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FOR THE PARISHES OF

S. James, Badsey,

With ALDINGTON,

AND

S. John Baptist,

WICKHAMFORD.

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Badsey Parish Magazine.

EASTER.

In these critical times, when there are not wanting priests of the Church of England who deem it consistent with honour and honesty to retain office whilst openly avowing their disbelief in the cardinal doctrines of the Christian Faith, and the Church's most dangerous foes are indeed they of her own household, it is with feelings of deep thankfulness that we are able to record a growing regard for the Resurrection Festival in these parishes. There was an increase all round in the congregations on Easter Day, especially at the four celebrations of Holy Communion. It was, of course, only to be expected that the number of communicants would be considerably in excess of last year, owing to the recent Confirmation; but the increase is not to be attributed solely to this cause, for, whereas the Confirmation only provided us with forty more possible communicants, the number of Easter communions made this year exceeds last year's total by over fifty. On Easter Day there were 49 communicants at 6 o'clock, 60 at 7.30 (choral), 29 at 10 (at Wickhamford), and 27 at noon. Some of those who were unable to be present at a celebration on Easter Day communicated during the octave, and there were several private celebrations. In all, 150 made their Easter Communion at Badsey, and 36 at Wickhamford, thus bringing up the total to 186.

Badsey Church had been beautifully decorated by Mrs. and Miss Hands, Mrs. H. Keen, Misses Orchard, Miss E. Sladden, Miss Sparrow, and Mr. A. Sladden; whilst Wickhamford Church was treated equally effectively by Mrs. G. Agg, Mrs. and Miss D. Idiens, Miss Pethard, Misses M. and F. Pethard, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Walters, and Master J. Taylor.

Badsey Church had also been thoroughly cleaned, and the churchyard put in order by a band of voluntary workers, which included Mrs. H. Keen, Mrs. J. Keen, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. Warner, Misses L. Hartwell, M. Keen, W. Keen, and Messrs. J. Agg, J. Barnard (for the Vicar), C. A. Binyon, E. Crisp, Godin (for Mr. Mustoe), D. Hartwell (for Mr. H. Keen), G. E. Jones, H. Keen, R. Keen, R. Pendlebury, and F. Sparrow.

Wickhamford Church received similar attention at the hands of Mrs. G. Agg, Mrs. Hartwell, Miss Pethard, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Walters, and Misses M. Pethard, F. Pethard, and I. Williams (for Mrs. Idiens).

EASTER VESTRIES.

There was a large attendance at the Badsey Easter Vestry which was held at the Vicarage on Easter Tuesday.

The accounts showed that the churchwardens had received for the general expenses of the church £30 2s. 4d. from the year's collections, and £2 18s. from other sources. Objection was taken to the allocation of £3 10s. of the voluntary offerings to the new stove account, partly on the ground that the churchwardens should have consulted the general body of worshippers before appropriating so large a portion of the voluntary offerings for such a purpose, and partly on account of the alleged inefficiency of the stove. The discussion which ensued was productive of more warmth than many of those present appeared to have derived from the new heating apparatus, the Vicar maintaining that the stove was perfectly useless, and Mr. Pendlebury going so far as to predict a series of coroner's inquests if the system of cold storage were to be applied to the Badsey congregation for another winter. The new importation found an advocate in Mr. Mustoe, who assured the vestry that the church had once been efficiently warmed by a similar apparatus. The Vicar eventually offered to increase his subscription towards the stove account from £1 to 30s. on condition that the stove did not appear in the account of voluntary offerings again. On this understanding the accounts, which showed a credit balance of 3s. 11d., were approved. The Vicar then stated that the year's offerings in church for objects other than church expenses were as follows:—Cottage Hospital £6 3s. 5½d., Sunday School £1 2s. 7d., Foreign Missions £1 8s. 8d., Sick and Needy (£2 6s. in hand) £9 4s. 5d. Vicar's Easter Offerings £3 4s. 4½d.; total £21 5s. 4½d.

The subject of appropriated seats was then introduced. The Vicar explained that when the owners of pews in Badsey Church allowed those pews to be removed in 1885 they thereby resigned all rights to any particular seats. The seating of the congregation was a matter for the churchwardens—a matter, that is, for their *discretion*. He did not consider that any circumstances, short of unseemly behaviour, could ever possibly justify the turning of a person out of a seat in church, and he intended to use every legitimate means to bring about the disappropriating of seats in the Parish Church. There was a very powerful lever ready to hand in the Vicar's right to elect one churchwarden, and he had made up his mind never to ask any gentleman to serve as Vicar's warden until that gentleman had

pledged himself to support the free and unappropriated system. He was happy to say that Mr. Sladden had given him such a pledge; in fact Mr. Sladden had informed him that he had always been strongly opposed to the allotting of seats, and, being people's warden when the church was reopened after restoration, he had boldly championed the cause of unappropriated seats, but was overruled by the Vicar (Rev. T. H. Hunt) and the Vicar's warden (Mr. Savory). The Vicar went on to say that Badsey people were not so boorish as to take a seat merely to irritate the usual occupant of it; worshippers would, as a rule, occupy their old seats, but, if a stranger through ignorance, or a parishioner by accident took a chair usually occupied by another he would not be subjected to the indignity of being turned out of it.

Mr. Sladden explained that it was only a sense of duty to the allottees of seats that had ever impelled him to remove or approve the removal of a worshipper.

After some free expressions of opinion it was proposed by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. H. Johns, and carried unanimously that "it is desirable that all seats in the Parish Church be declared 'free and unappropriated.'"

The following elections were then made:—Churchwardens, Messrs. J. Sladden and H. Keen; Sidesmen, Messrs. F. Sparrow and C. A. Binyon; Delegates to Ruri-Decanal and Diocesan Conferences, Messrs. C. A. Binyon and H. Kelland.

The proposal to adopt the diocesan scale of fees was negatived by 7 to 5, the Vicar and Clerk abstaining from voting. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding.

The Wickhamford Easter Vestry was held at the Manor House on Thursday, April 27th.

The Churchwarden reported that the year's collections for church expenses had amounted to £9 18s. 7d., and the sum of £1 1s. had been collected by Mr. G. Pethard. For what would appear to be the first time on record, Wickhamford begins the year with a balance in hand.

The Vicar reported that the offerings for objects other than church expenses were as follows: Cottage Hospital, £2 os. 1d.; Sunday School, 7s. 3½d.; Foreign Missions, 6s. 7d.; sick and needy (in hand £4), £4 4s. 10½d.; Vicar's Easter offerings £1 3s. 11d.; total, £8 2s. 9d.

The following elections were then made: Churchwardens, Messrs. J. Idiens and F. Hooper-Ingledeu; sidesmen, Messrs. G. Agg, J. Newman, and R. Taylor; delegates to Ruri-decanal and Diocesan Conferences, the Churchwardens.

The Vestry approved the scheme for restoring the east window.

A proposal to adopt the diocesan scale of fees was not supported.

CLOCK FUND.

The Clock Committee acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions:—Mr. Mustoe 5s., Mr. Hooper-Ingledeu £1, Mr. R. R. Smith 2s., Mrs. Wingfield 2s. 6d., and Miss E. S. Wilson 2s. 6d.

The final instalment of £32 on account of the new clock was paid on April 17th. The Clock Committee are, nevertheless, not quite out of debt, as this payment necessitated an overdraft at the bank of about £2 10s. We understand, however, that the work of the Sewing Class will almost certainly realize more than is required to balance the account.

The old clock has been given to the Parish Church of Hinton-on-the-Green.

ITEMS.

The Badsey and Aldington house-to-house collection on behalf of the memorial window to Mr. Price has produced the sum of £9 10s. 3d., made up as follows:—Per Miss Jelfs (Aldington), £1 os. 10d.; per Miss Mustoe and Miss McDonald, £2 os. 4d.; per Mrs. Sladden, £4 2s.; per Miss Sparrow and Mr. Binyon, £2 7s. 1d. The results of the Wickhamford collection are not yet to hand.

The Daily Services in Badsey Church have been resumed. Morning Prayer is at 10 o'clock, and Evening Prayer at 6.45.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISM.

April 16th, Daisy Georgina Collett.
 „ 23rd, Alice Elizabeth Brookes.
 „ 30th, Gladys Maud Crane.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

		BADSEY.		WICKHAMFORD.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
April	2nd.—Sick and Needy	0	6 1	0	1 7
„	„ Church Expenses	0	6 3	0	5 2
„	9th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 11		
„	„ Church Expenses	0	13 0	0	3 1
„	16th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 10	0	2 0
„	„ Church Expenses	0	10 3	0	2 1
„	17th.—Sick and Needy	0	0 8		
„	18th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 2½		
„	19th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 5		
„	23rd.—Vicar's Easter Offerings	3	4 4½	1	3 11
„	24th.—Sick and Needy	0	3 6		
„	25th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 0		
„	30th.—Sick and Needy	0	1 4	0	2 6
„	„ Church Expenses	0	13 0	0	4 2
		£6	5 10½	2	4 6