

Annual Reports 1981 18/4/82

Vicar's Report

My second report on my first full year here as vicar. It has been I believe a year in which we have so much to be thankful, much was undertaken and much was accomplished and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who made it possible. In this short report which I seek to do my best to keep as brief as possible I will be unable to mention everyone by name, but I will try and cover the main areas of the church activities during the past year, and if anyone is inadvertently omitted, I hope you will forgive me.

As I said, it is a year in which much has been undertaken and which much has been, or is being accomplished. 4 main areas I would like to mention specifically.

1. a) *Finances* and in particular the increased quota assessment of approx. £1000. This commitment has been met but in doing so we have seen an annual excess of income over expenditure on our current (housekeeping account) reduced from between £600-£800 per annum to just over £5. This has inevitably laid a heavy burden on the church, and I would especially like to mention the efforts of the social committee who were very largely responsible for the fundraising efforts necessary. To them may I express my very real and genuine thanks and appreciation. Also of course one must not fail to mention the work of Mr. Terry Sparrow and the invaluable contribution of the Stewardship Scheme, and also the Badsey Friendship evenings held earlier in the year, and all those who give to the church through the scheme, especially those able to covenant for a number of years.
- b) *Cottages* The Cottages Sub-committee has been very concerned with the future of the cottages, and here we have been faced with difficult and sensitive problems, especially for a church, involving the property itself, the tenants, the legal aspects and the finance. But these have to date, all been very successfully negotiated and our sincere thanks and gratitude are indeed due to Mr. George Willcox, Chairman of the committee, without whose experience and expertise has been invaluable, and also to Mr. Peter Tucker who has and is handling all the legal aspects of the transactions. The solutions are not yet complete but we hope and pray that when they are it will be of considerable benefit to the church.
- c) *Churchyard* The churchyard has also needed some consideration. The number of new graves required over the last two years has increased from 4 to 6 in 1978 to 10-12 in 1980. There are difficulties with the ground at the far end of the churchyard which is now suitable for single graves only. The re-use of the old ground to the north of the church has provided a much-needed respite but a letter has been sent to the Parish Council informing them that a new parish cemetery will be required within the next five to ten years. In the meantime, no further formal reservation of grave spaces in the churchyard will be approved and the P.C.C. has given its agreement in this policy.
- d) *Appeal for the tower* It has been decided to put in hand as soon as possible the work necessary to the tower outstanding from the last quinquennial inspection. This is estimated at about £10,000 in today's prices. To this end an Appeals Committee has been formed and it is planned to launch an appeal in conjunction with a Flower Festival at the Whitsun and Spring Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. Planning for this weekend which will also include an exhibition in the school is already well advanced. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members of this committee, both from the P.C.C. and the parish for the most forthcoming way in which they have taken on this

not inconsiderable task, and for the many offers of help that have already been received. I would also if I say, like to congratulate the P.C.C. itself for the very courageous decision it took in agreeing to proceed with this work in these difficult times. The Quinquennial Inspection report due this year is still awaited.

2. *P.C.C. meetings* P.C.C. meetings continue to be held regularly, although of late they have tended to become rather prolonged. I feel if we are to encourage younger members of the church to become members of the P.C.C. we should endeavour to confine our comments to the essential matters under discussion as much as possible, and also to limit the number of subjects discussed. Reports from the various sub-committees are regularly given, and wider issues such as the Brandt Report, Deployment of Clergy (twice in 18 months) and the covenanting proposals have also been discussed. The possible restoration of the paintings has also been considered.
3. *Year of changes* It has been a year of change as far as the more senior appointments in the diocese are concerned. We have a new archdeacon at Worcester, a new rural dean and await the enthronement of our new bishop on 22nd May. We pray that God's blessing will be upon each one of them in the coming years ahead.
4. *Normal life of the church* The normal life of the church continues apace, and here I must extend our grateful thanks to Mr. Reg Kyte for another year of faithful service and of course the choir as well. I would especially like to mention the past few weeks which have been a more than difficult time for Mr. Kyte due to the illness of his wife, Iris. The present pattern of services remains unchanged but the further use of the ASB must be considered soon both for the occasional offices and the Sunday Eucharists as the present series 11 services will cease to be authorised after December 1985.
Quarterly Evensong The irregular pattern of 5th Sundays throughout the year make it difficult to arrange a regular form of worship on this Sunday, and at present the group consists primarily of the two parishes of Badsey and Wickhamford, and Bretforton and Offenham. (illegible sentence)
 Another very successful Mothering Sunday service was held and our previous Archdeacon preached at the Patronal Festival.
5. *Lay Reader* Mr. J. C. Callaghan continues to take an increasing part in our services and I'm sure we are all more than grateful for his assistance. He now attends some of the funerals with me, and may well assist us further in these occasional offices during the coming year.
6. *Prayer Group and Saturday Evening Evensong* The prayer group continues to meet very regularly and faithfully and is the spiritual centre of our concern for the sick and housebound of the parish and those in hospital, as well as for our two overseas links.
7. *Church Services & Attendances*

Baptisms	1980	18	1981	27 (Badsey School governors please note)
Confirmation			July 1981	14 candidates from Badsey plus 5 from Wickhamford
Weddings	1981	8		
Funerals	1981	22	(together with 7 from Wickhamford, makes about 3 every 5 weeks)	

Communicants Attendances

	1980	1981	1982
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Easter Day	92	85	122
Christmas Day	175	168 (inclement weather)	
Normal Sunday	29	31	
No.s normally attending Sunday worship	80	77	(1978 – 75)

8. *Lent Services* These were again held this year in conjunction with Bretforton and Offenham, but unfortunately were rather disrupted by other activities intruding upon them. There was the unavoidable change of date for the very successful P.C.C. Social Evening and certain committee meetings to which the Revd. Bates was already committed.
9. *Visiting* Visiting of the sick in the hospitals in Evesham, Worcester and Cheltenham continues regularly. At least once a month for the longer-term patients and more often for the urgent cases.
10. *Mothers' Union* The Mothers' Union has just celebrated amidst much rejoicing its Diamond Jubilee together with the Deanery Festival Service. It gave particular pleasure to welcome the Revd. And Mrs. Braby to this occasion, together with Mrs. Chapman, the wife of a former vicar of Badsey and Wickhamford. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Daphne Bell for her unstinting efforts and also to Mrs. Jean Ives and Mrs. Joan Betteridge, representatives on the Deanery Committee and also to the other members of our own committee.
11. *Altar Flowers, Brass Cleaning and Cleaning of the Church* Our thanks are also due to the ladies who so faithfully and regularly clean the church, the brasses and arrange the altar flowers. Our thanks are especially due to Mrs. Margaret Perkins, and I'm sure we all wish her a speedy and complete recovery from her recent very unfortunate mishap, and send her our love and prayers.
12. *Mothers and Toddlers* The Mothers and Toddlers continue to meet regularly during term time and the normal attendance is about 7 to 8 mothers and 10 to 12 children each week. We are also most grateful to those members of the Mothers' Union who assist with the group.
13. *Sunday School* The Sunday School continues to flourish and I would especially like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Small for her quiet and very faithful way in which she has taken over from Mrs. Daphne Bell. I would especially mention our gratitude for the way in which arrangements were made for the Sunday School to continue during her recent confinement.
14. *Bell ringers* The bell ringers are now meeting regularly under the leadership of Mr. Clint Evans and we are very grateful to the new members who recently moved into the previous home of Mrs. Joan Betteridge.
15. *Upkeep of the churchyard* Mention has already been made of the churchyard but I feel I should also mention our gratitude for the work that Mr. George Willcox himself does in the churchyard in keeping the paths and gangways tidy, and the rubbish regularly burnt. Mr. Willcox is often to be seen in the churchyard on a Saturday morning and the efforts of his work are appreciated by many in the village. On Easter Sunday eve this year one parishioner mentioned to me that he thought he had never seen the churchyard looking lovelier. The work of 16 Vale Young Farmers are also much appreciated.

16. *Winter* I'm glad to say that we seem to have got through a winter without too much difficulty although the clock, very unfortunately, has not escaped unscathed. There were no serious problems to the central heating system and a leak in the valley guttering of the south aisle caused by melting snow was quickly cleared by Mr. A. Owen in somewhat Arctic conditions.
17. *And what more can I say?* For time (and space) would fail me to tell of the Christian Aid and Church of England's Children's Society collections, the sidesmen, the Epistle readers, and those who lead our intercessions. Nor must we forget the distributors and contributors to the Parish Review and the valuable work of Miss Jean Dyke. And lastly and perhaps in some ways the most important of all, all those of our parishioners who so faithfully and regularly join in the worship, the fellowship and the communion of the church, Sunday by Sunday.

Conclusion

All in all it has been a very full and busy year for the church and for many of us personally. As I said at the beginning much has been done, and much has been undertaken. Much is still to be done. But still a year which we can remember with much gratitude and thanks to God, for his love and care and many blessings towards us.

Financial Report

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, BADSEY									
Receipts & Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 1981 (with 1980 comparative figures)									
General Income	1981		1980		General Expenditure	1981		1980	
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Stewardship Contributions	2,211.85		1,747.15		Diocesan Quota	3,477.00		2,301.00	
Stewardship Tax recovery	362.38	2,574.23	287.66	2,034.81	Expenses: Vicar & Visiting Clergy	300.00	3,777.00	233.32	2,534.32
Donations	230.68		47.55		Running Expenses:				
Collections: Sunday Services	1,039.17		863.35		Electricity	118.24		161.30	
Weddings & Funerals	222.71	1,492.56	138.08	1,048.98	Gas	419.94		211.88	
		4,066.79		3,083.79	Water	11.00		3.00	
Social Event: Fete	455.99		309.26		Cleaning	-		368.20	
Barbecue	94.50		94.88		Insurance	382.83		65.93	
Harvest Supper	(3.60)		37.97		Altar Fund	88.76		138.50	
Musical Evening	118.00	664.89	-	442.11	Choir and Organist	154.25		30.00	
P.C.C Fees: Rents	17.50		-		Sunday School	26.40		65.00	
Funerals	519.69		120.45		Stationery: Stewardship	24.21		19.52	
Weddings	107.00	644.19	293.40	413.85	General	36.59		9.00	
Grants for Churchyard		110.00		118.00	Sundry Expenses	171.83	1,471.70	141.06	1,213.39
Maintenance				27.15	Churchyard - expenses				
Sundry Income		-			Grants to Church Work outside Badsey	211.00		211.00	
Total General Income		5,485.87		4,084.90	Donation	21.00	232.00	35.00	246.00
Fabric Fund:					Total General Expenditure		5,480.70	5.17	3,993.71
Donations	200.00		73.50		Fabric Fund:				
Investments: Income	781.95		747.32		Repairs Building	129.49		43.00	
Tax Received	36.74	1,018.69	20.21	841.03	Organ	45.71	175.20	32.48	75.48
Total Receipts		6,504.56		4,925.93	Clock & Bells				765.55
Collections for Special Purposes		449.52		590.99	Total Payments		5,655.90		4,069.19
		£ 6,954.08		£ 5,516.92	Surplus of Receipts over Payments		848.66	848.66	856.74
					Collections for Special Purposes		449.52		590.99
							£ 6,954.08		£ 5,516.92

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, BADSEY					
Balance Sheet as at 31st December					
	1981		1980		
	£	£	£	£	
GENERAL FUND					
The Binyon Clock & Bell fund	200.00		200.00		
Fabric Fund balance 1st Jan	6,797.97		6,032.42		
	6,997.97		6,232.42		
Add surplus of Receipts over Payments	843.49		765.55		
= Fabric Fund at 31st December		7,841.46		6,997.97	
Current A/C at 1st January	217.03		125.84		
Add surplus of Receipts over Payments	5.17		91.19		
= Current A/C at 31st December		222.20		217.03	
The TOTAL FUNDS OF ST JAMES, BADSEY are:		£ 8,063.66		£ 7,215.00	
The Funds are held in the following investments as at 31st December:					
	£	£	£	£	
County Borough of Oldham 12½ Bond Maturing 1982	1,000.00		1,000.00		
C. of E Central Board of Finance:					
Investment Fund	1,772.41		1,354.42		
Deposits A/C	4,392.69		4,171.16		
Lloyds Bank Deposit A/C	676.35		472.39		
Fabric Fund Sub Total :-		7,841.46		6,997.97	
Lloyds Bank Current A/C	322.20		101.99		
Payments in advance/(owing)	(100.00)		115.04		
Current Account Sub Total:-		222.20		217.03	
Total Funds		£ 8,063.66		£ 7,215.00	
Signed	Treasurer				
.....	Accountant				
Audited and found correct.	Auditor				
.....	Date				

Notes to the 1981 Accounts

1 In 1981, funds received showed a small surplus over payments. The very large increase in the Diocesan quota was balanced by increases in giving, proceeds of social events and P.C.C fees.

Fortunately, general expenses other than gas for heating showed more modest increases and repairs to the Church fabric remained low.

2 1982 will be a testing year. The five yearly survey is due and it is known that the Fabric Fund carefully conserved over the past few years will not be adequate to cover the cost of necessary repairs.

3 Electricity Expenses include provision for the 1981 bill paid in January 1982 £ 25.67
Gas expenses include a provision towards the high cost in December but not due for payment until February 1982 £ 74.33
Total Provision £100.00

4 Collections for Special Purposes, included as both receipts and payments, and grants to Church work outside Badsey are detailed below:

Collections for Special Purposes		Grants			
	1981	1980		1981	1980
The Church Army	£ 20.14	£ 17.00	S.P.C.K	£ 55.00	£ 55.00
U.S.P.G	41.00	40.00	C.M.S	55.00	55.00
C. of E. Childrens Society	215.30	174.67	B & F.B.S	55.00	55.00
Earl Haig Poppy Fund	34.57	34.08	C. of E Pensions Board	35.00	35.00
Bishop's Pastoral Funds	64.51	44.62			
Friends of Evesham Hospital	-	43.00	Friends of: Holland House	6.00	6.00
Farewell Gifts	33.00	237.62	Christ Church, Oxford	5.00	5.00
C.O.G.M	11.00	-			
Bible Reading Fellowship	30.00	-			
	£ 449.52	£ 590.99		£ 211.00	£ 211.00

5. The P.C.C. Overseas Committee of St. James's Badsey

In addition to the donations reported in these accounts, the Overseas Committee made the following donations during 1981 from funds raised for specific purposes:

To: The Arts Fellowship	£ 50.00
The Church Missionary Society towards the support of John and Hazel Reese in Malaysia	£100.00
John and Hazel Reese for help in setting up home in Malaysia	£ 50.00
The Worcester Diocese Co-ordinating Committee for Overseas Missions.	£ 11.00
	£211.00

Stewardship Scheme

Once again, I am pleased to report that all our members have been extremely regular and committed in their giving and, generally speaking, the Stewardship Scheme has made steady, if not spectacular, progress in 1981.

During the year 3 social evenings were arranged, one at the Vicarage and the others at the homes of our 2 churchwardens, with the object of introducing potential new members to the regular giving scheme. These events proved to be very successful, both from a social and financial point of view, and our thanks are due to those who acted as hosts. Largely as a result of these functions, membership of our stewardship scheme now stands at 79, compared with 68 a year ago.

The number of covenants also shows an increase, from 24 to 30. As I have said on previous occasions, this aspect of giving is especially valuable and I do commend it to those of you who are taxpayers and who do not covenant your contributions.

Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens are pleased to report that the Church fabric remains basically sound, due in a large measure to the concern and dedication of our predecessors more successfully than many other parish churches in the diocese. The only apparent casualty to the weather was unfortunately the chiming mechanism of the church clock which remains at this moment still silent. The repair is in the hands of a firm of experts; it is a delicate mechanism and the repair will be costly, but it is hoped that it will not be too long before its chimes are restored to us. We hope too, that our church insurance will foot much of the bill.

In December 1981, your P.C.C. decided to tackle the long-standing problem of the church stonework, which we have been aware of since the last Quinquennial Inspection in 1976 and which it is now estimated will cost to put right not less than £10,000. It was a courageous decision by the P.C.C. since its financial resources will be quickly swallowed up by this figure; but we believed that the church and in particular its ancient tower, where most, but not all of the damage exists, constitute a focal point of our inheritance and of our present environment; we believed there would be no one in our two villages, whether they have lived here all their lives or have come within the last five years, who would not wish us to tackle this problem boldly. We hope that the Annual General Meeting will endorse this judgement.

It has been made clear in all sorts of ways that church congregations cannot anticipate any financial assistance either from the Diocese or from the Church Commissioners for the maintenance of our church buildings. We decided therefore to turn to Badsey and Aldington for assistance and to all the members of our villages. I must tell you that the initial response has been both favourable and enthusiastic. We have established a joint committee of the P.C.C. and prominent members of the village, including the Chairman of the Parish Council. This committee which elected Mr. George Willcox as its chairman, has already met several times and with a fine spirit; it will shortly be presenting the village with some vigorous fund-raising proposals; we hope that all members of this parish church congregation will feel able to support these different measures with the maximum of enthusiasm, hard work and generosity. The vicar volunteered to become the secretary for this appeal, and this will involve him in a great deal of extra work and not a little anxiety. He will need your prayers and full co-operation.

In the churchyard I am pleased to tell you that the Vale Young Farmers have undertaken once more to keep the grass cut for us. During the winter months a splendid effort has been made by a few persons to tidy it up. We shall do our best to keep it so. We are particularly appreciative of the work done by the ladies of the church who do so much to keep the interior looking so beautiful and also of the long experience and time so freely and skilfully given by Mr. Ralph Taylor in helping to maintain the fabric in good order. If there is anyone who would volunteer to help in anyway in the church or churchyard please discuss it with either of us. Your assistance would be really appreciated.

Overseas Committee (A.C. Owen)

Of money raised or in hand in 1981 the following donations were made to:

Arctic Fellowship	£50
Church Missionary Society (towards the support of John and Hazel Reese in Malaysia)	£100
John and Hazel Reese for help in setting up home in Malaysia	£50
Worcester Diocese Ordinating Committee for Overseas Missions	£11

Electoral Roll (Linda Core)

In 1981 there were 139 names on the Roll. During the past year no additions have been made, and one name deleted, leaving a total of 138.

Social Committee

The Social Committee organised four events in the past year, the Manor House Garden Party, the Church Fete, a Musical Evening and the Harvest Supper. The Garden Party was very successful, the

weather being reasonable, and the barbecue proved as popular as ever. We greatly appreciate the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Bowler for this event.

The Church Fete enjoyed glorious weather. Although the financial result was not as great as hoped for, it still proved excellent, and we cannot thank enough all those who helped, both individuals and organisations.

The Musical Evening was a new event, which we intend to repeat. We have to thank Mrs. Win Skitt and her daughter for enabling us to include this amongst our activities and I think we can safely say that it was the highlight of our social year.

The Harvest Supper was not so well attended as in the past and we hope that this year, by instituting certain changes, although maintaining the same basic format, we shall return to our usual full house. Those who did join us at the Harvest Supper will, I think, agree it was very enjoyable and energetic!

The Financial results of the above events are given in the Church Accounts.

The programme for the forthcoming year has already been published, and as will be seen we are organising events more frequently in an attempt to broaden the social life of the church. We would appeal to everyone to join us as often as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the Social Committee for all the work they have put in over the last 12 months. An enormous amount of time has to be spent by relatively few people to organise these activities and I hope it is appreciated by all those who attend and enjoy the events. Thank you.

Sunday School (Kathy Small)

First of all, I must apologise for my absence from this meeting due to the christening of my youngest daughter. I am happy to report on a successful year for the Sunday School, many of the eight-year-olds have left in the last few months but they seem to have been replaced by a steady influx of newcomers.

I am now regularly helped by Nicole and Anne-Marie Featherstone, Helen White and Zoe Roadnight. Lesley Hockenhull has stopped helping at Sunday School now due to pressure of school work and Carole Burton is unable to come very often due to other commitments. They are very much missed both by me and the children, but Nicole, Anne-Marie, Helen and Zoe are already very popular. I have also been running a Mothers' Rota since September which means that I have another adult helping each week. I started this monthly because I was a bit worried about the safety aspect of bringing nearly thirty children along the road to church and it seems to have been very successful in that the mums seem to enjoy the experience of helping.

I had the Christmas party in December with the help of three mums to put out the food, the vicar to distribute presents and sweets and my husband to play the music. A happy but noisy couple of hours was enjoyed by all.

We have again made Easter cards for the elderly and housebound in the village. The children worked very hard and managed to produce the required number of 67.

The children's collections have been used to support another Tear Fund project. This time to provide much needed trees for the island of Haiti which is in danger of becoming a desert because of deforestation. I also sent £5 to the St. Mary's Children's Home at Eastnor and we have provided some more baptism leaflets. Next term our collections will go towards another Tear Fund project which is providing health clinics in Sudan. I do feel it is important that the children's money be used to help

people in less fortunate circumstances and that the children learn about the way of life in these faraway countries.

Finally, I would like to express how grateful we are to Mrs. Goldstraw for allowing us the use of her Nursery School building.

Mothers' Union (Daphne Bell)

Too damaged to read