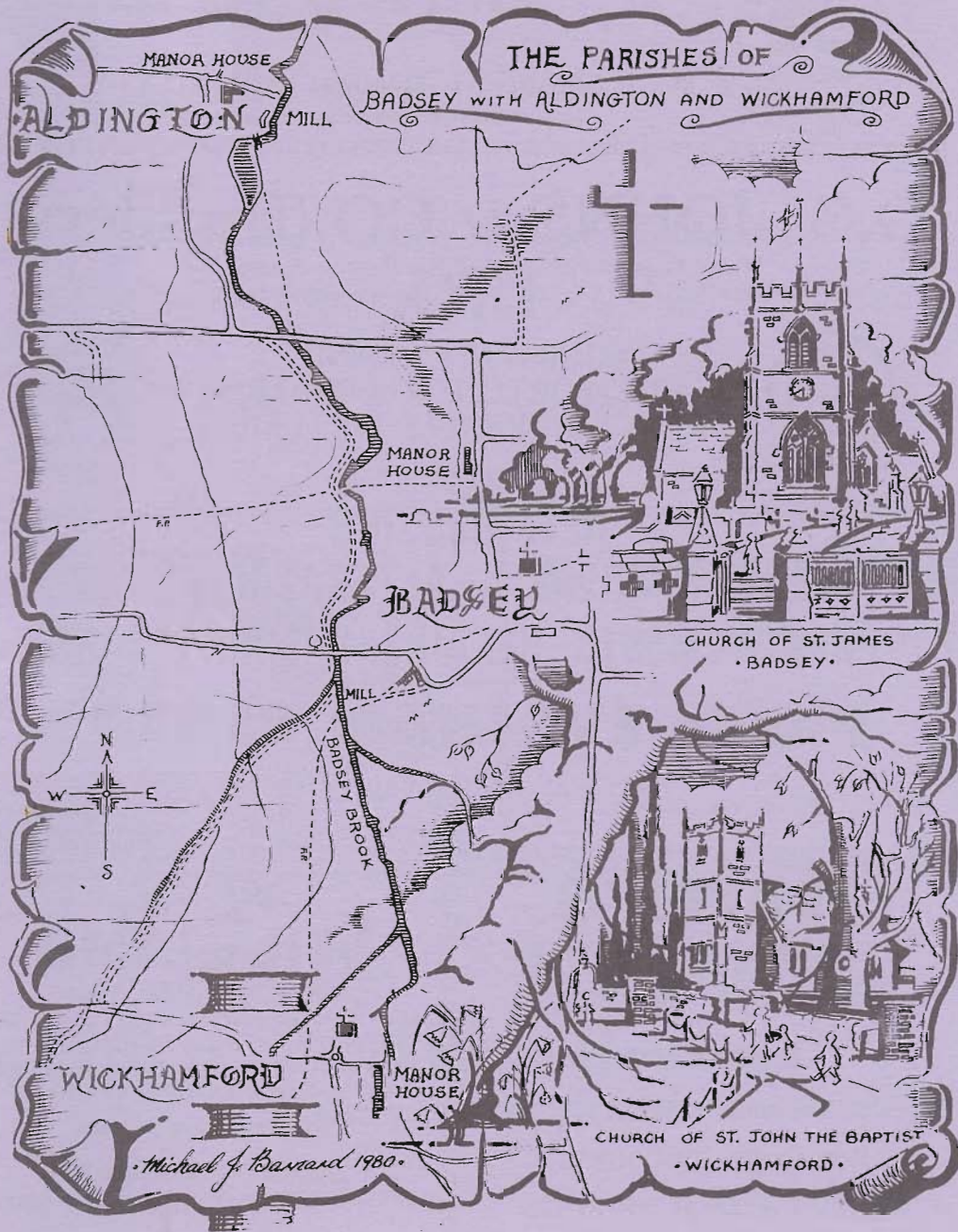


PARISH REVIEW

MARCH 1993



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THE VICAR'S LETTER

March 1993

Dear Friends,

One of the more disquieting trends in recent years has been the apparent loss in people of a sense of sin and wrongdoing and the ability to distinguish and decide between what is right and wrong, good and bad. At first sight, there would seem to be ample evidence to the contrary. Television programmes such as Esther Rantzen's "That's Life", "The Cook Report" and other similar programmes of enquiry, as well as the agencies which feed the national news bulletins throughout the media, appear to say otherwise. But all too often such publicity only highlights the symptoms and consequences of such wrongdoing rather than its basic causes. For example, if one were to speak out publicly against child abuse, shortcomings in the social services, the police, or on anything other than the most meticulous behaviour of teachers in our schools, one would be loudly applauded. But if one were to go further and speak out against the lax or even non-existent moral attitudes which so often give rise to such behaviour, one would enter a veritable minefield in which explosions would soon follow. How often do we find there is a background of prolonged and unhappy, dare one say immoral, relationships behind such wrongdoing, of which only the final outcome attracts the full glare of media coverage and publicity? It would take considerable courage

in the church of today to make pronouncements on such Old Testament texts as "Thou shalt do no murder", "Thou shalt not commit adultery", "Thou shalt not steal" "Thou shalt not bear false witness" and even "Thou shalt not covet". Many would feel that discretion was the better part of valour and choose far less challenging or controversial matters on which to speak. The decade of Evangelism might seem to be a much safer topic. But is it?

Lent is a time when the Church often publicly reiterates the Ten Commandments. Years ago I remember hearing a clergyman declaim the Ten Commandments during a service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday in Lent and the impression it made upon me. Lent is when the church calls on people to remember what the Lord their God requires of them. To repent and give up their foolish ways. To put aside those things that have supplanted the rightful place of God in their lives, and to behave towards others in ways which reflect their love and respect for them. But sadly, so often the church finds itself preaching only to the converted. If one was to say the same things outside the church, peoples' reactions could be very different.

It is not without significance that the theme of the readings during the early Sundays in Lent, is the King and the Kingdom; Temptation, Conflict, and Suffering, for this is what true evangelism can mean. Evangelism is essentially telling people what God has done for them in Jesus, and calling upon them to repent. To turn back to God and through faith in Jesus, and the Victory of the Cross, know the joy of sins forgiven, and the promise of eternal life with Him. But such evangelism can be costly. One has to overcome the temptation to take the easier and less controversial road. One has to be prepared for conflict and to endure suffering. For this is what the Way of the Cross means and it is the way Jesus himself travelled. But beyond lies the Transfiguration and the Resurrection and the glory of the first Easter Day. Life with the Risen Christ both now and in the life to come.

Life with the Risen Christ does not mean we lose the sense of sin and wrong, but rather, in Him, recognise them for what they really are and receive the grace and wisdom to overcome their power. For to lose a sense of sin is to neutralise the saving power of the Gospel. It is to reduce the Gospel to something seemingly irrelevant and meaningless and perhaps this is something that evangelism

is up against in the world today. People no longer feel any need of God. They feel they can get along quite well without Him. He no longer matters. They don't want Him upsetting their lives. They are quite happy as they are. But this is indicative of a society and a world which are far from healthy or happy and from whose influences and attitudes we still need to be saved.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH 1993

ST JAMES' BADSEY

7th	2 in Lent	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
14th	3 in Lent	8.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
21st	4 in Lent	11.00am Mothering Sunday Service	6.30pm Evensong
28th	5 in Lent	8.00am Holy Communion	6.30pm Sung Eucharist

APRIL

4th	Palm Sunday	11.00am Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
6th	Tuesday in Holy Week	7.30pm Evensong	
7th	Wednesday in Holy Week	10.00am Holy Communion	
8th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Sung Eucharist	
9th	Good Friday	2pm - 3pm Devotional Service	

11th Easter Day	8.00am Holy Communion (preceded by the lighting of the Paschal Candle)	6.30pm Evensong
	11.00am Sung Eucharist	7.45pm Holy Communion

Mid Week Communions: Every Wednesday at 10.00am
except 14th April

Badsey Sunday School: 11.00am every Sunday during
Term Time

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD

7th	2 in Lent	9.30am The Eucharist
14th	3 in Lent	9.30am The Eucharist
21st	4 in Lent & Mothering Sunday	9.30am The Eucharist
28th	5 in Lent	10.30am Matins

APRIL

4th	Palm Sunday	9.30am The Eucharist
8th	Maundy Thursday	9.00am The Eucharist
9th	Good Friday	11.00am Matins
11th	Easter Day	9.30am The Eucharist

SUNDAY THEMES

Sundays in Lent: The King and the Kingdom: 2 Conflict; 3
Suffering; 4 Transfiguration; 5 The Victory of the Cross;
Palm Sunday: The Way of the Cross.

Lectionary

7th	2 in Lent	1 John 4. 1-6 Luke 19. 41-end	Isaiah 35 Luke 11. 14-26
14th	3 in Lent	Colossians 1. 24-end Luke 9. 18-27	Isaiah 45. 14-end Acts 12. 1-17a
21st	4 in Lent	2 Corinthians 3.4-end Luke 9. 28-36	1 Kings 19. 1-18 2 Peter 1. 1-19
28th	5 in Lent	Colossians 2. 8-15 John 12. 20-32 <u>Wickamford</u> Lamentations 3. 19-33 Luke 23. 26-49	Jeremiah 31. 27-37 Mark 10. 32-45

APRIL

4th	Palm Sunday	Phil.2. 5-11 Mark 14. 32-15.41	Isaiah 5. 1-7 Mark 12. 1-12
8th	Maundy Thursday	1 Cor.11. 23-29 John 13. 1-15	
11th	Easter Day	Col 3. 1-11 Mark 16. 1-8	Exodus 14.5-end John 20. 11-23

PARISH REGISTERS

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

BADSEY

19 Feb

Phyllis Minnie Perks of 12, Chestnut Close, Aldington, aged 85 years (at Cheltenham)

WICKHAMFORD

16 Feb

Evelyn Iris Willis of 5, Sheldon Avenue, Broadway, aged 85 years (at Wickhamford)

DONATIONS

BADSEY

Madeira and Mince Pie Evening - £182,
- towards church funds

in memory of the late Francis Arthur
Hemming to St James' Church, Badsey.
Further donations towards church funds -
£118. The final amount received is now
£174.15.

WICKHAMFORD

from Miss Gladys Barnard and
Mrs Evelyn McKanan-Jones in memory of
their late sister, Miss Cecilia A. Barnard, to
commemorate what would have been her
100th birthday on 13th February, 1993 -
£500, towards church funds.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wed 10 Mar	Wickhamford AGM - Memorial Hall - 7-30pm
Thur 18 Mar	Badsey PCC - Badsey Church - 7-30pm
Thur 1 Apr	Floral Festival Meeting - Gallipot House - 7.30pm (<i>Please note change of Date</i>)

PARISH REVIEW - April issue - latest date for copy
- Wednesday, 17th March

Revision of Badsey Church Electoral Roll

The revision of Badsey Church Electoral Roll will take place
from Saturday, 27th March to Monday, 5th April inclusive
prior to the AGM on Wednesday, 23rd April.

Mothering Sunday Posies - Badsey

The preparation of Mothering Sunday Posies will take place
in Badsey Church on Saturday, 20th March at 9.30am. Offers
of help and gifts of flowers, as early as possible please, will
be most welcome.

LENT 1993

Following last year's Lent Bible Study Course, a further series of Bible Study and Discussion Groups will be held this year on four THURSDAY evenings during Lent, Thursday 4th, 11th and 25th March and 1st April. Each group will be led either by the Vicar or the Reader, Mr Callaghan and as last year, will be in the North Transept and begin at 7.30pm. It is also hoped to arrange light refreshments.

Parishioners from both parishes in the benefice will be welcome and those interested are invited to suggest particular topics for discussion beforehand, either to the Vicarage or Mr Callaghan. The groups held last year were very much appreciated by those who shared in them and it is hoped they will be equally successful this year. Also during Lent, Bishop Derek Bond will be giving a series of talks on behalf of the Evesham Council of Churches on the theme, "Thy Kingdom come" They will be held at the Friends Meeting House in Cowl Street and the Methodist Church. They will take place on five Wednesday evenings during Lent and full details of the talks, venues, dates and times, can be seen on the posters and accompanying handbills in each church.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Prayers are to be offered in Worcester Cathedral on Wednesday, 3rd March for the parishes of Badsey with Aldington and Wickhamford in company with the rest of the Diocese. It is the custom to invite members of the parishes to the Cathedral for Evensong at 5.30pm and for the incumbent to read one of the lessons. As in previous years, the Cathedral will be delighted to welcome members of the parishes to this service.

MOTHERS UNION

At our afternoon meeting on Tuesday 9th February we sang "The King of Love my Shepherd is".

The prayers were taken by Mrs Pat Mitchell. Members were asked to send in questions for the Any Questions Panel on 25th May, and car drivers were requested for the Deanery Festival in March at Inkberrow. We are always grateful for

lifts to various events so kindly given by members who drive, to those who don't or can't.

Our speaker was Mrs Daphne Bell, who gave a very interesting and informative talk on Church furnishings, vestments and rituals. It was fascinating to learn how the altar is dressed, and all the proper names of the cloths and vessels used, and the colours for seasons and Festivals. Her talk was illustrated with visual aids, and explanations of many words and terms used so often, but of whose meaning we only had a vague idea, or memory, or had never understood. It was an enlightening talk, and Mrs Bell was warmly thanked by Mrs Betty Bowles who said how much we had all enjoyed it, and how much we had learned.

A thought for Lent. It is not what we "give up for Lent" that is important, sweets, cigarettes, sugar etc., but what we give out to others, more prayer, more of our time, more forbearance, more patience, more love towards each other. These things are pleasing to God, and good for us!

E Seaman. EM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wed 3rd March	10am Corporate Communion
Tues 9th March	2.30pm Mr John Callaghan Talk on Old Testament
Tues 23rd March	Deanery Festival at Inkberrow 7pm

BADSEY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Members met in the village hall for their monthly meeting on February 10th.

The President, Mrs. Sparrow, welcomed all and especially a new member. After the minutes of the previous meeting, members heard about future events. There was not sufficient interest in the darts, however the Skittles captain had arranged a match with Evesham on March 5th. The Treasurer reported on the financial state of the branch. The outings Secretary, Mrs. Yvonne Haynes, reported that she was willing to arrange outings but as our numbers had fallen it would mean that each trip would cost more.

Members agreed to this. The competition cup was won by Mrs, Marlene Atkinson. Mrs. Sparrow reminded members that the coach for the theatre trip to Stratford on the 13th would leave the Wheatsheaf Inn at 1.15p.m. The branch had sent 22 parcels to Slovenia.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. John Callaghan and he proceeded to talk about the National Trust property at Snowhill Manor where he works. He gave a very comprehensive account of the history of the house from 819 a.d. until the present day. The house had a very changeable existence, sometimes owned by the Crown sometimes privately. From the main entrance he explained the right and left sides of the house had completely different architecture. The right side is Tudor originated when Henry VIII gave it to Katherine Parr, it then came under the control of the family at Sudely Castle. Much later in 1720 the left side was added in Cotswold Stone, with the addition of extra rooms and a new roof. However it soon became neglected as the owners had other properties they preferred, and was finally purchased in 1920 by Charles Paget Wade to house his great collection. Mr Callaghan then explained how he had obtained this wonderful collection of objet d'art and showed slides of some of the most valuable objects there. Of a total collection of 1800 there is always 1400 on show. All agreed the evening was very enjoyable. Many of us have visited Snowhill but never perhaps with the knowledge of its history.

Before the meeting closed, the President reminded all that the speaker for the March meeting would be the Editor of the Journal.

J. Butcher Press, reporter

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

The February meeting was very well attended when the speaker for the afternoon, Mr. Terry Sparrow, gave a most interesting talk on "Old Badsey". He explained how Badsey had evolved over several hundred years into the village it is today. He spoke with great enthusiasm and obvious knowledge of his subject. Indeed, he had so much to tell us that, before we realised it, his allotted time had expired. Consequently we very much hope he will be able to visit us again in due course.

Many tubes were brought in for our charity appeal for the Evesham Blind Club. Please keep up the good work ! The free raffle was won by Mrs. P. Knight and the paid one by Mrs. Turner, Miss Smith and Mrs. Williams. Several new members were welcomed to the Club.

The next meeting is on 3rd March when our speaker will be

Mr. Richard Baker of the Woodgreen Animal Shelter at Blackminster. He will tell us about the work of the centre and, from reports we have received, we should have an amusing as well as interesting afternoon. Again, friends are invited to join us on this occasion.

ADVANCE NOTICE.

The April Meeting will be the annual "Mini Auction". This is a fund raising event and it is hoped it will be well supported by our members.

We were really pleased to welcome back at our February meeting many members who had recently been ill.

Mary Callaghan.

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The Vice Chairman, Mrs Newbury, took the January meeting. After the Exhortation we all remembered Doreen Jefferies who passed away suddenly on Christmas Eve. She had been a loyal member and worked hard for many organisations. She will be missed by all of us. A donation was made to the Blind Association in her memory.

The Conference in May will be attended by Liz Harvey, Standard Bearer, and Clare Westmancote, as delegate.

After all the business members enjoyed Bingo. Val Taylor was caller. The monthly Competition was won by Nancy West and the Draw was won by Eileen Tysko and Eva Reed.

The Annual Dinner was a great success. This was held at Legion Headquarters. An excellent meal was served to 34 members and friends. Mrs Cyril presented The Phylis Sears Cup to Anne Wilson for most points through the year and The Pat Lloyd Vase to Rhoda Thompson as runner up. The entertainment was very good and everyone had a great night.

M. Morcombe

MONEY MATTERS - ST. JAMES

As we move into 1993 and consider what lies before us, it is perhaps also the time to look back on the fates and fortunes of the past year before they pass into the annals of history.

We began the year with the thought that in 1991 our expenditure had exceeded our income by just over £2600

(£50 per week) and we were indeed fortunate that we had been able to use some of our investment income to get us out of trouble. With inflation pushing up our costs while interest rates were falling, 1992 looked formidable to say the least. In the event, we have been blessed once more with an enormous amount of help from so many sources, that our deficiency last year was reduced to just over £700. As a result, we have been able to make a start on restoring the reserves in the Fabric Fund which had been virtually exhausted and is essential to ensure the well being of the Church building. The examination of the building which takes place every five years and is carried out by the Architects, is due very shortly.

And what of 1993. We all know that interest rates have continued to fall and what a blessing that is to many. It is however, not so helpful to our funds where we rely on investments to provide the necessary to keep us out of the 'red' The same applies to the central funds of the Church of England which then has to turn to the Parishes to contribute the shortfall by an increase in the 'Quota' payments which pays for the Clergy, their housing and so on. This year we are asked to find an extra £30-per week.. Once more, we shall be able to rely on the band of workers who so willingly organise the activities which provide so much enjoyment for those who take part and at the same time raise the funds we so urgently require. These people I thank very sincerely for without them, the part I play would not be possible. It only remains for me to make my usual 'treasurers plea' for more parishioners to join the Stewardship Scheme. For those who pay Income Tax - I am able to reclaim the tax which turns each £3 into 4 whilst guaranteeing absolute confidentiality

Bob Gregory.

ST JAMES FLOWER GUILD

March : No flowers in church during Lent. Easter Saturdays we will be decorating our church for Easter. Anyone wishing to help will be most welcome, or if you would like to help during the year please telephone me.

Owing to the success of the flower arranging classes there are follow-on classes for last year's class. Also a beginners class starting on the 1st April at 7.0clock. Anyone wishing

to 'have a go' at flower arranging please contact me on
Evesham 832007. Hazel Stewart

BELL RINGING - BADSEY

In the February issue a peal of LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR was forecast for the 20th February. Due to unforeseen circumstances this had to be changed at the last moment to LINCOLN SURPRISE MAJOR; 5088 changes were rung by a team from the Worcs. and District Association to whom St JAMES is affiliated.

Treble, M.V. POWELL, Hereford. 2, CLARE FRENCH, Twyning.
3, ALAN E. HARTLEY, Redditch. 4, PHILIP MORGAN, Malvern.
5, JOHN CLEMENTS, Malvern. 6, C. POVEY, Evesham.
7, CLIFFORD A. BARROW, Birmingham.
8, GERALD HEMMING, Evesham.

Hilary Bolton

WICKHAMFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The members enjoyed their Annual Dinner in the Memorial Hall, especially the welcoming Punch with which they were served on arrival and the wonderful selection of mouth-watering desserts. Sandwiched between these delights was a grapefruit starter and main course of turkey in rich wine sauce with duchesse potatoes and vegetables. Good housekeeping and generous support for the raffle produced an unexpected surplus over expenditure of £76, out of which £50 will be given to St Richard's Hospice via the Sullivan Singers who entertained us with their humour and very professional rendering of songs by Gilbert and Sullivan. The Walking Group spent a happy weekend in the Yorkshire Dales with the Holiday Fellowship. They had been really spoilt - staying in a very grand mansion, with en suite facilities. They had enough energy to dance and play games well into the night even after a hard day's walking and a substantial dinner.

A theatre outing has been arranged on 13th March and a visit to Shugborough, the home of Lord Lichfield, is to be organised for a Sunday in May. There is to be an Easter Fair in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th April and a Social Evening on Thursday 29th April. Families, friends and anyone interested in any of the above events please ring 831965 for further information.

At the February meeting Mr & Mrs Townsend showed their slides of the Lake District with readings from Wordsworth's

poems and anecdotes about the Wordsworths and their own visits to the area. The meeting concluded with a game of Musical Chairs accompanied by a certain amount of cheating and much hilarity. The next meeting will be on March 11th when Mr D Hartwell-Smith will give a talk about Relaxation and Aroma therapy. Visitors and prospective new members are welcome to attend.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club first meeting of the New Year was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 3rd February, and was well attended.

Enthusiastic members had turned up to join in the Gardeners Question Time. The team consisted of Mr Bob Brown, Mr Paul Williams, Mr Colin Hill and Mrs Diane Stacey. Many interesting questions were put to the team, such as a suitable plant to grow in a windy spot, why a variegated Yucca plant failed to flower during the summertime and why white mould readily grows on Begonias. Two other interesting questions were, how does one rid their garden of wasps and is it necessary to heal a wound on a walnut tree. There were many many more questions and the team provided many useful hints and answers and were certainly kept on their toes. Everyone ended up full of knowledge and keen enough to go home and tackle their own garden problems. Afterwards, the Chairman, Mrs E. Batchelor, thanked the team and expressed the audience's appreciation for such an awe-inspiring evening.

The competition for First Spring Flowers, was won by Mr D. Hadley, with Mrs A Spiers and Mr N Tayler second and third.

The next meeting will be held on 3rd March, when Mr Michael Jefferson-Brown will be giving a talk on "Daffodils" and the competition will be three cut Daffodil/Narcissi stems. All in all it should turn out to be a most enjoyable evening.

Mrs R E Stringer

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our February meeting took place at 2.30 on Wednesday 3rd in the village Memorial Hall.

Margaret Winkett opened the meeting and announced any items of news. Betty Steiner distributed the Birthday

buttonholes which as usual, she had kindly made herself. Margaret then introduced Mr & Mrs Colbourne from Alcester, who had on two previous occasions given us excellent slide shows.

We once again had a slide show covering visits to various districts in Austria and Oberammergau. The interesting photography was supported by background music and commentary. Following the show, a vote of thanks was given by Margaret. Several new members were welcomed. This was followed by tea, biscuits and the raffle. The meeting closed.

Two contributions from the Benefice, the first from Mr John Wardle of Badsey and the second from Mr H. F. Hands of Wickhamford.

A STORY ABOUT THE WORD SINCERE

I listened to this story all of 70 years ago, at Sunday School, and have remembered it. You may have heard it before but if not I thought it would be of interest.

Sincere comes from two words "sine"- which means "without" and "cere" which means "wax" How could these two words have anything to do with "sincere"?

The story moves to times long ago when the King gave or sold to his subjects pieces of land on which they built houses and created landscape gardens. The fashion at the time was to have statues in both the houses and the gardens. Most of these statues came from Italian towns such as Florence where sculptors and masons fashioned them out of marble and stone. A very good trade was carried on. But when making a statue, occasionally the chisel would slip and create a flaw. The mason would say "what a pity" (or some other appropriate expression - Editor!) and then set about mixing some wax and colouring matter to hide the imperfection. This was quite satisfactory if the sun did not shine, but if it did, the wax would melt revealing the flaw in the stone. Thus a perfect statue was known among the traders as "sincere", or "without wax". This meant they were free from any imperfections. So today, the word "sincere" means the same, "Pure, honest, genuine, free from imperfections. True and free from false pretences.

From a United Reform Church magazine in Stourbridge.

"To make it possible for everyone to attend church next week, we are having a special "no excuse" Sunday. There will be sleeping bags in church for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to lie in" Eye lotion will be available for those who have red eyes from watching TV too late on Saturday night. Blankets will be given to those who say the church is too cold and fans for those who think it is too hot!

There will be hearing aids for those who say the Vicar speaks too softly, and cotton wool for those who complain that he preaches too loudly. Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present. Some assorted relatives and friends will be slipped in for those who must go visiting on Sunday. There will be meals provided for those who cannot go to church and cook on the same day.

One section of the church will be laid out with trees and grass for those who love to worship God in nature and finally, the church will be decorated with Christmas trees and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them! See you all on Sunday, folks!"

Two Christian Crackers for Lent

"Thou shalt not steal"

One Sunday morning it was noticed that the sidesmen counting the collection were Mr Robb, Mr Crook and Mr Cheatham.

Candle Power

A man accused of stealing candlesticks from Carlisle Cathedral had his case temporarily adjourned when the court heard he had wax in his ears.

Cumberland Times