghan

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The December meeting had a Christmas Party atmosphere with sherry, mince pies and 50p parcels. Members also exchanged Christmas cards. Jean Jelfs won the competition "Guess how many buttons in a jar". Rhoda Thompson won the draw.

Twelve members visited our oldest member Edie Cleaver at 'Woodlands'. She was very pleased to see us and we spent a pleasant afternoon with her. Mrs Cyril presented Edie with her "Presidents Badge" She also received a pot plant and china mug from her fellow members.

The Prize Bingo in December was a great success and £148 was raised which will go to Womens Section Schemes such as Widows Pensions, Headquarters and Benevolent Funds.

The Remembrance Hall representatives reported that the Hall is being redecorated and new curtains will be hung on completion.

Members attended a very enjoyable Group meeting at Beckford. The next Group meeting will be at Sedgeberrow on 4th March.

M Morcombe

Guild of St James' Badsey Bell Ringers

At the Annual General Meeting of the Guild of St James' Badsey Bell Ringers held in Badsey Church on Monday, 6th January it was again agreed that the work of the Bell Ringers should be publicised in the Parish Review with a view to encouraging new members. Junior ringers are very welcome from the age of 12 upwards and Adult Ringers at any age Retired people often find bell ringing an enjoyable pastime.

If you would like to join a small but very enthusiastic and dedicated band of ringers please contact John and Hilary Bolton at 37 Badsey Fields Lane on Evesham 830246, who will be very pleased to hear from you. Ringing practice is normally held every Monday evening from 7pm onwards

Peter Mitchell

BADSEY VILLAGE HALL

Villagers will be pleased to know that the Remembrance Hall is currently being redecorated internally with the generous help of the Parish Council, and it is hoped that by the time you are reading this it will be finished. We have chosen very tasteful shades of brown and tinted white, and we are sure that it will look really good.

We are very lucky to have such a spacious and well appointed building in the village and we do hope that everyone makes full use of it, because it does take a lot of effort to maintain it in good order. The exterior was painted last year, and we have also managed to upgrade the cloakrooms, strip and polish the floor and are very soon to provide new curtains.

Charges are very reasonable and if anyone is interested in hire, do please contact me. The Hall is used for wedding receptions, discos, sales, classes, Council meetings and playgroups, to name only a few items. But do please leave the Hall clean and tidy afterwards.

Alan Eames (Tel. 0386 832258)

REPORT OF WICKHAMFORD PCC MEETING 8th JANUARY 1992

A tidy up of the Church yard is underway due to parts of it being overgrown with brambles etc. Inevitably it will look comparatively bare to begin with but Mr Robin Cox is keen to get it up to a pleasing appearance.

Mrs Collis reported that our five main Charities had benefited by £50 each, a further £35 to the Earl Haig fund from our collection on November 10th and the Christmas Day collection of £65 for the Church of England Children's Society. The sale of Christmas cards and gifts arranged by Miss Holland amounted to £75 for which the PCC were most grateful.

Our quota of over £2000 has been paid in full thanks to everyone who has contributed to Church funds.

A Diocesan Projects fund is proposed to be available for churches without the means to carry out various 'special projects'. The appeal would be based upon 3% of the present quota figure for all parishes should they wish to contribute. The PCC felt reservations about this proposal if it meant another tier of administration which could absorb at least part of the fund itself.

Following on from the joint PCC meeting with Badsey in November, it was thought that this was a good idea on an

occasional basis, especially for further discussion on the Decade of Evangelism.

The visit of Mrs Smart stimulated discussion at the November meeting from which it was quite obvious that the parents of those present, had been responsible for encouraging their interest in the Church, by their own example.

However, it was stressed that we must make every effort to maintain our church and keep it viable in its own right, for as long as possible.

DGP

WICKHAMFORD WI

The President, Mrs R Hendrick welcomed members to the January meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr Graham Singleton gave an interesting account of the work of the National Canine Defence League and appealed for lady dog walkers to help the kennels. He was thanked by Mrs J Tweney.

Craft classes are starting on January 20th. The first craft is to be decoupage, the art of cutting out and making 3D cards and pictures. Names were taken for the Annual Party in the Memorial Hall later this month. Members are to visit Llandudno for a weekend in May.

The final walk along the Wychavon Way is to take place on Sunday 19th January. A theatre outing to Malvern has been arranged for Saturday 29th February. Refreshments were served by Mrs D King, Mrs R Woolf and Mrs P Bell.

The next meeting is on Thursday February 13th at 7.30pm at Wickhamford Memorial Hall when the speaker will be Mrs Joan Stow, a former Mayoress of Evesham. She will talk about her year in office. The competition is for an Evesham relic!

New members and visitors are very welcome.

Pat Bell

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At the meeting on 8th January, Graham Singleton, manager of the Canine Defence League Kennels at Wickhamford, gave a talk and answered questions about the kennels, their objectives and the various dogs they look after. Following the raffle the meeting closed.