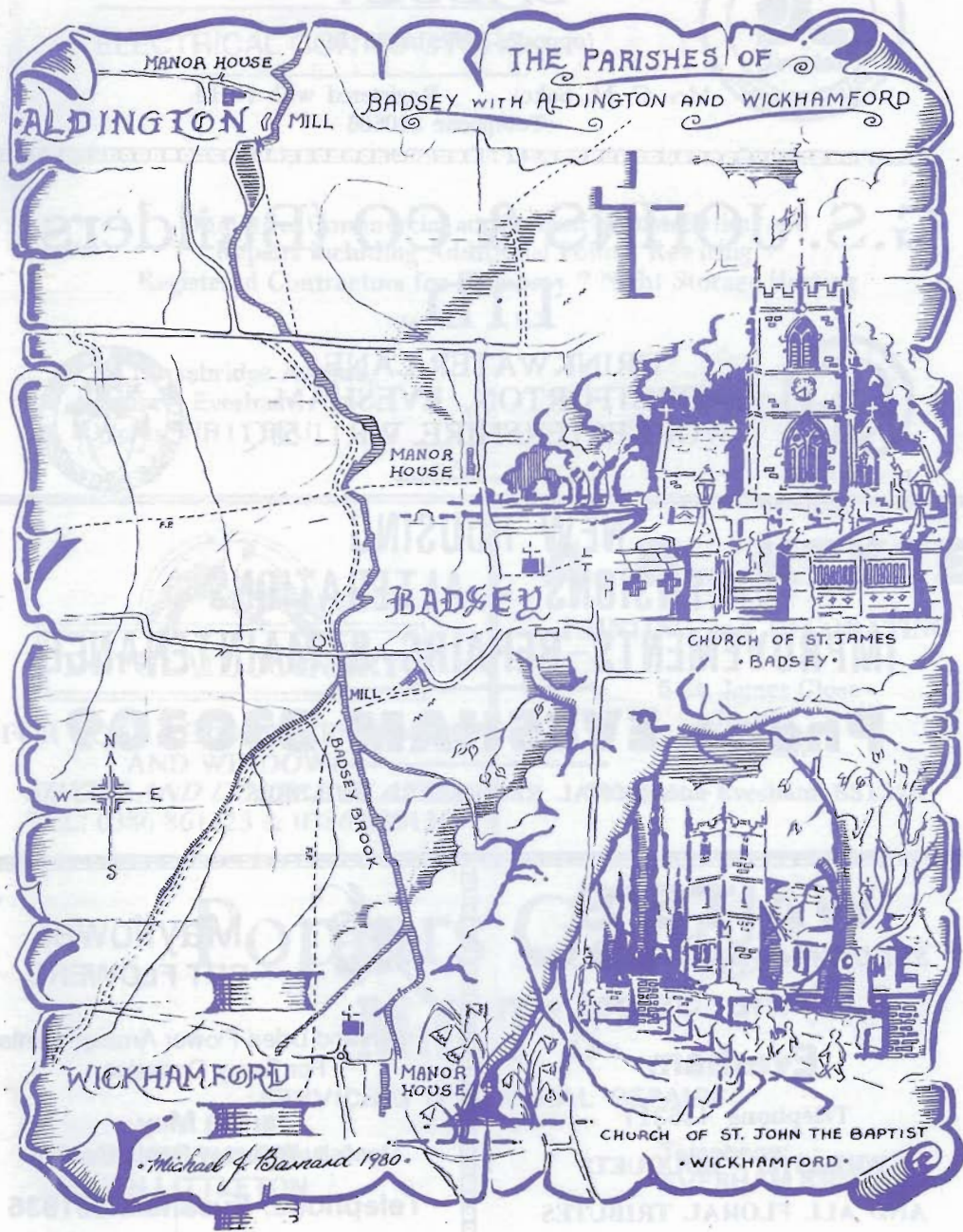


PARISH REVIEW

30p

MAY 1994



The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

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THE VICAR'S LETTER

May 1994

My dear Friends,

Elsewhere in this issue of the Parish Review you will see a letter recently received from the Church Commissioners concerning their financial affairs which have already so affected the Church of England. An Open Meeting is to be held in Wickhamford on Wednesday, 11th May in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm to make the consequences more widely known for smaller parishes such as Wickhamford and to seek greater support for the church.

What is at stake? First, the future of the parish priest. There is a real possibility that within the next ten years the number of full time clergy in the area of Evesham will reduce from the present eleven to eight. We are now very concerned about the effect this may have upon the parishes, such as Badsey with Aldington and Wickhamford.

Secondly, the mission and presence of the church itself, and the influence the church has always had on the communities it is called to serve. The church represents christian moral principles and ethics which are basic to the health of society, community, family and personal life.

Thirdly, it is the church which provides pastoral care and counselling in sickness, loneliness bereavement and times of crisis, both through its parish priest and through the lay members of the church who also in their different ways represent the presence of the Risen Christ in their local community.

Fourthly, the church provides access to God at key points in our lives through the sacraments, at baptism, confirmation, holy communion, holy matrimony, at times of bereavement, and through forgiveness and reconciliation.

Fifthly, the church provides teaching about God, and his ways with us through its work in education and its schools, as well as through sermons and addresses, adult and Lenten study groups. It also directs and guides our bible reading and prayer.

Lastly, the church provides regular communion with Christ, at the Sunday and weekday Eucharists. The life of the parish is undergirded by the prayers said regularly in the parish church. Prayers offered both for the world, the parish and for people in their individual and personal needs.

These are the things we enjoy through having a church. Many deplore the poor state of health in our communities, families and individual morality. The church and the christian standards and values it underpins seem the only way to improve the situation. Without the church things can only get worse.

How much do you value these things? How much does Badsey and Aldington and Wickhamford value these things? The answer may well determine the future of the church in these parishes. It is an answer that can only be given by you as parishioners, through your increased support and commitment to the church and by your increased giving to the church. Failure will only result in a consequent decrease in all those good things the church provides for the life and worship of the community, the family and the individual. The choice is yours.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar
Peter Mitchell

CHURCH SERVICES - MAY 1994

ST JAMES' BADSEY

1st	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong
8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
12th	Ascension Day		
	10.00am	The Eucharist	
15th	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.30pm Evensong

22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm Sung Eucharist
Pentecost			
29th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong

JUNE

5th	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.30pm "D" Day Commemorative Service of Evensong
12th	8.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong

MID WEEK COMMUNIONS - 10.00am every Wednesday.

BADSEY SUNDAY SCHOOL: 11.00am every Sunday during Term Time

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD

1st	9.30am	The Eucharist
8th	9.30am	The Eucharist
12th	Ascension Day	
	9.00am	The Eucharist
15th	9.30am	The Eucharist
22nd	10.30am	Matins
29th	9.30am	The Eucharist

JUNE

5th	9.30am	The Eucharist
12th	9.30am	The Eucharist

SUNDAY THEMES

Sundays after Easter: 4 The Way, the Truth and the Life; 5 Going to the Father; Sunday after Ascension Day: The Ascension of Christ.

Sundays after Pentecost: 2 The Church's Unity and Fellowship; 3 The Church's Confidence in Christ.

LECTIONARY

MAY

1st	4 after Easter	2 Cor.4.13-5.5 John 14.1-11	Isaiah 62 John 21.15-end
8th	5 after Easter	Romans 8.28-end John 16.12-24	Hosea 6.1-6 1 Cor.15.35-end

12th	Ascension Day	Acts 1.1-11 Matthew. 28.16-end	
15th	Sunday after Ascension Day	Ephesians 4.1-13 Luke 24.45-end	Daniel 7.9-14 Ephesians 1.15-end
22nd	Pentecost	<u>BADSEY</u> Acts 2.1-21 John.19-23	<u>WICKHAMFORD</u> Joel 2.21-end Romans 8.1-17
29th	Trinity Sunday	Eph.1.3-14 John 14.8-17	Isaiah 40.12-end Mark 1.1-13
JUNE			
5th	2 after Pentecost	Acts 2.37-end Luke 14.15-24	To be chosen To be chosen
12th	3 after Pentecost	Acts 4.8-12 Luke 8.41-end	Deut.6.10-end Acts 23.11-24

PARISH REGISTERS

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

BADSEY

- 17 Apr Lewis Rutherford Giles of 30, Brewer Lane, Badsey
- 24 Apr Shara Jasmine Eaton of 67, Torridge Road, RAF Chivenor, Barnstable, N. Devon

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

BADSEY

- 6 Apr Kathleen Millicent Brown of 6, Hillside, Aldington, aged 84 years (at Badsey)
- 22 Apr Constance Kate Marshall of Seward House, Badsey, (late of Badsey and Wickhamford) aged 89 years (at Badsey and Cheltenham)

WICKHAMFORD

- 14 Apr Ellen May Stanley of 15, Sally Close, Wickhamford, aged 91 years (at Cheltenham)

DONATIONS

BADSEY

- from the estate of the late Henry Walter King,
- £250, towards church funds.
in memory of the late Mrs Kathleen Brown, to the
MacMillan Appeal - £50,
donated by her friends in Aldington.
in memory of the late Constance Kate Marshall,
towards church funds, - £54.94,
(collection at funeral)
from Miss Nora Smith, towards the Quota payment
for 1994 - £1000

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 5 May Deanery Pastoral Committee,
All Saints, Evesham, - 7.30pm
// ~~14~~ May OPEN MEETING - Wickhamford Memorial Hall,
to discuss the future of Wickhamford
Church - 7.30pm
16 May Archdeacon's Visitation - St Mary and
St Melburgh's Church, Offenham - 7.30pm
16-22 May Christian Aid Week
20 May Coffee Evening, 7, School Lane, Badsey
in aid of church funds - 7.30pm
25 May Mothers Union Diocesan Festival - 7.30pm
Worcester Cathedral

PARISH REVIEW - JUNE ISSUE - LATEST DATE FOR COPY,
Wednesday, 18th May, 1994

"D" DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE OF EVENSONG

To mark the 50th Anniversary of "D" Day, a special
"D" Day Commemorative service of Evensong will be held on
Sunday, 5th June in Badsey Church. The hymns, readings,
prayers and address will be chosen to commemorate this
momentous event in the Second World War. All are welcome.

BADSEY CHURCHYARD (1)

To preserve the church's right of way through the
churchyard, the lych gate will be locked on Monday, 2nd
May for twenty four hours. The High Street entrance will
remain open. It is hoped this will not cause parishioners too
much inconvenience.

BADSEY CHURCHYARD (2)

Parents are again warned against the danger of allowing their children to play in the churchyard or take short cuts through the churchyard across the graves. Apart from the distress this causes parishioners, some of the older headstones may be unsafe. Should one fall on a child the consequences could be serious. Other than when visiting or tending graves, parishioners should keep to the path when walking through the churchyard.

COFFEE EVENING - BADSEY

A Coffee Evening in aid of church funds will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs John and Mary Callaghan, 7, School Lane, Badsey, from 7.00pm until 9pm. Tickets price 75p adults and 50p children will be available from members of the Social Committee and on the night, and also from the Vicarage. There will be the usual Raffle, Bring and Buy and games etc. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a pleasant evening in support of the church.

OPEN MEETING - Wickhamford PCC, Wednesday, 11th May

A reminder that an OPEN MEETING of Wickhamford Church PCC to which all parishioners are invited, is to be held in Wickhamford Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 11th May at 7.30pm, the purpose of which is to make more widely known the consequences of the recent losses sustained by the Church Commissioners on smaller parishes such as Wickhamford, and to seek greater support for the church in Wickhamford than at present. With the prospect of reductions in the number of clergy over the next ten years, and an increase in the amount parishes will have to find to support their churches and clergy, this is now a matter of urgent concern. If you live in Wickhamford and care about the future of your parish church this is a meeting you should attend.

MOTHERS UNION

On Friday, March 25th, Lady Day, the Deanery Festival was held here in Badsey church at 7.30pm. The bell ringers gave us a lovely peal before the service which set the happy and joyful mood for the evening. We are most grateful to Mrs Bolton and her team for their kind offer. Members from most of the MU branches in the Deanery attended, with their

Banners. Our Banner bearer was Mrs Sandra Sparrow. The Rev. Richard Armitage from Evesham and the Rev. John Wright from Offenham were also present, together with Rev. Peter Mitchell and our Lay Reader John Callaghan.

Our two lesson readers were Mrs Donna Crook, MU Deanery Chairman and Mrs Daphne Bell from our own branch. Mrs E Seaman, Mrs Joyce Watkin and Mrs Sue Cole led the Litany of the Five Objects, and Mrs Joan Betteridge took the Intercessions. Under the leadership of Mrs Doreen Moore, our MU choir of twelve members sang two items "I walked into the garden" (Gethsemane) and "Amazing Grace". They sang most beautifully and were much appreciated. Mrs Marlene Atkinson played the organ for the service.

The Rev. Peter Mitchell gave an excellent address on family life and morality in these changing times.

A collection was taken for the work of the MU Overseas. Mrs Christine Davies put out MU books, cards and other items for sale, including Easter chickens made by members.

Tea and coffee and biscuits were served after the service.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in the service or in any way, or who came and joined us on this happy occasion.

On Tuesday 12th April at 2.30pm we began our meeting with "All things bright and beautiful" the choice of Mrs Jessie Reeves. Prayers were taken by the Enrolling member.

Our speaker was Miss Jean Dyke, the chairman of the Coronation Street Club for the Disabled. She told us that the club was formed 10 1/2 years ago, and that it is run by devoted volunteers. "It has nothing to do with the Rovers Return" she assures us, but derives its name from the street where the club meets, in a room in the Servicemen's Club in Evesham. There are about thirty members, they meet every week on Fridays from 10.30am - 3.30pm. Coffee, tea, and lunches are provided and many activities and outings are undertaken. It was an interesting and inspiring talk, and Jean's love and self-giving to the members shone through every word. Mrs Jessie Reeves thanked her warmly.
E. Seaman. E.M.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday 3rd May	2.30	MU Committee
Wednesday 4th May	10am	Corporate Communion
Thursday 5th May	7.30pm	Quiet Evening, Harvington

Friday 6th May	2.30pm	Deanery Committee
Tuesday 10th May	2.30pm	John Callaghan
		The least read Best Seller
Wednesday 25th May	7.30pm	Diocesan Festival Cathedral, Worcester

BADSEY W.I. - APRIL 1994

Our April meeting was chaired by Vice President, Mrs Esme Seaman. She warmly welcomed new member Mrs. J. Record and welcomed back to the W.I. Mrs. Queenie Sharp who had spent the last 6 months in Australia and New Zealand. Two guests from New Zealand were also welcomed. Mrs. Brenda Knight, Queenie's daughter and Mrs. Mary Coulter her friend, who had travelled to England with Queenie and were visiting the area before travelling round Europe.

New member, Mrs. Audrey Hermole, volunteered to be our delegate at the TGM in Birmingham and also won the monthly raffle.

Mrs. Yvonne Haynes announced that tickets for the outings to Birmingham to see "Joseph" and "Torville and Dean" were sold out. She also announced that she had booked a "Health & Beauty Week-End" at a luxury hotel in Teignmouth, Devon for the end of October. The price of £90.00 includes travel, en suite rooms, breakfast and evening meal, talks and demonstrations on aromatherapy, beauty, fitness classes etc. full use of the gymnasium, jacuzzi and swimming pool and a free beauty treatment of your choice. There are still a few vacant places if anyone would like to join us. (call Yvonne on 830063).

The skittles team were to play their first match against Broadway in the County Skittle Tournament (which they won!) and will go on to play Littleton, Honeybourne and Pebworth.

Several members were to tour the village on April 19th clearing up litter as part of "Clean Up Britain" week.

Our speaker, Jane Lashford, was especially welcomed as her mother had been a past President of Badsey W.I. for four years and a very ardent and enthusiastic member who we all miss very much. Jane gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the beautiful hats she makes along with the history of hat making. She brought several of her hats

along with her and members thoroughly enjoyed trying them on and our New Zealand visitors took photographs of members wearing these lovely creations to take back to New Zealand with them.

The competition for the prettiest scarf was won by Mrs. Evelyn Keen and Mrs Yvonne Haynes won the annual bursary to Denman College in Oxford.

Next meeting will be a discussion on the three resolutions, organ donation, pornographic materials and legal aid followed by a mini auction in aid of funds so please bring your items for auction along and plenty of money to spend! spend! spend! The competition is for four fairy cakes which will also be auctioned.

Do come along as a visitor and spend the evening with us - you will be warmly welcomed and will thoroughly enjoy it. We meet at the Village Hall at 7.15.p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

SIXTY PLUS CLUB.

On Wednesday, 6th April, a full coach load of budding "Chocoholics" set forth for Cadbury's World. The afternoon was very interesting and informative with free samples en route around the exhibition. It was quite tiring but, despite this, the majority of our members enjoyed themselves and all felt it to be a successful afternoon. We were sorry several of our members were unable to join us due to illness.

The meeting on the 4th May will be a talk given by Mr. Paddy O'Brien. His subject "Butterflies and Moths". Friends are welcome to join us for, what I am sure, will be another entertaining afternoon.

Once again this year the Club's contribution to the Church Fête will be a Grand Grocery Raffle. Each member is asked, please, to contribute one item of grocery towards this. Names will be taken at the May meeting so that you may indicate what you would like to give. The fête takes place on Saturday, 25th June - please let us try to do at least as well as we did last year !

ADVANCE NOTICE: At our meeting on 1st June representatives of the Safeway Supermarket in Evesham will be coming to talk to us. This promises to be yet another worthwhile occasion. My advice, at this stage, is "Don't eat too much beforehand!" But more details later.

Our McMillan Charity venture is going well. Please let Mrs. Churchill have your tubes at our meetings throughout the year.

We do hope that our members who have been ill are feeling much better now; especially Mrs Wheatley who has recently returned home from hospital.

MARY CALLAGHAN.

ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

MAY ROTA

1st Sunday Mrs P Mitchell and Mrs H Stewart
2nd Sunday Mrs D Bell and Mrs M Callaghan
3rd Sunday Mrs P Goldstraw and Mrs S Goldstraw
4th Sunday Mrs M Clarke and Mrs H Stewart

Whit Sunday

5th Sunday Mrs S Taylor and Mrs B Bennett

Fourth Sunday 22nd May is Whit Sunday.

The colours for Pentecost are red and white. All ladies welcome to help on Saturday 21st starting at 9.30. Please try to bring some foliage with you even if it is only a small bunch.

The Easter flowers in church looked lovely. Thank you ladies for a job well done. Also many thanks for the generous donations of money and flowers for the Easter decorations. They were very much appreciated.

Any queries regarding church flowers contact me on Ev. 832007
Hazel Stewart.

APPRECIATION

Hazel and Malcolm Stewart would like to thank the bell ringing team for ringing a quarter peal of grand sire triples for their 35th Wedding Anniversary. It sounded lovely.

Thank you again from Hazel and Malcolm.

BADSEY SCOUT GROUP.

In May, we should be celebrating our 21st birthday, but at this moment we do not have a lot to celebrate. We are doing our best to provide interesting scouting for the benefit of your sons and we should have no worries, with a fine headquarters and good equipment. There is however, one important factor lacking, we are desperately short of adult leaders, especially in the Beaver and Cub sections.

There must be a lot of people in the Badsey area with a genuine interest in youth, ex scouts or ex guides for example who feel they would like to be involved again, or people who have never before been involved but who are now looking for an interesting healthy hobby. If you would like to know more, then please ring me, Stan Bishop on 830048, we really do need you AND I MEAN YOU.

JOURNAL/MACMILLAN CANCER CARE APPEAL
COFFEE MORNING AT "NETHERFIELD", 63, BRETFTON ROAD,
BADSEY ON SATURDAY, MAY 14TH. 10am TO 12pm
cakes, plants, "bring & buy" etc. and RAFFLE
Entrance tickets 50p to include coffee & biscuits
children free

(Organised by Margaret Randall and neighbours. Offers of cakes and other items not jumble., will be most welcome.
Telephone 833186)

WICKAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

A good attendance of forty-two members at this month's meeting certainly brought an air of warmth and good humour to contrast with the bitterly cold and damp atmosphere outside. Our secretary read out the usual monthly notices and apologies for non-attendance, and called for suggestions for a coach trip in May. The coach is ordered but no definite destination is arranged. Birthday buttonholes were presented to Mrs Sutton, Mrs Wardle, Mr Diston and Mr Street. (orchids this month, thanks to Mrs Heritage.)

The guest speaker was Mrs Jennie Archer who represented the M. E. B., and she spoke on methods of saving money on heating and lighting fuels. Although we all thought we knew all the answers, (especially the men), it was surprising that many had cause to say "That's a good idea", or "I never realised that", and it was obvious from the close attention she received that we found her very informative and relaxed talk very interesting. It is particularly useful, now that the VAT man is rubbing his hands with glee every time we switch on a light or light the gas, to be reminded of ways of improving the insulation, draught exclusion, etc, but above all remembering the discipline of not to waste fuel and turn it off when not needed. After a cup of tea and biscuits our usual raffle was

drawn, and with much laughter and good humour we took our leave. Next month, May 2nd, we have the coach trip, 2.15 sharp at the Memorial Hall, a mystery tour calling at a garden centre to break the journey. Our following meeting will be on the first of June, and we shall welcome Mrs Victoria Newman who will describe to us much of the good work carried out for the community by Age Concern.

D.S.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB 10.4.94

Despite a very cold spell of weather, members and friends managed to muster up enough flowers, as entries for the Spring Show, to fill the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 23rd March, with outstanding colour and beauty.

The Hall was a hive of industry as members arranged their exhibits, to set a very difficult task for the two Judges, Mr Leigh Morris and Mrs Jane Gilks.

Prizewinners were as follows:

Class No	First	Second
1	Mrs Watts	Mrs Fairbrother
2	Mr J Cowan	Mr Butcher
3	Mrs P Bell	Mrs Jenkins
4	Mrs P Bell	Mrs Jenkins
5	Mrs D Stacey	Mrs R Stringer
6	Mrs D Stacey	Miss J Dyke
7	Mrs Browning	Mrs D Stacey
8	Mr Mumby	Mrs Mumby
9	Mrs D Stacey	Mrs R Fairbrother
10	Mrs A Summers	Mrs B Stratton
11	Mrs Mumby	Mrs B Astley
12	Mrs Browning	Mrs Mumby

The Hills Nurseries Silver Salver for the highest points in the Show, was awarded to Mrs D Stacey by Mrs B Astley, President. Mrs D Stacey also received the prize for the most entries.

Please note that the Club now meets on the fourth Wednesday in each month, the next meeting being on the 27th April at 7.30p.m. Mr F Potter of Saintbury will be along to talk on 'Up the Andes and down the Amazon'. The competition will be 'A tray of bedding plants'.

R. E. Stringer (Mrs)

A Thanksgiving Service for St Richards Hospice will be held in the United Reform Church in Broadway on 15th May at 4pm. Everyone is welcome and tea will be served afterwards in the Hall. Jane Vacalopoulos.

APRIL MEETING OF WICKHAMFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The meeting opened with general hilarity as the President presented an outsize Birthday Buttonhole to Jane Bailey. Janet Peters was thanked for producing the Birthday Buttonholes and for the lovely flowers on the President's table.

Pat Bell reported that on a perfect Saturday morning the Cotswold Way walkers arrived at Bath which was resplendent with spring flowers. They enjoyed coffee and doughnuts in the Abbey Square, comparatively quiet and peaceful at that early hour. After a hard ten mile walk they returned to the Bath Youth Hostel where they were given a friendly welcome and slept four to a room in bunk beds. The following day saw another eleven miles of the journey completed. The next stage will be from Horton to Wooton Under Edge.

Rose Wolfe and Rosemary Hendrick had been recipients of the Annual Denman College Bursaries donated by the Institute and had enjoyed a week studying Health and Beauty. They slept in the elegant bedroom which had been furnished by the counties of Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Each morning commenced with a brisk mile walk around the grounds followed by a hearty breakfast and then a hard day's work studying various hands-on massage techniques, fitness routines, dress, diet and make up. They thoroughly enjoyed the whole 'Denman experience' and can't wait to return.

Diane Maden was responsible for taking a party of members to Norton Grange where they enjoyed an evening of swimming, sauna and jacuzzi. This was very popular and is to be repeated every month. Diane has also organised a Skittles Evening.

Jenny Tweney reported that the Spring Group Meeting at Elmley Castle had been very enjoyable. We had the good fortune to win the draw for the Group Bursary to pay the fees for one of our members to attend a course at Denman College. Mary Smith, the speaker, wittily recounted how,

after retiring, she let her house and embarked upon a back-packing journey around the world.

Names were taken for a footpath walk to Childswickham in June, a visit to Wellesbourne Water Mill in August and a coach trip to the Spalding Bulb Festival in May.

Rosemary Hendrick, the treasurer, is concerned that our finances are getting low. We hope to remedy the situation by serving refreshments at the Evesham Show on June 4th. An appeal for cakes and helpers was well supported.

The speaker we had booked was not able to attend, but Mr Crickmer came to the rescue and entertained us with background information about his extensive collection of slides of Pub Signs.

Finally we tucked into a delicious assortment of refreshments provided by Elaine Litterick, Peggy Hancock and Jane Bailey, but because of the lateness of the hour we had to postpone the social activity to a future meeting.

SPRING FAIR

In the Village Hall, Wickhamford on Saturday 21st May
at 2.30pm - VARIOUS STALLS
Proceeds for Senr. Res. Fund.

"VICE VERSA"

It's good to get a letter,
A greeting on the 'phone,
A parcel is a nice surprise
When you are on your own.

It's good to write a letter
Call someone on the 'phone,
To send a parcel's a great idea
For it proves you're not alone.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY HOME

Combine happy hearts, Mix with Christian love,
Add the fruits of the Holy Spirit,
Sprinkle with smiles, hugs and kisses,
Bake for a lifetime.

MEMORIES OF WHITSUN

THE DAY WE WERE SPRING-CLEANED

Shoes were done with chalky white, petticoats in Reckitts Blue, then dipped in Robin starch. Little snow-white dresses lay on top of the petticoats, some with pins or stitches to help them fit better.

All the schoolgirls gathered in a bunch, the boys gathered behind and the brightly-coloured band led the way.

The procession would advance slowly through the town - the drone of bagpipes filling every crevice of every street.

Whitsun is the official birthday of the Christian Church. It is a time of happiness, a time of ceremony. The whole town seemed to join in, tagging behind the main procession with its waving golden and cream banners and the glare of girls' white dresses.

Bobbing ringlets were a must. They were the subject of unvoiced competition between families. These ringlets were made by a mother's deft hands and plenty of rags. The straighter the girls' hair the more determined were the mothers that it should be curly - just for the day. Often ringlets could be seen being taken out of their rags while the child stood in the procession.

Whit was kept as one of the special times for the newly-baptised and confirmed, who would appear in white for their ceremony.

Men would undergo similar coercion in the guise of unaccustomed stiff, white shirts, the collars and cuffs of which would be even stiffer. We could almost hear their mutual cry that surely our ordinary Sunday best would have done. But it wouldn't. Every wife and mother was adamant: Sunday best was not good enough for Whitsun.

After all, it was not an ordinary, average holy day cum holiday. It was the veritable spring-clean of the year for minds, bodies and spirits, manifesting itself in our behaviour and the style of our new summer clothes.

There were long, scrubbed kitchen tables laden with the best Delft and piled high with brawn and ham (with all the fat left on it); tinned red salmon and bright yellow tinned peaches would be ready for us (and anyone else who called) when we returned. All our energy had been spent on merely being good!

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week

Creator and Lord of this good earth
Have mercy on your people everywhere
Reconcile all who are divided
In your world.
Strengthen those who are poor and weak;
Teach those who are rich and powerful;
In loneliness and isolation give comfort and hope
And help us all to know that you are
Never far from us.

All that I can do to share in your healing work
Inspire and give me courage to
Discern.

Amen

Christian Crackers

Field Marshall Montgomery to his Staff Officers at a briefing,
"Now, gentleman, as our Lord said, and in my opinion quite rightly . . ."

The last waltz at the Annual Dinner Dance for the Union of Spiritualist Mediums was entitled, "I'll see you again"

FROM A CHURCH MAGAZINE

I dreamt death came the other night
And Heavens Gate swung wide,
An Angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment,
Were folks I'd judged and labelled
As "quite unfit" and "of little worth"
And "spiritually disabled"
Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise,
No one expected me.