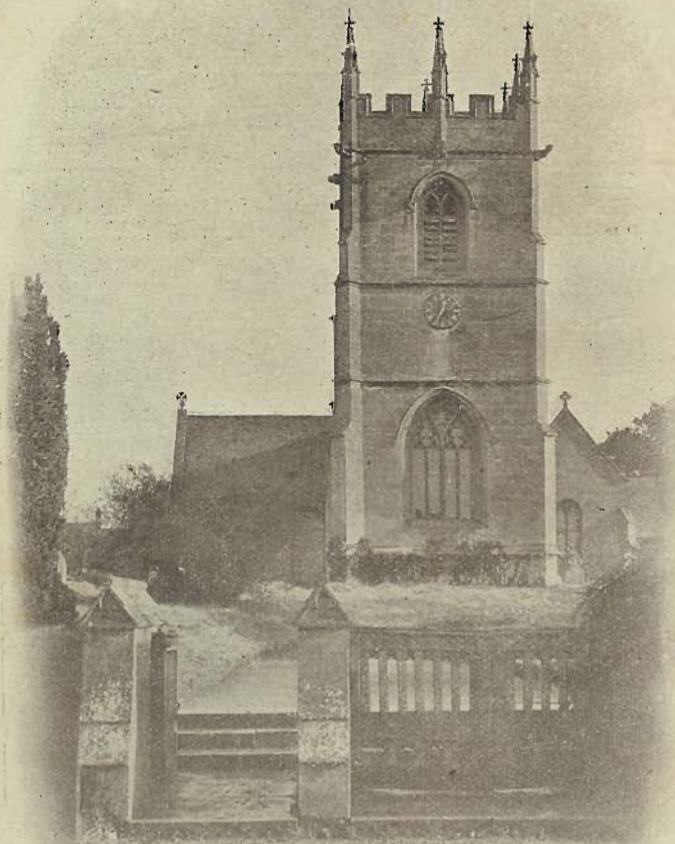


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LENT.

This solemn season is already upon us with its call to deeper penitence, greater devotion, and nobler self-sacrifice, and the attendance at Divine Service on Ash Wednesday bespoke a readiness on the part of many to rise to their obligations. But it would be to encourage self-deception of the worst kind to say one word to suggest that the great majority in these parishes show any adequate appreciation of the claims of this holy season, or even to allow such an opinion to pass unchallenged. There are not a few who, if spoken to personally on the subject of fasting and self-denial, would say, "Ah, yes, that is all very well for those who, if they choose, can 'fare sumptuously every day,' but, with us, the reverse is unfortunately the case; plain living (and little of it) is the rule, and sumptuous fare the exception. *Our Lent* began when autumn set in." And no one who had spent the last six months in Badsey, with eyes and ears open, could fail to treat such an expression of opinion with respect. The failure of last season's fruit crop, and an abnormal amount of sickness, have contributed to produce conditions which, we are thankful to know, are not common in this generally thriving district. An unusually large number have been "hard hit," and to talk to such people of fasting would be to lay oneself open to the charge of cant and hypocrisy. But no single soul is by any conditions absolved from *all* religious duties, and such as feel that there is little room in their lives for self-denial should make the more earnest efforts to give evidence of sincerity by penitence and devotion.

There are, however, many among us, upon whom the sun of prosperity has scarcely ever ceased to shine, who are sinfully indifferent to one or other, if not all the calls of Lent. Some there are who never think of putting to themselves the question of the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Others there are who, if they do venture to propound the question, answer it in a manner which shows a fundamental misapprehension of the meaning of Christianity. They come to Church to 'get good,' but they give—nothing. Now, no religion worthy of the name has ever inculcated selfishness, but Christianity is the most unselfish of all religions; and to try to 'get good' and yet give nothing, is, in the Christian Church at any rate, to aim at the

impossible. Indeed, if we would only study our Bibles, and the life of Christ in particular, we should soon learn that even giving does not rise to the level of Christian liberality until the gift necessitates sacrifice on the part of the giver. How woefully Badsey falls short of the ideal a little thought will suffice to show. If we leave out of our calculations any occasional special effort, it is left to the few who frequent our early celebrations, and a portion of those who attend the 11 o'clock service on the first Sunday of each month, to provide the *whole* of our fund for the Sick and Needy. Secondly, the collections for Church Expenses hardly suffice to provide the barest necessities for a simple village service. These two considerations force upon us the inevitable conclusion that not only very many nominal members of the Church, but very many actual churchgoers are appallingly indifferent to their responsibilities. Now is the time, during this Lent of 1906, for such to rouse themselves from their carelessness and selfishness; to emulate the example of King David, who would not offer unto the Lord his God of that which cost him nothing; and to promote the realisation of St. Paul's idea of a Christian community—"a people zealous of good works."

NURSING CLUB.

A Public Meeting was held at the Vicarage on Tuesday, February 13th, at which it was unanimously decided to inaugurate a Nursing Club for the benefit of the parishes of Badsey, Aldington, and Wickhamford. The Vicar was asked to act as Treasurer, with Mrs. Hands, Mrs. R. Taylor, and Miss Sharpe as Sub-Treasurers. It was agreed that rules should be drawn up by a Committee, consisting of Mrs. H. Byrd, Mrs. A. Evans, Mrs. Hands, Miss Idiens, Mrs. H. Keen, Miss Sharpe, Mrs. Sladden, Mrs. R. Taylor, Miss Whitford, Mr. Geo. Jones, and the Vicar. The Committee met at the Vicarage on Friday, February 16th, and drew up a set of rules, copies of which have been circulated throughout the three parishes. If, after a six-months' trial, the Club is found to be receiving insufficient support to justify its continuance, it will be dissolved, and the subscriptions of those members who have never had occasion to call in the Nurse will be returned.

DANCE.

The new floor at the Old School was 'opened' with a very successful dance on Wednesday, January 31st. In spite of a very short notice a goodly company assembled to test and criticise the handiwork of our local amateur carpenters. We are glad to know that the unanimous verdict was entirely favourable, and we trust the new floor will have a long and useful career.

Mr. F. Thould and (in the absence of Mr. Brearley) Mr. J. E. Knight, officiated as M.C.'s; and Mrs. Keen, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Wilson, and Miss Pendlebury superintended the refreshment department.

The material result of the evening's entertainment was the addition of £1 16s. 5d. to the Old School Fund, but, as the Treasurer is still £3 in debt, and there are several yards of wall waiting to be rebuilt, he looks forward to receiving further assistance from patrons of the graceful art soon after Easter.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of Tickets		Pianist...	0 10 6
per Miss Hands	0 14 0	Groceries ..	0 9 7½
„ Mrs. G. Pethard	0 2 0	Ham ..	0 5 2½
„ Miss Mustoe	0 13 0	„akes ..	0 5 0
„ Mrs. Warner	0 16 0	Milk ..	0 1 0
Door ..	0 16 0	Laundress ..	0 1 0
Refreshments ..	1 7 7½	Floor-dressing ..	0 0 8½
		Ginger Beer ..	0 3 0
		Oil ..	0 8 0
		Coal ..	0 0 6
		Cleaning Room before	
		and after the Dance	0 4 0
		Tuning Piano do.	0 8 0
		Printing Bills	0 3 0
		Balance ...	2 12 2
		Total ...	1 16 5
Total ..	£4 8 7½	Total ...	4 8 7½

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Vicar is preaching a course of sermons at Badsey on the Sunday evenings in Lent on "The Seven Words from the Cross."

Mr. T. Knight wishes us to announce that he has two Cottage Hospital tickets to dispose of.

The Ringers beg to thank all who contributed to their Xmas Fund. The whole of the amount collected, viz., £2 1s. has been expended on tuition, a professional instructor having been in attendance throughout the winter months. It will thus be seen that the Ringers have received no personal return for their labours, their valuable services still being in the most literal sense voluntary.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISM.

February 18th—Mary Kathleen Sears.

WICKHAMFORD—BAPTISM.

„ 11th—William Roland Lloyd.
 „ 11th—Frederick John Chamberlain.

WICKHAMFORD.—MARRIAGE.

„ 18th Alfred Halford and Amelia Emily Hartwell

On Wednesdays during Lent the services will be
 10.0, Morning Prayer, Litany and Reading at Wickhamford.
 8.0, Evening Prayer, Reading, and latter portion of Communion Service at Badsey.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

	BADSEY.	WICKHAMFORD.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Feb. 2—Sick and Needy	0 0 4	
„ 4.—Sick and Needy	0 3 6	0 5 2½
„ „ Church Expenses	0 9 2	
„ 11.—Sick and Needy	0 2 10	
„ „ Church Expenses	0 11 8½	0 3 8
„ 18.—Sick and Needy	0 1 5½	0 12 4
„ „ Church Expenses	0 6 9½	
„ 25.—Church Expenses	0 15 6	0 2 3
„ 28.—Sick and Needy	0 3 3	
	£2 14 6½	1 3 5½