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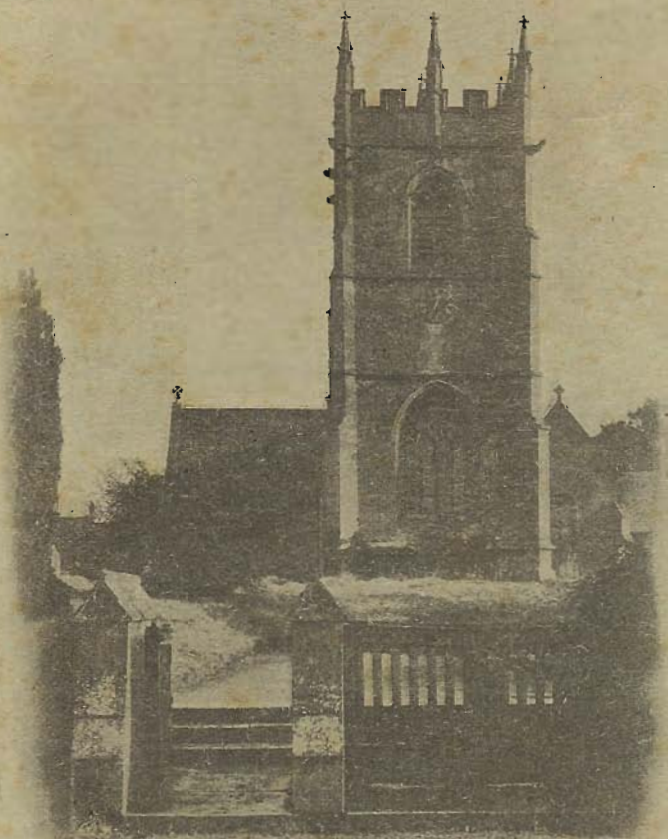
New cover design

VOL. 9, NO. 1.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

JANUARY, 1906.

Badsey—with—Aldington and Wickhamford
Parochial Magazine.



EVESHAM :

W. & H. Smith Ltd., The Journal Press.

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NOVELTIES.

As most of our readers are probably by this time aware, the Vicar has begun the publication of a series of Picture Post-cards. The first two views to make their appearance—one of Badsey Church and another of the Village, giving a good impression of what May, in his "History of Evesham," calls 'the airiness of its street'—have so far sold well. It is intended that the series shall include Aldington Village, Wickhamford Church, the Sandys monuments, and the Washington tombstone. The cards are being produced by Messrs. W. & H. Smith Ltd., of the Journal Works, Evesham, who are on the high-road to an international reputation for work of this description. The price of the cards is 1d. each or 7 for 6d., and they may be obtained at the Journal Office, Badsey Post Office, the Royal Oak Inn, and Mrs. Warner's, Belmont Terrace. Any profits accruing from this venture will be devoted to the churches of the respective parishes.

The production of a process-block has enabled us to render our Magazine cover rather more artistic, and we hope to improve its appearance still further when the other blocks are ready. We take this opportunity of pointing out that every improvement in the Magazine means additional expense in its production, and we appeal to readers to assist in procuring new subscribers. If we could increase the circulation by about 30, and also secure sufficient advertisements to cover the whole of the page upon which we have recently encroached, we could then afford to devote regularly two whole pages to local matters.

CHRISTMAS.

It is with feelings of deep thankfulness that we are permitted to record an increasing reverence for the Festival of the Nativity—a festival which, essentially, is second to none in importance. It is usual to speak of Easter as the "Queen of Festivals," but the supposed inferiority of Christmas depends entirely on the point of view from which we regard it. If we would ascertain the foundation of our hopes we must get back, behind the victory of Easter, behind the Sacrifice of Good Friday, to the fact which Christmas Day emphasizes, that "the Word," which was in the beginning with God, and was God, "was made Flesh and dwelt among us." As S. Paul said of the Resurrection of Christ, so we may say with equal truth of the Incarnation; if the Babe of Bethlehem were not the very and eternal God, but just a highly-favoured human child, who, by dint of effort succeeded in

attaining god-like heights of sanctity, then, without all contradiction, "your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins."

Devotion is a quality not easy to estimate; of external tests perhaps the two most reliable are to be found in attendance at the Lord's own Service—the Holy Eucharist—and liberality in almsgiving. In both these respects there have for some time been signs of a steady improvement, and the number of Christmas communicants appears to have exceeded even all Easter records previous to 1905. The exact numbers were:—

	BADSEY.		WICKHAMFORD.
Xmas Day	6.0	...	33
	7.30	...	58
	10.0	...	18
	11.45	...	22
Other days during Octave			5
Private Communions			9
			—
			127
			18

Total for both parishes, 145.

There was a very large congregation at Badsey on Xmas Eve, and at Evensong on Xmas Day the church was much better filled than usual. The special appeal on behalf of the sick and needy met with a hearty response, which should enable the Vicar to relieve all deserving cases.

Both churches had been very prettily decorated by the usual band of workers, whose reputation for such work is now so well established as to render it unnecessary to give all their names. We ought perhaps to mention that the members of the Vicarage Sewing Class devoted a whole afternoon to the preparation of evergreens for Badsey Church, and Mrs. Hands, Mrs. Keen, and Miss E. Sladden were respectively responsible for the decoration of the chancel, font, and pulpit.

A MUCH-NEEDED REFORM.

Any unprejudiced observer—having also, of course, the courage of his convictions—will be ready to admit that in Badsey, at any rate, whatever the rule may be elsewhere, the husbands have the lion's share of the fun, and the wives a much larger share of the work than should be necessary to satisfy the most energetic and thrifty housewife alive. Now this is a very real grievance, nevertheless it is one that has unfortunately hitherto escaped the notice of parliamentary candidates, probably because these gentlemen are at their wits' end to provide grievances—real or imaginary—for the men. Take for example the

addresses of those who are at present wooing our rural constituencies, and you may scan them in vain for such a paragraph at this:—

“I find in my tour of the rural parts of the constituency that the men (who for the most part are ardent footballers) are well-provided with amusements, whilst the only form of recreation available for the women consists in a *change of work!* This is a state of things which ought not to be possible in any civilized state, and one which *must be remedied at all costs* and IMMEDIATELY.”

Perhaps in the utopian days to which we look forward, when female suffrage is an established fact, our would-be law-makers will be materially assisted in distinguishing between the real and the imaginary. In the meantime, in order to provide a measure of temporary relief, steps have been taken this season to secure to the much-employed of Badsey some of the Xmas fun which has up to now been the monopoly of the men. On Wednesday, December 27th, the members of the Sewing Class were entertained to supper at the Vicarage by the Vicar and Mrs. Hands, and a right merry time they spent. After supper there was music, and the choruses to the “Bay of Biscay” and “John Peel” must have been a revelation even to the performers themselves; indeed, the extraordinary degree of heartiness thrown into the latter showed that the sport of fox-hunting is dying hard, and left no room for doubt that it is no natural aversion to the pleasures of the chase, but merely this deplorable absence of leisure, to which we have alluded, which renders many would-be Dianas conspicuous by their absence from the hunting-field.

We hope that the Sewing Class Supper may for the future rank among our annual institutions.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Evening Prayer on week-days will, for the present, be at 5 o'clock instead of 6 45.

There will be no daily services from January 15th to 20th inclusive, and no sewing class on January 17th.

THE REGISTERS.

WICKHAMFORD—MARRIAGE.

December 25th—Henry John Hawker to Ellen Louise Shill.

BADSEY—BURIAL.

November 3rd.—Clara Beatrice Moisey, aged 18 months.

The total number of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials for the year ended December 31st, 1905, is as follows:—

	Badsey.	Wickhamford.
Baptisms	27	7
Marriages	1	2
Burials	4	1

The burials for the combined parishes include one non-parishioner, three infants, and only one adult parishioner. We venture to think that very few districts with a population considerably over 1,000 could show a better health-certificate. Leaving out of consideration the non-parishioner above referred to, and one of the infants, who only lived a few minutes and died unbaptised, and also taking no account of one adult-baptism at Wickhamford, the excess of baptisms over burials shows the population of the two parishes to have been increased in the course of the year by the addition of 13 males and 17 females.

It is remarkable that, whereas the baptisms at Badsey for 1904 were almost equally divided between the two sexes, including as they did 12 males and 13 females, those for 1905 give the females a majority of exactly 100 per cent. over the males, the numbers being 18 and 9 respectively.

At the risk of boring a section of our readers with statistics, we venture to print the following summary from the records of the past:—

	BADSEY.			WICKHAMFORD.		
	A.D. 1605.	A.D. 1705.	A.D. 1805.	A.D. 1605	A.D. 1705.	A.D. 1805.
Baptisms	11	11	12	1	1	4
Marriages	4	1	2	0	1	0
Burials	5	5	2	1	2	2

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

	BADSEY.			WICKHAMFORD.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 3.—Foreign Missions	2	0	2½	0	12	6
„ 10.—Sick and Needy	0	1	9			
„ „ Church Expenses	0	15	0½	0	3	3½
„ 17.—Sick and Needy	0	1	0	0	10	7½
„ „ Church Expenses	0	8	1½			
„ 24.—Sick and Needy	0	1	0			
„ „ Church Expenses	0	16	7½	0	4	9
„ 25.—Sick and Needy	3	4	9	0	17	7½
„ 27.—Sick and Needy	0	1	6			
„ 28.—Sick and Needy	0	1	0			
„ 31.—Sick and Needy	0	1	0	0	4	9
„ „ Church Expenses	0	10	2			
	£8	2	2	2	13	6½

THE OLD SCHOOL.

For some years past the state of the floor in the big room has been indescribably bad. As the trustees are—of course in their corporate capacity only—on the verge of insolvency, to employ a builder to put down a new floor was out of the question. The Vicar, however, being very anxious to see the floor renewed this winter, offered to advance the money for materials if a few voluntary workers would undertake to lay the floor. The response was spontaneous and prompt, and the room in question is once more provided with as good a floor as one could wish to have. The gentlemen who have laid the parish under an obligation are Messrs. J. Barnard (foreman), A. Evans, H. Kelland, J. E. Knight, and W. Stanford. The cost of the timber has been about £5, which we hope may soon be defrayed by a parochial dance.