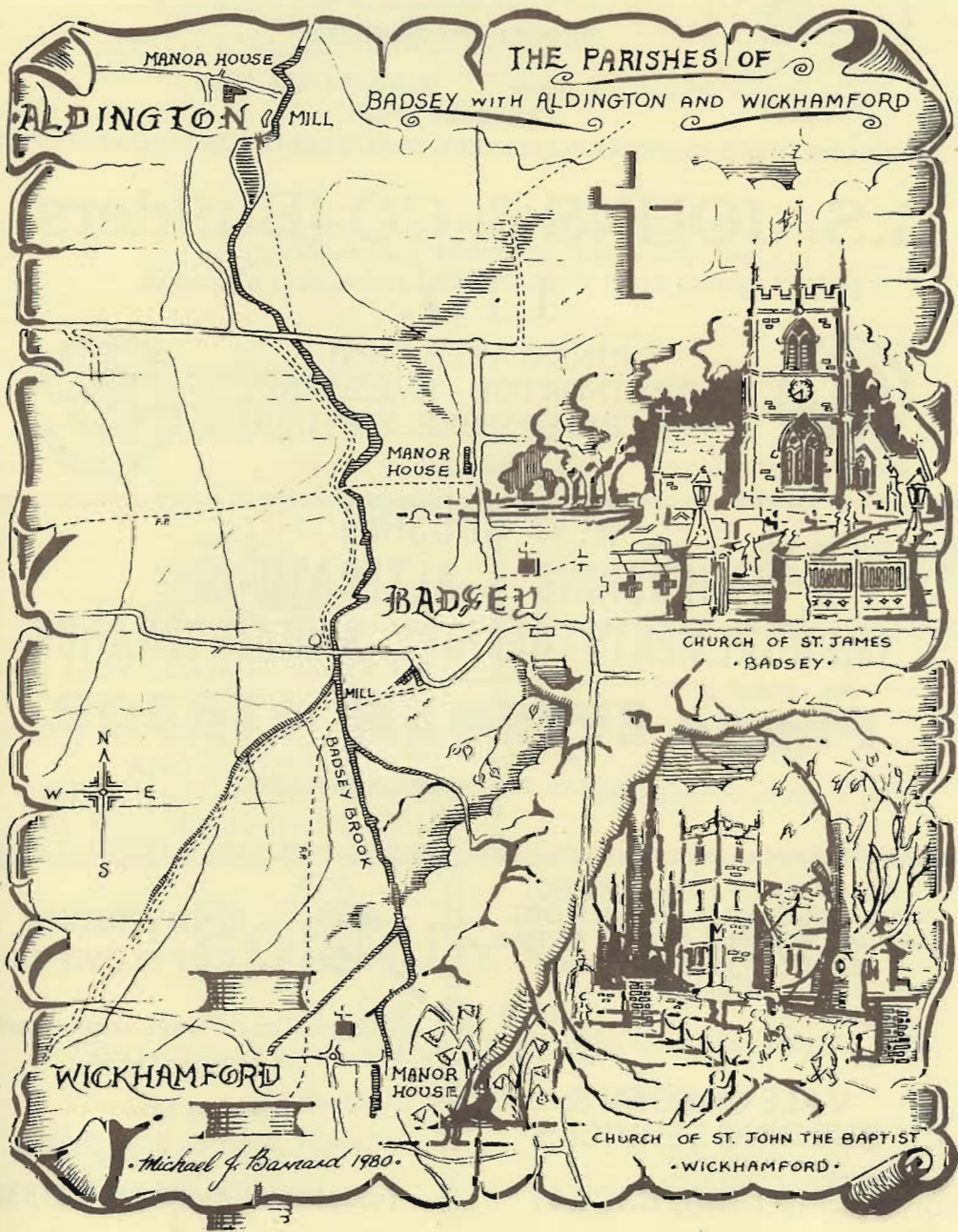


# PARISH REVIEW

30p

JANUARY 1995



## The Parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford

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## THE VICAR'S LETTER

January 1995

My dear Friends,

First may I begin by just reminding you of the 700th Anniversary activities of Badsey Church taking place during the early part of 1995. There is the Combined Service of Evensong at St Leonard's Bretforton on Sunday, 8th January, when the Bishop of Worcester will be the preacher. Then there is the Civic Service at Badsey, on Sunday, January 15th, when the preacher will be the Revd Richard Armitage, Vicar of Evesham. This is followed on Sunday, 29th January, with the 700th Anniversary Family Service. After this, on Sunday 19th February, Mr Terry Sparrow will give a talk on the history of St James' Church, Badsey in place of Evensong.

Secondly, on Wednesday, 11th January, and Thursday, 19th January, Canon Sharon Swain will be visiting each PCC to talk about the Bishop's Book and "The Step Forward in Mission" all parishes are being asked to take during 1995, the year of St Wulstan.

Thirdly, on a more mundane note, there will be no service of Matins in Wickhamford Church on Sunday, 22nd January, due to the preservation of the woodwork taking place during the previous week.

Lastly the Jehovah's Witnesses seem to have been targeting the benefice during recent months. Their beliefs are not the same as the Christian Church, although superficially they may seem to be similar. An article appears elsewhere in this Review outlining the differences and a booklet is also available. It may be ordered through the Vicarage, price 99p.

It is good to be engaged in these various activities but we must take care not to be overloaded by them. A glance at "Notes for your Diaries" for January reinforces this view. We need to be on our guard against the danger of "activism", of rushing around and being so busy that we have no time for God, or to be with God. So much so that He gets pushed out of the picture altogether. Indeed "activism" can become an end in itself. It can become a substitute for God. Something we prefer to fill our lives with instead of God.

With God all things are possible and with Him we shall be amazed at what can be achieved in His name. It will always be far more than we can do on our own, either as individual Christians or as a church. But we need to take "time out" to be with God for without Him we can do nothing. As the writer of Proverbs says, "In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3.6.) and as the Psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God"(Psalm 46.10). Amidst all the frantic activity of life around us in the world today we need to retain that inner peace and tranquillity which comes only from God. We recall the words of the prophet Isaiah, "For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30.15).

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,  
Peter Mitchell

### CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 1995

#### ST JAMES' BADSEY

1st 11.00am Said Eucharist 6.30pm Said Evensong

- 8th 8.00am Holy Communion  
 6.30pm Combined Service of Evensong, St Leonard's Church, Bretforton, Preacher: The Bishop of Worcester  
 Light refreshments will be served after the Service at the Royal British Legion Club, Bretforton.
- 15th 11.00am Sung Eucharist  
 6.30pm 700th Anniversary Civic Service of Evensong, Preacher: Revd Richard Armitage.  
 1995 also marks the 100th Anniversary of the formation of Parish Councils.
- 22nd 8.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Sung Eucharist
- 29th 11.00am 700th Anniversary Family Service  
 There will be no service of Evensong on this Sunday.

## FEBRUARY

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

MID WEEK COMMUNIONS: 10.00am every Wednesday

### ST JAMES' BADSEY SUNDAY CLUB,

10.30am - every Sunday during Term Time  
 Badsey School Playgroup

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD

- 1st 9.30am Said Eucharist without Sermon  
 8th 9.30am The Eucharist  
 6.30pm Combined Service of Evensong at St Leonard's Bretforton, please see under Badsey
- 15th 9.30am The Eucharist
- 22nd There will be NO SERVICE on this Sunday due to the preservation of the woodwork taking place.
- 29th 9.30am The Eucharist

## FEBRUARY

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -  
Wednesday 18th January until 25th

## SUNDAY THEMES

Sundays after Christmas: 1 The Incarnation;  
Sundays after the Epiphany: Revelation: 1 The Baptism of  
Jesus; 2 The First Disciples; 3 Signs of Glory; 4 The New  
Temple; 5 The Wisdom of God; 9 before Easter: Christ the  
Teacher

## LECTIONARY

1st	Sunday after Christmas	Gal.4.1-7 John 1. 14-18	Isaiah 12 Phil.2.1-11
8th	1 after Epiphany	Acts 10-34-38a Matt.3.13-end	
15th	2 after Epiphany	Acts 26.1.9-20 Mark 1.14-20	Phil.4.8-13 Mark 10.42-45
22nd	3 after Epiphany	1 John 1.1-7 John 2.1-11	Deuteronomy 8.1-10 John 6.1-21
29th	4 after Epiphany	1 Cor.3.10-17 John 2.13-22	

## FEBRUARY

5th	5 after Epiphany	1 Cor.3.18-end Matt.12.38-42	Job 12 1 Cor.1.18-2.5
12th	9 before Easter	1 Cor.4.8-13 Matt.5.1-12	Proverbs 3.1-18 Mark 4.1-20

## 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

27 Nov Jenny Melissa Parr  
and Thomas Peter George Parr of  
10, School Lane, Badsey  
Samantha Louise Groves of  
14, Endeavour Place,  
Stourport-on-Severn.

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

## BADSEY

15 Dec Ernest Ronald Knight of 20a, High Street,  
Badsey, aged 78 years (at Badsey)

## DONATIONS

## BADSEY

From the Childrens' Society Christingle Service  
collection £66.31; envelopes £53.13  
in memory of the late Mr Ernest Ronald Knight,  
towards church funds - £51. (collection  
at funeral)  
in memory of Mrs Winifred Smith:  
towards church funds (Social Committee)  
£150  
to the Coronary Care Unit, Ronkswood Hospital  
Worcester - £379.39 plus \$125 (including collection  
at funeral)  
Anonymous donation of £5, received by post  
- towards church funds

## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

5 Jan Social Committee Meeting, 7, School Lane,  
6 Jan 700th Anniversary Committee Meeting,  
Badsey Church - 7.30pm  
(please note change of venue)

9 Jan       Worship Committee - Badsey Church - 7.30pm  
11 Jan       Wickhamford PCC, Memorial Hall - 7.30pm  
19 Jan       Badsey PCC, Badsey Church - 7.30pm  
23 Jan       Guild of St James' Badsey Bell Ringers  
              Annual General Meeting,  
              Badsey Church - 7.pm

PARISH REVIEW - FEBRUARY ISSUE - latest date for copy  
Wednesday 18th January, 1995

### CHURCH ARMY COLLECTION BOXES

Just a reminder that Church Army Collection boxes should be given to the Vicar as soon as possible in the New Year. New collectors are always welcome and boxes may be obtained from the Vicarage.

### PARISH REVIEW - 1995

Again just a reminder that subscriptions for the Parish Review are due in January and that new subscribers are always welcome. Once again we would like to thank all who support the Review. The price for 1995 will remain unchanged at 30p a copy or £3.60 for a year's subscription. Copy, notices, amusing anecdotes and short interesting articles are always welcome for inclusion in the Review, and space permitting, can nearly always be published.

Appreciation and thanks to our subscribers, distributors, contributors and advertisers for your support in 1994. we hope it will continue in 1995.

### Wickhamford Play Area Association

As many residents of Wickhamford will already be aware, the Wickhamford Play Area Association has recently been set up. Its purpose is to raise funds to improve the play area facilities for children and young people on the sports field. The total cost of the project is estimated as being approximately £50,000. A number of fund raising activities are planned including a Christmas and Summer Draw, local discos for the children and young people and a summer fete. Over 100 villagers have promised an annual

donation towards funds. If you would like to help or to know more about the Association, the Chairman, Mr Nigel Milward, the Secretary Mrs Kim Beauchamp or Treasurer, Mrs Jean Ford would be pleased to hear from you. The registered address of the Association is c/o 18, Coombefield Road, Wickhamford, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6RU

### Musical Evening - Badsey Church

Another popular Musical Evening organised by Tricia Skitt and her friend Judy Sheridan in aid of Church Funds, is to be held in Badsey Church on the evening of Saturday, March 4th. Coffee and Mince Pies will be served. This is in place of the Madeira and Mince Pie Evening usually held at this time of the year. Please book the date in your diaries now. More details in the February magazine.

### The Life and Times of St Wulfstan of Worcester

The 900th Anniversary of St Wulfstan's death in 1095 provides an occasion to learn about one of the key figures in the history of the diocese and cathedral of Worcester. Wulfstan's career as prior and bishop spanned the tumultuous years of the Norman Conquest and settlement. Yet he retained influence with successive kings, undertook the construction of a new cathedral and the reform of its community and emerged with a reputation as a saint.

In conjunction with the University of Birmingham three day schools are planned to reassess Wulfstan's career and achievements; his cathedral, its worship and music; and his diocese and chapter. They form part of the extensive celebrations of the Cathedral's "St Wulfstan Year" and each day school will be addressed by a team of leading scholars. They are to be held on Saturday, 28th January, 25th February and 29th April. Full details are available on the leaflets in each church or from the Vicarage.

### MOTHERS UNION

At the meeting on 22nd November, the prayers were taken by Joan Betteridge. Items of news and business were discussed and final arrangements for the Service of Carols and Readings. Our speaker was Mrs Yvonne Bentley, whose



subject was Christmas traditions and legends. She was a very lively and interesting speaker, and we heard much that was new to us. Regional differences of customs and practices were given, and some of the rhymes and songs were amusing, but she did not forget to mention the true meaning of Christmas and the coming of a new way of love and light to the world.

On 13th December, over 60 people attended our celebrations of Carols and Readings for the coming of Christmas. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Mickleton and Church Lench MU's, the retiring Diocesan President Daphne Cook, the retiring Vice President Jean Whitehouse, and her husband Alan, the Deanery chairman Donna Crook, our own members, friends and husbands, Reg Kyte our organist, having a well earned rest, and Peter Mitchell our Vicar and John Callaghan our Lay Reader.

The MU choir, conducted by Doreen Moore, sang "O Holy Night", and "When a Boy is Born", most beautifully and Marlene Atkinson played the organ throughout the service.

The readers were, Daphne Bell, Joan Betteridge Judy Sparrow, Christine Davies, Mary Callaghan and Esmé Seaman. It was a very happy occasion and everyone enjoyed it, joining most heartily in the singing.

This was followed by a really lovely tea, thanks to my generous and hardworking Committee it was a lovely end to a happy and busy year, and I want to express my warmest thanks to all who took part in any way, and to all who came. Our collection for the MU Hospitality Fund was over £50, and as the Diocese is to have MU visitors from Uganda this year this will be needed.

I now retire as Branch leader after my allotted six years, years in which I have been privileged to serve, and during which I have learned a great deal about the loyalty, and friendship and support and spiritual strength the MU can give, and also how world-wide the fellowship is. We can only imagine what it must be like to be despised and persecuted for being an MU member, but many are, in countries overseas.

Several members will be retiring from the Committee in 1995, Jessie Reeves who has been the Deanery Media Rep. as well, Joan Hartwell who has been our "Home and Family" secretary, and Pat Mitchell, who has made sure we always got that welcome cup of tea. Christine Davies also retires

from her job as Deanery MU Literature Rep. Joan Betteridge, who has been Secretary for twelve years, and who has been responsible for our outings and entertainments and keeping me up to scratch, (not always easy) and has been my right hand, will take a well earned rest from her labours. We have enjoyed meetings in Joan and Fred's lovely garden and drinking Fred's excellent wine at our Garden meeting. How can I thank them all adequately? But I hope they know how much their work has been appreciated by Branch and Deanery.

I wish the new Branch Leader, when elected, every success, and the Committee, in all their endeavours. They will have all the support of the members, as I did, and for that I give heartfelt and grateful thanks to everyone, and I do not forget how fortunate Badsey MU is to have a Vicar who is really supportive. Thank you Peter, and John Callaghan too for all your help. Esmé Seaman.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wednesday 4th January	10.00am Corporate Communion
Tuesday 10th January	2.30pm A.G.M.
Wednesday 25th January	7.30pm Mothers' Union Party Remembrance Hall, Badsey
Monday 30th January	2.30pm Deanery Committee

#### BADSEY WI

The December meeting was well attended despite the weather turning more seasonal, making us realise that Christmas is just around the corner.

A minutes silence was held to the memory of Win Smith (a past President) who passed away in November. A collection was also made with the proceeds going to the Cardiac Unit at Worcester Hospital.

Correspondence was read and the Secretary read out a letter received from Marlene Atkinson's sister in Australia in which she thanked all members for the kindness and friendship shown to her on her recent visit to Badsey.

Pot plants were presented to Esme Seaman and Eleanor Sams, who have both recently stepped down from the Committee, in appreciation of their past efforts. Also Nora Smith received a posy basket in recognition of her valued assistance.

Malvern Council meeting is being held on the 29 March and the President asked if any member had a resolution which they wished to submit.

Hazel Stewart gave a very absorbing demonstration on flower arranging. One was a basket arrangement and the other was an arrangement incorporating a cloth sculpture, both of which were donated to the raffle. Hazel also showed members how to make several Christmas decorations, whilst giving an amusing talk on the history of Christmas puddings and mince pies after which she told members the meaning of the Advent Ring.

The competition was Christmas decorations the winner being Chris Print with Maureen Davies runner-up.

The raffle was won by Sandra Sparrow, Nora Smith and Audrey Hermolle.

Mary Dore prepared the splendid buffet ably assisted by Rosalea Addis and Josie Dudfield. Our thanks to them all.

Social Time was carol singing by candle light with Marlene Atkinson playing the keyboard, which rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

### SIXTY PLUS CLUB

It was with the greatest sadness that, on the day after our last meeting, we heard of the death of Mr. Ron Knight. Ron had been a loyal member of the Club for many years. He will be remembered by us all for his gentleness and kind ways. Our love and sympathy are extended to Phyl at this very sad time.

Our meeting on 7th December was held on a very wet and windy afternoon. It was our Christmas party and, despite the weather and a lot of sickness, about fifty members spent a most enjoyable afternoon. The entertainment was provided by "June and Elizabeth" who sang and played a medley of Christmas carols and songs with members providing the "percussion" accompaniment. After this the Brownies visited us and staged a delightful revue. It was obvious that a great deal of preparation and hard work had gone into their presentation. They then went round the hall and gave each member a lovely basket of home made sweets. Our thanks to the girls and, of course, to Brown Owl and Tawny Owl. The Guides with their leader, Mrs. Bolland, gave each of us a home made Christmas card.

Again a great deal of hard work had gone into the making. The Guides stayed to help Mrs. Mary Dore and her ladies to serve the excellent tea organised by Mary. The cake was then cut and proved to be as delicious as always. Christine has been making the cake for our party for the last fifteen years! A wonderful record. Our sincere thanks go to all those who did so much to make this Christmas afternoon so enjoyable.

Small presentations were made to Kath and Norah who have retired from the committee after many years of active service. They have both given so much in so many ways behind the scenes and now desire a rest as "normal" members ! Our thanks to them both for their help in the past.

Mrs. Win Smith was remembered at our meeting. Win was a wonderful person; so understanding and kind. She will be greatly missed at Club and by all who knew her. Our condolences were sent to Tony and Anthea and the members of their family. Also, on behalf of the Club, a donation was sent to the Heart Unit at Ronkswood Hospital.

The New Year meeting is on TUESDAY 3rd January when the entertainment will be given by local young people. This is an "open" afternoon when visitors and friends will be most welcome. Please come along to enjoy the excellent talent we have in the young people of the area. There will be a small charge of 40p for visitors to cover the cost of tea and biscuits.

Charity Tubes will be collected at the January meeting. Our collection for 1995 will be for "Local Charities"

We are hoping to do a trip to Birmingham in May to see the musical show "Cats". Cost to members will be about £9 to include ticket and coach fare. Visitors to pay slightly more. Please let me know at the January meeting if you are interested.

I was sorry that so many members were unable to be with us for the Christmas party and hope that, by now, they are feeling much better.

I wish each one of you a very happy and prosperous 1995.

MARY CALLAGHAN

### BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The November meeting was held at Legion Headquarters. Mrs Newbury, Vice Chairman, took the Chair, one new member was welcomed - Mrs Gill Ore. After the business Mrs Newbury thanked members for attending the Armistice Parade.

Mrs Carol Bradshaw gave a very pleasant demonstration on making Christmas crackers which members enjoyed. The competition was won by Mrs M Knight and the draw was won by Mrs B Westmacote and Mrs Jelfs. Refreshments were served.

There will be a Group Meeting at Broadway on 14th February.

M. Morcombe.

### ST JAMES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

We would like to thank everyone who very generously supported our efforts in the nationwide ring for Roy Castle Cause for Hope Appeal which took place on Sunday 11 Dec 1994. Donations are still coming in and it looks as if around £200.00 will have been raised for the Lung Cancer Fund. The final amount will be posted up in the church porch in due course.

Hilary and John Bolton

### JOHN'S JAMBOREE FUND

Badsey Scout Group held a Bottle Bingo and Grand Draw last week. Some of the profits will go towards making a donation to the Jamboree Fund. I would like to thank all the local traders and individuals who supplied prizes for these events. A full list of Draw winners can be obtained by ringing 831260. Also I would like to thank our First Prize winner who donated part of his £50 back to the Scout Group. Thank you must also be said to all who bought tickets, parents, friends, and shoppers at Somerfields and Abbey Gates.

I am putting on a music and drama concert at Badsey Village Hall on March 18th and I hope this will complete my fund raising as the final part of the £750 has to be paid by March 31st. Tickets will be available nearer the time.

THANK YOU - John Cole

### A BRIEF MENTION

I am sure that many of you read in the "Evesham Journal" - as I did - of the way in which Kevin Waterhouse, and one of his young friends, rescued two people from a motor car which had left the road and subsequently burst into flames. Kevin is an eighteen year old who lives in School Lane, Badsey.

I knew about the incident before the report actually appeared in print. Kevin lives immediately opposite me and the day after the event I saw him in the street. I was surprised he was not at work and asked if he was on holiday. He then told me he was having time off on medical advice as his breathing was affected by smoke inhalation. Further enquiries more or less forced him into telling me what had happened - but I must say he did so in a most modest way and played it down as much as he could.

Let us make no mistake about this. If Kevin had to have time off because his lungs had been affected he and his friend must have put themselves at considerable risk. Such bravery is to be commended; especially when we hear so much on the minus side as far as teenagers are concerned. The truth is, of course, there is always far more good than bad wherever we look - it is just that what is bad seems to be more news worthy even if it is only the fringe element which perpetrates it.

Having said that I am sure we are all delighted to have such a young man in our village. We congratulate Kevin and his young friend on their bravery and extend to them both our thanks and every good wish.

JOHN CALLAGHAN

### 'BENEFITS BUS' COMES TO BADSEY

The 'Benefits Bus' is a mobile information unit used by the Benefits Agency in Worcester to bring advice and information about Social Security benefits and pensions to local people. The 'bus' will be at the Remembrance Hall in Badsey between 10.30am and 11.15am on the following dates:

Tuesday 10 January 1995  
Tuesday 14 February 1995  
Tuesday 14 March 1995

If this service is popular the 'Benefits Bus' will continue to come to Badsey on a monthly basis. For further information contact Tony Spittle on Worcester 720388.

### Jehovah's Witnesses

Few people have not been called upon at least once by the Jehovah's Witnesses. They are door-to-door evangelists who are members of one of the most aggressive religious groups in the world. Originating in America, their world wide membership is now estimated as being 2.2 million people. Despite the lack of welcome received in many homes they march on determinedly to the next house. Those who do talk to them soon realise that their beliefs differ greatly from those of Christianity although at first this may not be apparent. They are strongly opposed to all forms of organised religion and this includes the Christian Church.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are probably best known for some of their practices. They are pacifists and refuse to serve with their country's military forces. They do not salute their national flag or celebrate Christmas, birthdays or other holidays because they believe these are forms of idolatry. In addition, they will not accept blood transfusions for themselves or members of their families because they think this violates the Old Testament prohibition against consuming blood.

They claim the Bible as their final authority. But it is not a Christian Bible. It is a Bible whose texts have been altered to suit their particular beliefs, namely those of their first leaders Charles Russell and "Judge" Joseph Rutherford whose own writings are regarded as taking precedence over the Scriptures.

The Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe, as Christians do, in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Theirs is an Old Testament God, Jehovah. They do not believe that Jesus was God and that God was in Jesus. In many places they alter the text of the Bible to deny the divinity of Jesus. For example, at the beginning of John's Gospel where we read, "The Word was God, meaning Jesus was God, they read "The Word was a god" meaning that Jesus was just one among other gods. They have a different view of the Resurrection of Jesus. For them Jesus becomes a

"glorious spirit creature". So too with the Holy Spirit. For them the Holy Spirit is not the Third Person of the Trinity of God who expresses the intellect, emotion and will of God. It, as distinct from He, is only an invisible active force who moves Jehovah's servants to do his will.

The reason why the Jehovah's Witnesses are so assiduous in their witnessing is because they believe this will earn for them salvation and save them from eternal hell. But again Christians believe differently. Christians believe they are saved by God's grace and love, through faith in Jesus Christ. They believe in a God of Love who gave himself for them that they might have eternal life in him. As Paul says in his first letter to the Thessalonians, "For God has not destined us to the terrors of judgment, but to the full attainment of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that we, awake or asleep, might live in company with him". In their distorted view of the Bible and the Christian faith, the Jehovah's Witnesses offer no such hope or promise.

The Jehovah's Witnesses deny many fundamentals of the Christian faith including the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are opposed to the Christian Church. In many areas their doctrines have departed from the teachings of the Christian Bible. Whilst we may admire their zeal and enthusiasm for their beliefs, and the very presentable, if persistent way in which they witness to them, they cannot be considered Christians or a part of the Christian Church. They witness only to their own beliefs and to no others.

### WICKHAMFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

There was no normal afternoon meeting at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 7th December, but at five o'clock some forty-five members and two guests, the Rev. Peter and Mrs Mitchell, sat down to our annual festival dinner. To start the proceedings our Secretary kept us up to date with news of those who were unable to attend, some who were on winter holiday and some who were not too well; particularly Mrs Mary Mitchell, who is in hospital for a hip operation. Get well soon Mary, we look forward to your return. Birthday buttonholes were presented to Mrs Hearne, Mrs Kitcher, Mrs Sutton and Mr Chamberlain. By this time the seven stalwart ladies who had done all the preparation



and cooking of the food were ready to serve fruit cocktail starters, followed by very generous helpings of roast chicken with force meat stuffing, and five assorted vegetables, then mince and apple flan and ice cream and a cup of tea. While the workers and their husbands were clearing away and washing up the usual monthly raffle was held, but this time all the donated prizes were wrapped in festive paper so nobody knew what choice they had made until they were opened, except of course those who chose the very pretty table decorations.

Then it was entertainment time, and all the tables were cleared and stowed away to herald the appearance of the SHEEPTOWN DIPPERS, a team of teen-aged girl clog dancers accompanied by four adults with accordion and drums. Also in the team there was a little girl and a little boy, well below their teens, but they really were fairies in clogs, and their obvious youthful enthusiasm brightened up the whole demonstration and added to the enjoyment of everybody watching. The dancers were dressed in bright red white and blue costumes, and of course clogs, very similar to the old Lancashire Mill clogs, but with leather soles. They danced a wide variety of set dances, some with flowered garlands or other 'props' and the effect was most unusual and very entertaining, and nobody showed any signs of falling asleep. At the end of the programme when all was quiet we were served with a cup of coffee and a mince pie (same team of workers), and the young ones even joined in collecting up the crockery and clearing away. So the evening came to a very happy end and the dancers formed themselves into a little choir and wished us a "Very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

At our next meeting on January 4th our guest speaker will be Detective Inspector Johnson of the Birmingham Cheque Fraud Squad, who will I am sure help us to be alert to any financial skullduggery in the New Year.

D.S.

### WICKHAMFORD W.I.

Our new President, Barbara Carroll, opened Members' Night by welcoming everyone and also presenting outgoing President Denny King with a gift in appreciation of all the hard work she had put in during her two years as President.

Birthday buttonholes were presented to Elsie Hearne, Pam Jenkins, Margaret King and Jill Roberts. Mrs. June Ryan-Bell from Wickhamford Manor came along to promote an interesting new venture - a limited edition teapot and mug set depicting the Elizabethan Manor and Dovecot.

Connie Whiting introduced the first guest of the evening, Mr. Bernard Hardy, who proceeded to give an amusing and witty talk on his life, experiences and exploits during his employ with various local authorities. His opening comment was that he would like to be introduced to the Wickhamford W.I. member who managed to get three black dustbin sacks out of the dustmen!

Mr. Hardy kindly judged the 'Hair Decoration' competition, which was won by Lillian Smith with her crowning adornment of tinsel, holly and baubles complete with working lights!!

After a short interlude for some seasonal refreshments and the raffle, we were ready for the next guest of the evening Eunice Rhymes who led us into a good old sing a'long with her wonderful honky tonk piano playing and selection of popular songs and carols, interspersed with some interesting showbiz anecdotes.

All in all a super fun evening.

Pam Jenkins

### WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

A Social Evening rounded off the 1994 programme of events, which took place in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 23 November. After festive refreshments, members and friends were entertained by the Blockley Ladies Choir, who gave an excellent performance to a most appreciative audience. A good turnout made it all worthwhile and a good evening was had by all.

The Mrs W.C. Astley Rose-Bowl for the most competitive points throughout the year was won by Mr Mumby.

The competition for a Christmas Swag, was won by Jean Dyke, with Mrs Ormston and Mrs L Stone second and third.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 January 1995, when a RHS Video 'Summer', will be shown and the competition will be an Evergreen foliage arrangement, not forgetting, of course, that both members and non-members will always be made most welcome.  
R.E. Stringer (Mrs)

### Christian Crackers

An elderly couple died and were received by St Peter through the Pearly Gates into heaven. After a while they found it a wonderful place. Then the husband said to his wife: "If you hadn't have come up with all those health foods we could have been here years ago"

Three Scotsmen attended church one morning. When the Collection Plate came round, the first one fainted and the other two carried him out.

Roses are red-ish,  
Violets are blue-ish,  
If it wasn't for Christmas,  
We'd all be Jewish.