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MAGAZINE

FOR THE PARISHES OF

S. James, Badsey,

With ALDINGTON,

AND

S. John Baptist,

WICKHAMFORD.

EVESHAM :

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THE LATE VICAR.

Sunday, March 15, was one of the saddest days ever known in the history of these Villages, for on the morning of that day, with nothing to break the awful suddenness of the blow, died the Vicar of these parishes. He truly died at his post, as when taken ill half-an-hour before the end, he was engaged in that service he loved so well—The Holy Communion. For him, as has been said, it was a beautiful death to pass from the Altar to the presence of God beyond the veil. We all felt this, but at first we found it hard to realise that for him the change was all gain. We would fain have had him back, if it were only so that we could have told him how much he had helped us, how much we really valued him. But his work was complete. His death has put a seal upon it, and has taught us, what we should perhaps have never learnt in any other way, the full value of his work and influence. None of us had any idea of the vast amount of work he did—all of it work connected with the welfare of his people and the good of the Church—work involving close and unremitting attention; work which was all done quietly and thoroughly.

Everything he left in perfect order, and it is only by looking over the mass of papers he left, that one is able to realise what a hard worker he really was. It is gratifying to know that the Bishop recognised this and, I believe, wished him to have a better post. Certainly he was offered another living from another source during the last year, but refused, as he did not wish to leave this diocese.

His influence can be seen in the way in which the Church Workers are, one and all, doing their very best to carry on the work of the Church. All feel alike that this is the best way, especially now when so many things must be dropped, to show their love and respect for the dead and their sympathy, always difficult to express adequately in words, towards those who are left.

C.A.B.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. It was attended by a great number of the inhabitants of the three villages and most of the clergy of the district. The school children, under the guidance of their teachers, lined the sides of the churchyard path. A procession was formed outside the Vicarage gate. The bearers, in surplices, were:—

G. Jones, E. Warner, W. Sparrow, A. Sears, L. Sparrow, E. Ballard, E. Collett, F. Herbert, J. Sadler, G. Moisey, W. Knight, C. Summerton.

After the chief mourners came the churchwardens, the public bodies of the parish, the Parish Council and the School Board. Then representatives of the Adult School and the Reading Room, and others from each of the three parishes. The choir boys—headed by the Rev. F. A. Morgan (Rural Dean), Rev. H. E. Clayton (Vicar of S. Mary Magdalene, Oxford), and the Rev. J. H. Beibitz (Vice Principal of Lichfield Theological College)—met the procession at the church gate. In church the hymn

“On the Resurrection morning” was sung reverently and with feeling. The grave had been beautifully lined with flowers and moss (gathered by the school-children whose eagerness showed how anxious they were to do something to show their sympathy). At the graveside the hymn “Let saints on earth in concert sing” was sung. Both before and after muffled peals were rung. The recollection of this service will long remain in the minds of the parishioners.

Among the many beautiful wreaths, space will only allow us to mention those sent collectively. These were from “The Parishioners of Badsey,” “The Parishioners of Aldington (2),” “The Parishioners of Wickhamford,” “The Parishioners of S. Mary Magdalene, Oxford,” “The Badsey Choir, Organist, Chimers, and Sidesmen,” “The Children and Teachers of Badsey Day School,” “The Badsey Adult School,” “The Badsey Reading Room.”

IN MEMORIAM W. H. P.

By the strange and inscrutable working of the Divine Will, William Henry Price has been called to his rest in the very midst of an active, laborious, and fruitful ministry as a priest in the Church of God. It will not be easy for some time to come to estimate the loss which has thus befallen the parish over which only six short years ago he was called to preside. It is not easy, again, but incredibly difficult, to express in words the loss sustained by those who, like the writer, have enjoyed his intimate, personal friendship. Our consolation is two-fold. We believe that behind the natural events of disease and death there is a Will of Infinite Wisdom, Goodness, and Love. And we believe in the Communion of Saints, which is simply the truth that the fellowship which Christians have with one another and with Jesus Christ in the Body of the Lord, is a fellowship which death does not and cannot separate or destroy. And we are not without grounds for thinking that beyond the veil there lie possibilities of ceaseless and manifold ministries of love. The view which regards the state of the departed as a dreamless and eventless slumber can claim no support from the Christian faith.

The celebration of the Holy Communion on Thursday, March 19th, was one which will long live in the memories of those who were privileged to take part in it. Nearly forty persons were present at the memorial of the death of Him in Whom all His members ever live, both those who are still on earth, and those who are now in the waiting world.

I venture to add, that he, being dead, yet speaketh to us, by the mighty eloquence of a life consecrated to the Master's service. Those of us who have known him best will ever treasure his memory, not as a vain regret, but as a stirring and uplifting power in our own lives. For, if there was one quality which more than any other was characteristic of him it was a perfectly fearless devotion to

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that which he believed to be his duty. And we do need an example like this in days when men are tempted to forget that manliness and courage are essential virtues of the Christian.

If we can in any way learn this lesson, and be ever seeking strength to learn it more perfectly in sacramental union with Christ, if duty henceforth means more to us, and our communions are henceforth made more regularly and faithfully, we shall be building up in our own selves that memorial of a dear friend, and a devoted pastor, which he himself would most desire.

J.H.B.

The thanks of all the Parishioners are due to the Rev. Walmsley Stanley, whose practical sympathy at a time of great trial was of the greatest possible help.

THE LATE REV. W. H. PRICE.

With next month's magazine will be issued a fine cabinet portrait of the late Vicar, printed on art paper, and fit for framing. This special issue will be charged at 2d. (including the portrait), but will be sold at that price to regular subscribers only. A further limited issue of these portraits, together with a reprint of the obituary notices appearing in the April number of the magazine, will be obtainable after May 1st, price 3d.

EASTER OFFERTORY.

The offertories on Easter Day in Badsey Church will be devoted, as last year, to the Church Expenses Fund. The Churchwardens solicit liberal

contributions on this occasion to enable them to pay all outstanding accounts before the Easter Vestry.

EASTER VESTRIES.

The Badsey Easter Vestry will be held in the Old School on Wednesday, April 15th, at 7 p.m. The Wickhamford Vestry is fixed for Friday, April 17th, at 7 p.m., and will be held at the Manor House by kind permission.

SERVICES ON GOOD FRIDAY.

AT BADSEY.

10.30 a.m., Mattins and Ante-communion.
6.30 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

AT WICKHAMFORD.

3.0 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

SERVICES ON EASTER DAY.

AT BADSEY.

7.45 a.m., Holy Communion.
11.15 a.m., Mattins, Sermon, and Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

AT WICKHAMFORD.

9.45 a.m., Holy Communion.
3.0 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.

NOTE.—Copies of Registers and account of monies collected are held over till next month for want of space.

WANTED

Matchless Cleanser Soap Wrappers.

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