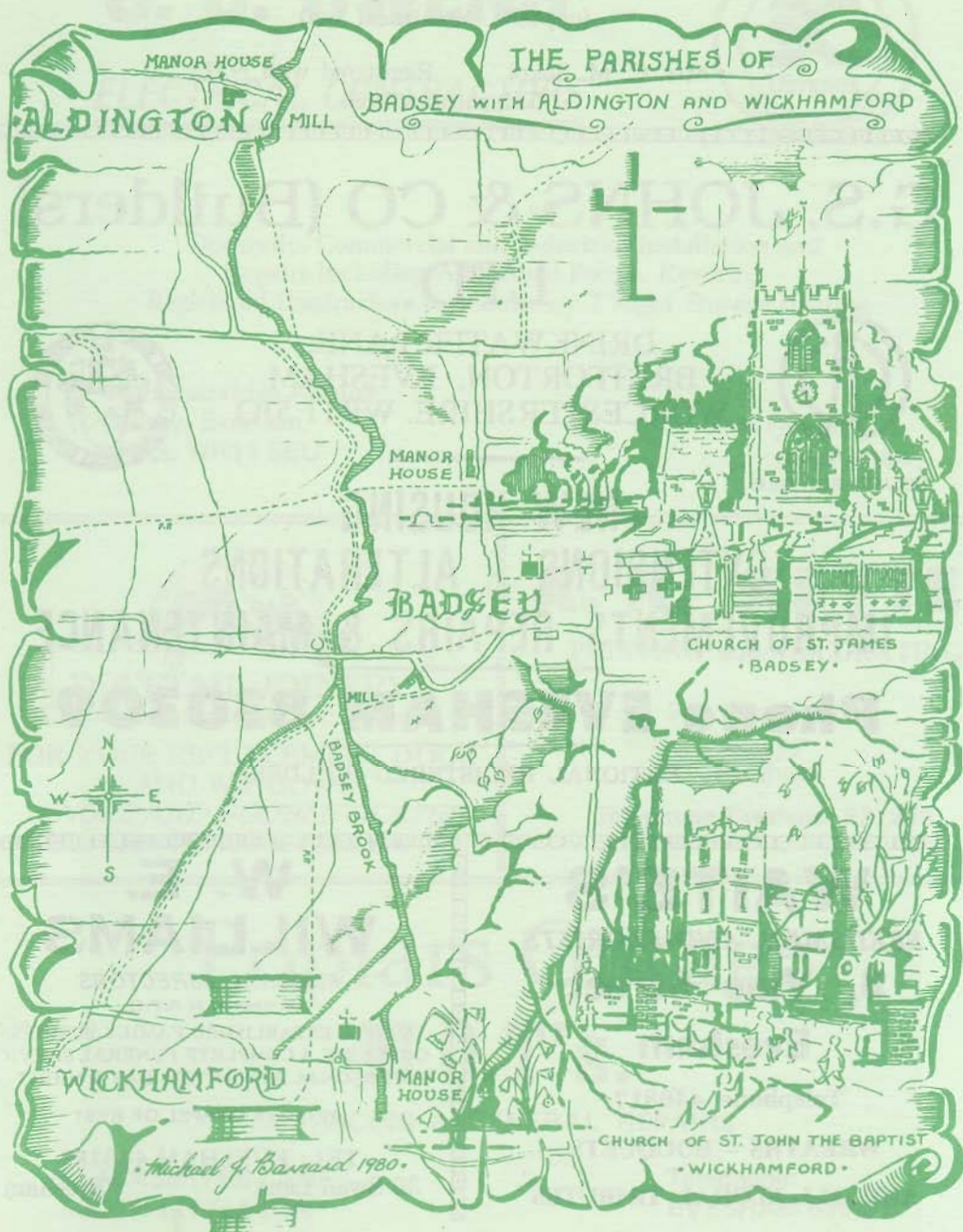


BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD

PARISH REVIEW

25p

SEPTEMBER 1993



The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

September 1993

My Dear Friends

Elsewhere in this magazine, Mr Bob Gregory, the Treasurer and Accountant of Badsey Church is again writing about the finances of Badsey Church. By the time you read this letter it is hoped Wickhamford will have enjoyed another very successful Floral Festival in aid of its church funds. Last September, Mr Gregory was writing on the same subject following the presentation at the Badsey Show. This year sadly, the position has become much worse. Not in the parishes themselves, although Badsey and Aldington are having more difficulty in meeting all their expenses this year than they did last. But nationally, due to the losses suffered by the Church Commissioners in their property investments. This has caused a very real crisis in the finances of the Church of England, and is the cause of much concern. Grants made by the Church Commissioners to the dioceses have already been affected and in Worcester diocese the Diocesan Budget for 1994, is already under critical examination. Serious consideration is being given to how much parishes could or should be asked to contribute towards the cost of running the diocese in 1994. If the quota assessments are fixed too high, many parishes could become insolvent. If the assessment is not fixed high enough, cuts in expenditure will become almost inevitable.

Whatever happens, 1994 is likely to be a very difficult year financially for the Church of England, both nationally, at diocesan level and in the parishes.

The difficulty in many parishes, ours included, is that the people who regularly support the church and worship there cannot be expected to find the extra money themselves. Nor can they do it by holding even more fund raising events. In Badsey for instance, the church holds a fund raising event for the church almost every month of the year, this in addition to other church fund raising activities such as the Mothers' Union, The Childrens' Society, Christian Aid, the Overseas Work of the Church and the Church Army, and as well as the many other charitable and very worthy fund raising efforts which take place in the village. The church has now reached saturation point from this source of income.

It has been said that the only answer now is for more people to come to church. Not only for people to give more, but for more people to give. To get more bottoms on seats as someone has put it. But when a leading national news paper reported the Archbishop of Canterbury as voicing this need, in an adjacent column a similar headline said, "Prime Minister supports deregulation of Sunday Trading". With the ever increasing secular influences surrounding the church today is it not becoming a case of "Choose you this day whom you will serve" How many can answer, "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord"? (Joshua 24.15)

The truth is that in this country today very many people are still entitled to the full rights and privileges of the Church of England as the established church of the nation but at the same time, expect a comparatively small number of people to provide them. They expect the church to be available for their baptisms, weddings and funerals, and when requested, even for visiting bell ringers, yet they seldom support it in any other way and can be very critical of its shortcomings when they occur. But the fact remains, that in one way or another, the church still has to be paid for. The best way of doing this is by sharing in its services and worship. The Lord doesn't just want our money, he wants us. In this benefice another way is by joining the Stewardship Schemes of Badsey and Wickhamford.

Finally, this is undoubtedly a time of crisis for the church and crisis means judgement. Judgement on a church,

a nation and a people, who perhaps in the past have been too cushioned by their ecclesiastical finances. But crisis also means opportunity. Could this be an opportunity, even a heaven sent opportunity, for people, for the nation, and even the church, to become richer, if not in money, then certainly in faith?

It was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who later died at the hands of the Nazis, who said, "Grace is free, but it is not cheap" Is there not an even greater need for people to realise once more what God has done for them in Jesus Christ. How much it cost to redeem their souls. For people to realise the true cost of their church. To believe again in the faith of Christ crucified. And then to respond in love and gratitude and thankfulness. For the more grateful we are, the more generous we become. Or as St Paul would put it, "My grace is sufficient for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor.12.9)

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,
Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - SEPTEMBER 1993

ST JAMES' BADSEY

5th	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.30pm	Evensong
12th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm	Evensong
19th	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.30pm	Evensong
26th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist

OCTOBER

3rd	11.00am	Harvest Festival	6.30pm	Evensong
		Family Service		
10th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm	Evensong

Mid Week Communion: Wednesday, 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th September, and 6th and 13th October.
There will be no Mid Week Communion on 22nd September.

Badsey Sunday School : 11.00am every Sunday during Term Time

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD

5th	9.30am	The Eucharist
12th	9.30am	The Eucharist
19th	Harvest Festival	9.30am The Eucharist

26th 10.30am Matins
OCTOBER
 3rd 9.30am The Eucharist
 10th 9.30am The Eucharist

LECTIONARY

5th	14 after Pentecost	Ephesians 5.25-6.4 Mark 10.2-16	Genesis 45 1-15 Luke 2.41-end
12th	15 after Pentecost	Romans 13.1-7 Matthew 22.15-22	1 Kings 3.4-15 1 Timothy 1.12-2.8
19th	16 after Pentecost	BADSEY Romans 12.9-end Luke 10.25-37	Deuteronomy 15.1- 18 1 John 4.7-end
	Harvest Festival	WICKHAMFORD 2 Cor. 9.6-end Matt.6 24-end	
26th	17 after Pentecost	James 1.16-end Luke 17.11-19	Jeremiah 32.1-15 Luke 14.25-end

OCTOBER

3rd	Harvest Festival	BADSEY Family Service to be arranged	Genesis 1.24-end Matthew 6.24-end
	18 after Pentecost	WICKHAMFORD 2 Cor.8 1-9 Matt.5 17-26	
10th	19 after Pentecost	Heb.11.1-2 & 8-16 Matt.6 24-end	Daniel 6.1-23 Luke 18.35-19.10

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST.

14 The Family; 15 Those in Authority; 16 The Neighbour;
 17 The Proof of Faith; 18 The Offering of Life;
 19 The Life of Faith.

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS: Jesus said, *"Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these"*

BADSEY

8 Aug Sophie Louise Greening of 11, Horsebridge Ave, Badsey.
 Jacob Henry Phillip Hall of 61, Bretforton Road, Badsey,

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

BADSEY

31 Jul Paul Andrew Stanley
and Marianne Louise Jenkins

WICKHAMFORD

7 Aug Martin David Habbitts and
Julie Elizabeth Padfield

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

BADSEY

23 Jul Jeffrey Lawrence Sandall of 7, Poplars
Court, Badsey, aged 53 years (at Badsey
and Cheltenham)

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

8 Sep Floral Festival Committee
Post Festival Meeting - 7.30pm Gallipot House

10 Sep Cheese and Wine Evening -
The Barn, Seward Road, 7.0pm - 9pm

15 Sep Wickhamford PCC - Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

16 Sep Badsey PCC - Badsey Church, 7.30pm

21 Sep Pastoral Committee - The Vicarage, 2.30pm

20 Sep Wickhamford Harvest Supper - Memorial
Hall, - 7pm for 7.30pm

6 Oct Evesham Deanery Synod - Remembrance
Hall, Badsey, 7.30pm

8 Oct Musical Evening - Badsey Church,
Details to be announced

PARISH REVIEW - OCTOBER ISSUE - LATEST DATE FOR COPY,
Wednesday, 15th September

Decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest

The decoration of Badsey Church for Harvest will begin on Saturday, 2nd October, at 9.30am. All offers of help and gifts of flowers, fruit and produce will be very welcome,

Distribution of Harvest Produce - Badsey with Aldington

The distribution of the Harvest Produce to the sick, elderly, housebound and to the hospitals and nursing homes, will

take place on Monday, 4th October, beginning at 9.30am. Offers of help will be very welcome, together with 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 C. Davies, Mrs J. Ives, Mrs H. Bird and Mrs S. Cole.

CHEESE AND WINE - BADSEY

Another of our very pleasant Cheese and Wine Evenings is to be held at The Barn, Seward Road, Badsey at the kind invitation of Mrs Nancy Sladden, on Friday, 10th September from 7pm to 9pm. in aid of Church Funds. There will be the usual Bring and Buy, Raffle, Games and Competitions. Tickets price £1.20 for Adults and 60p for children are available from members of the Social Committee and on the night. Come and bring your friends, and enjoy a happy evening in support of the church.

MOTHERS UNION

On 27th July at 7.30pm we held our garden meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs Betteridge. The weather, though cloudy, held out and we enjoyed the beauty of the garden once again. We welcomed some visitors and sent good wishes in our prayers to those who were on holiday or not well. As last year, we had some competition from the starlings but they left us after a time and we could hear what was taking place. Daphne guided us through our Prayer Link gift ceremony, as always accompanied by surprises and laughter. It is comforting to know that someone is praying for one all the year, even if one doesn't know who it is.

Delicious refreshments provided by the Committee were then enjoyed, accompanied by wine made by Mr Betteridge. He always says it is not strong, but members went home very cheerfully indeed.

Many thanks to Joan and Fred, their garden is such a lovely setting for our meeting, and the Committee for the food and Fred for the wine.

On Tuesday 3rd August seven members went to Tewkesbury Abbey at the invitation of the Campden Deanery MU who were running a coach for a special sung Eucharist in the Abbey. There was a visiting choir who sang most beautifully, and in the Abbey setting made for a memorable experience. After the service, some of our party of 57 went

off in search of lunch, and some of us ate sandwiches in bright sunshine in the Abbey precincts. At 2 o'clock we assembled for a guided tour of the Abbey, and we were rewarded with a lively, interesting and very full description of its history and of those connected with it. Tea was then provided by the MU in the hall nearby. This was much needed after all the knowledge we had acquired, and it was very good indeed.

A thought from a poem by Hartley Coleridge (brother of the more famous Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

If I am weak, yet God is strong
If I am fake, yet God is true
Old things are past or right or wrong
And every day that comes is new
Tomorrow then fresh hope may bring
And rise with healing on its wing.

E. Seaman E.M.

BADSEY WOMENS INSTITUTE - AUGUST MEETING

Members gathered at the home of Mrs Strickland, ostensibly for a garden meeting but a high wind drove the meeting inside the house.

Mrs. Sparrow, the President, opened the meeting thanking Mrs. Strickland for allowing the use of her house. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. In matters arising she reported that the knit-in had raised £47 for the ARC, the teas at the Flower Show £138, of which £50 would be donated to the Flower Show and £10 to the Scouts for the use of their facilities. Names were taken for the Group Meeting on October 15th and for Hampton W.I.'s 21st Anniversary on November 11th. Several members volunteered to help the Cars and Learn class for the blind, held in the village hall on Monday mornings. The Outing Secretary reported that she had arranged our own historic walk in Evesham, meeting at the Almonry Museum at 7p.m. and supper at the Lantern Grill on August 31st. Only a few tickets were left for the trip to London to see 'Phantom at the Opera' on October 27th. A visit to the Royal Brierly factory with an Xmas Buffet lunch included was agreed for 1st December. The Sports Secretary had arranged a skittles evening on Friday 20th August at the Cricket Club Alley.

Members then enjoyed a buffet supper and the evening concluded with a Mini Auction of items brought by

members. The speaker at the September meeting would be talking about Antique Embroidery.

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The July meeting was held at Legion Headquarters. The Chairman, Mrs Cyril, opened the meeting with the Exhortation and members held a Silent Tribute for Mrs Lamb a member who passed away. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The correspondence was discussed. Names were taken for County Conference at Worcester. The County Rally was held at Offenham. This was also the 70th Anniversary of Offenham Branch, and was a very pleasant afternoon. Fifty four Standards were in the Parade and several of our members attended. The Chairman thanked Mrs Emms for running our stall at Badsey Flower Show. The monthly competition was won by Mrs Tyskow and Mrs Clements won the draw.

A very interesting talk and video was given by Mr Selby about his trips to Rumania to help educate the young orphan children and the wonderful job being done for them. The people who volunteer to do this must be very dedicated. Mrs Cyril thanked Mr Selby for coming and enlightening us as to the conditions and the good work being undertaken. Refreshments were served. M.M.

SIXTY PLUS CLUB

Our August meeting took place as usual at the British Legion. Mr David Harrison was our speaker for the afternoon and as a result we are a little wiser in our knowledge of trees. It was a very interesting and relaxing talk and Mr Harrison was ably assisted by Mrs Esmé Seaman to whom we give our thanks, also Mrs C Davies for the vote of thanks. We were sorry our surprise had to be cancelled, and we do hope Natasha and her family are recovering from their pet dog dying. Names were taken for a trip to Webb's in September, and just a reminder - it is on Thursday 2nd September at 1.45pm. There were 9 birthdays this month. The free raffle was won by Mrs K Green and the bottle of wine by Mrs D Nesbitt. Our very best wishes go to all members who are ill, and it is nice to know Mrs P Wheatley is back home. Happy holiday to the many going away in September. Win Skitt (Mary on holiday)

CHURCH FINANCE

Having passed the half-year stage, it may be a good time to pass a few comments on the state of the finances of St. James Church again and I am able to report that regular income is almost exactly the same as last year for the period January - June. In one or two areas we have done perhaps a little less well whilst the Stewardship Scheme has made up those losses and finally we are £180, better off.

The other side of the coin shows that we have held our costs down very well and they have risen by £200, provided that we exclude the Quota payments. Those have gone up by £720 and increase our 'running costs' from £250 per week to £280. This means that we have balanced our increased day to day expenses by increased income and have to look for the money to pay the extra Quota.

By the end of June last year, we had to use £400 of our Investment Income to pay our way. This year we shall require £1120! That is just for the six months. Meanwhile, interest rates have fallen.

At this point I would like to refer to the great deal of comment in the press regarding the loss in the value of the assets held by the Church Commissioners. Reports have been published by the 'Lambeth Group' chaired by the Bishop of Chelmsford and by the consultants Coopers and Lybrands. These related to the Property holdings of the Church Commissioners and do NOT relate to the money held in the Investment Fund or Deposit account which are in the form of Stocks and Shares. It is comforting to note that the performances of these holdings were commended by the same experts.

Anyone who relies on the interest from savings or any other type of investment knows the effect of lower interest rates on their income and this is the difficulty which affects the well being not only of our own church, but that of the Central church as well and has an immediate bearing on the funds from which clergy stipends housing, pensions and so on are derived. By far, the greatest part of the Quota goes towards meeting these costs and reduced interest rates will immediately show in a further increase in the Quota. Already there is the prospect of a further increase of at least £1600 for 1994!

We, in Badsey, are very fortunate that the fabric of the church is in good shape. Nothing very much is expected in the Architects report which is due at any time now.

Neither do we have any Loans or Mortgages to pay off for past repairs. We do however, need to raise funds to keep our heads above water and I am thinking in terms of £40 per week. I know that there is a lot of good will throughout the Parish and we have much to be thankful for, but at the risk of being considered boring, I must repeat my plea for all to join in the Stewardship Scheme and in particular to tax payers whose covenants will attract tax rebates at no extra cost to themselves.

Bob Gregory.

ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

SEPTEMBER ROTA

1st Sunday Mrs P Mitchell and Mrs H Stewart

2nd Sunday Mrs P Bell and Mrs M Callaghan

3rd Sunday Mrs P Goldstraw and Mrs S Goldstraw

4th Sunday Mrs M Clarke and Mrs H Stewart

I would like to say thank you for all the offers of foliage and also gifts of flowers I have received for the church. It is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank members of my class for their help with wedding flowers. Several are to be congratulated for entering Badsey Flower Show. For most it was the first time, and they did very well. It will not be so nerve racking next time. Well done.

Any information or queries regarding church flowers or classes please contact me on Evesham 832007

Hazel Stewart

CHURCH BELLS

To mark fifty years church-bell ringing by Tony Brazier, a quarter-peal was rung on the Parish Church bells on Saturday 24th July. He was taught to ring at Badsey by the late Mr.C.A. Binyon and Mr.G.A. King when the ban on war-time church-bell ringing was lifted in 1943.

1264 changes of Plain Bob Major, with Fred Munday as Conductor, were rung by Phyllis Brazier - treble, Reg Kyte - 2, Len Mills - 3, Tony Brazier - 4, Murry Newbury - 5, Fred Munday - 6, Robert Hall - 7, and Clint Evans - tenor.

In addition to Tony, ringers of the treble, seventh and tenor bells also learnt to ring at Badsey, and the second-bell ringer is the Church Organist.

WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB - 4.8.93

The August meeting at the Memorial Hall on Wed: 4th Aug. turned out to be one of those that exceeded the expectations of all the forty-one members who attended. The programme started with our Secretary reading the usual notices and apologies for non-attendance, and birthday buttonholes were presented to Mrs Stock, Mrs White, Mrs Wolfe, Mr Nichols and Mr Whiting. Then came our guest speaker, Mr Michael Kiernan of the Home Office Fire Prevention College at Morton-in-the-Marsh, who gave an extremely interesting account of the work that goes on at the college. Most of the audience were amazed to find that here, almost on our doorstep, is the largest and most technically advanced organisation of its' kind in the world. Behind the very ordinary looking entrance in Morton there are specially constructed shops, houses, flats, an oil rig, a large ship in water, a section of motorway with crashed vehicles, a large aircraft and many other buildings all built full size in concrete or other fire-proof material that can be get on fire again and again. There is living accommodation for six hundred and eighty students who come from all over the world, mainly the Middle East and Africa, and a self-contained village for the four hundred staff. There is a large and very modern sports complex with an Olympic size swimming pool. What is more the whole organisation is self supporting and receives no finance from the Home Office, costs being met by students fees etc: Of course there was a 'Question Time', and the many and varied queries were answered expertly and in good humour by Mr Kiernan, but alas no 'open days'. Following the most enjoyable talk tea and biscuits were served, and our usual monthly raffle was drawn and the meeting came to a close. Next month (Sept: 1st) will be our Harvest Festival event, and on October 6th Mr Colin Hill a local nurseryman will be giving us advice on all things in the garden.

D.S.

WICKHAMFORD SENIOR RESIDENTS

An outing has been arranged for Wednesday 8th September. Destination not definite, but will be either Warwick Castle or Cotswold Wild Life Park depending on the weather! Coach will leave the Sandy's Arms at 1.30 pm prompt. Anyone wishing to go, please give your names in to the Post Office as soon as possible.