

DECEMBER 1906

# Badsey with Aldington & Wickhamford Parochial Magazine.

## THE BISHOP'S MISSION.

Our Mission Week has come and gone, and, if we would estimate its results, we must keep carefully in mind its object. Some of those outward and visible signs which people have come to associate with Home Missions were indeed conspicuously absent. There was no open-air preaching, no appeal to the natural proneness of men and women to excitability—certainly no attempt to make proselytes of those who boast of their aloofness from the Church of England. But the object of the Mission was not to make proselytes, it was intended rather for the confirmation—the “strengthening”—of the faithful. It was intended to “stir up the wills of faithful people,” who profess allegiance to Christ and His Church, and whose professions are sincere, but whose religion, from the mere monotony which characterises life in a village, is apt to become empty and formal. There is not much variety in our services as a rule—to hear the same voice week in week out Sundays and week-days, becomes monotonous, so that both prayers and lessons are liable, after a time, to fail in finding any intelligent response in the minds and hearts of those who form our congregations; whilst to listen Sunday after Sunday to the same preacher—who, in spite of the best intentions, is tempted to be constantly repeating himself—is, we know, to put a tax on the patience of not a few.

It is, then, just those who are most assiduous in the performance of their religious duties who, in a parish such as this, are liable to become formalists, and it was primarily to help such that the Bishop sent Mr. Ismay to us as missionary.

Viewed in this light, there is abundant cause for looking back upon the Mission with thankfulness. There were five or six communicants every morning for eight days, which is much for a village when we consider that only in one or two cases did the same person communicate twice, and all who communicated were regular communicants. At the daily evening services (leaving out of consideration the Sunday and the evening of the Bishop's visit) there was an average attendance of about 50. Mr. Ismay's addresses, which were marked throughout by an earnestness the sincerity of which was transparently evident, emphasised three points in the religious life:—

- (1) The need for earnestness, effort, singleness of purpose in seeking after God.

- (2) The reality of the nearness of God to everyone who has been made a member of the Church, and therefore a member of Christ, by Holy Baptism, and who has taken all possible means to “encourage” (if we may reverently say so) the Presence of God—a nearness which S. Paul was at a loss to find words to express.
- (3) The need for a more forcible motive to church-going than even a sense of duty. Men put into their daily tasks, players put into their weekly football matches an earnestness of purpose with which it would be difficult to invest them if undertaken from a mere sense of duty.

The last point may seem open to contradiction but it is not really so. Let anyone try to imagine the spectacle that would be presented by a football match in which every individual player was taking part merely from a sense of duty. Such a match might prove an unqualified success if footballers were ideal men—but they are not, and we must take them as they are. But neither are Churchmen and Churchwomen ideal beings and they, too, are to be taken as they are; and there can be no manner of doubt that if our church-going, ‘the assembling of ourselves together,’ were actuated by an earnestness of purpose such as marks the efforts of the business man, or by a sense of pleasure such as the athlete finds in his sports and games, our services would be enthused with a fervour which they seem to lack. Moreover, we should realize much more fully our solidarity—our membership one with another, our community of interests with the Church throughout this Diocese, throughout this kingdom, throughout the wide, wide world.

It was a happy coincidence that our Bishop came to cement this feeling of ‘comradeship’ just when our missionary had, by God's grace, quickened in us a deeper sense of the meaning of Church membership, and when our hearts must have been unusually willing to respond to the Bishop's efforts on our behalf. We have had bishops here for confirmations, church dedications and so forth, but this is probably the first time a Bishop of Worcester has visited Badsey just for the sake of seeing and speaking to those committed to his charge. His Lordship gave parishioners an opportunity of meeting him at an informal



gathering in the Old Schools, and then, accompanied by the Vicar, he visited half-a-dozen invalids in their own homes. At the evening service the Bishop preached to a large congregation, and before leaving addressed a few words of encouragement to the ringers.

We cannot doubt that the Bishop's Mission has left all who came under the influence of their Chief Pastor and his missioner more fully conscious of their privileges and responsibilities as members of the Holy Catholic Church.

### MILTON AND MINORITIES.

At a meeting of 'Free' Churchmen in London the other day, the Rev. J. Clifford, with a view to encouraging his stalwarts to still more impudent demands, delivered a spirited harangue concluding with words which Milton puts into the mouth of Satan when addressing the fallen angels--'Awake, arise, or be for ever fall'n.'

'Dr.' Clifford's unkind critics have not been slow to point out the suggestiveness of such a quotation, and to disavow all claims to dispute its appropriateness. But surely the reverend gentleman's real mistake lay in going to Milton at all for inspiration; for, whatever Milton's views on Churchmanship, and however much he might have sympathized with Nonconformists in their imagined wrongs under the Act of 1902, his attitude towards their present attempt at confiscation and persecution would have been one of uncompromising hostility. Witness his Sonnet 'On the new forcers of Conscience under the Long Parliament':--

"Because you have thrown off your Prelate Lord,  
And with stiff Vowes renounc'd his Liturgie  
To seise the widdow'd whore Pluralitie  
From them whose sin ye envi'd, not abhor'd,  
Dare ye for this adjure the Civill Sword  
To force our Consciences that Christ set free?"

'Envi'd, not abhor'd' seems to fit the case exactly, as do also the concluding lines.

### CHRISTMAS.

On Christmas Day the services will be as follows:--

BADSEY.	WICKHAMFORD.
6.30--Holy Communion	
7.30--Holy Communion (Choral).	
11.0 --Morning Prayer & Litany.	9.30--Morning Prayer and Litany.
11.45--Holy Communion	10.0--Holy Communion
5.0 --Evening Prayer & Carols.	3.30--Evening Prayer and Carols.

On the Sunday after Christmas (December 30) there will be Holy Communion at Wickhamford at 8 and at Badsey at mid-day.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

We propose to adopt "The Sign" as the 'inset' for our Parish Magazine for the ensuing year. Some of our readers may be sorry to part company with their old friend the "Dawn of Day," but we think the change will be generally approved.

The following contributions towards the cost of a harmonium for the Sunday School are acknowledged with thanks:--Mrs. Cull 5s., Mr. W. Pethard 5s., Mr. E. Johns 4s., Mr. Pendlebury 5s.

### THE REGISTERS.

#### BADSEY.—BAPTISMS.

Nov. 18th—Gladys Julia Brewer.

#### BADSEY.—BURIAL.

Nov. 21.—Ashley Jeffs, aged 36 years.

#### WICKHAMFORD.—BAPTISM.

Nov. 11.—Harry Fletcher Jeffs.

#### WICKHAMFORD.—BURIAL.

Nov. 15.—Annie Louise Hacklett, aged 29 years.

### OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

	BADSEY.	WICKHAMFORD.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Nov. 1.—Sick and Needy	.. 0 2 5	
„ 4.—Sick and Needy	... 0 8 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 1 3
„ „ Church Expenses	... 0 10 4	0 2 7
„ 11.—Sick and Needy	... 0 1 11	
„ „ Church Expenses	... 0 18 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 4
„ 16.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 0	
„ 17.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
18.—Sick and Needy	... 0 3 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 5
„ „ Church Expenses	... 0 13 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
„ 19.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 0	
„ 20.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 7	
„ 21.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 3	
„ 22.—Sick and Needy	..	0 2 4
„ 23.—Sick and Needy	... 0 2 7	
„ 25.—Sick and Needy	... 0 0 10	
„ „ Church Expenses	... 0 15 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 3
	£4 8 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	£1 8 2