

Badsey Annual Parochial Church Meeting, April 22nd 1979)

Vicar's Report (Adrian Leak)

I usually take this opportunity of thanking all those who have served the church in this parish during the past year. However, their number is so large that I propose simply to say 'thank you' without listing all their names.

Worship

The pattern of Sunday services remains the same. That is: two services each Sunday, one in the morning and one in the evening. The morning service alternates between an 8 o'clock and a 10.45 celebration of the Eucharist. The *early celebration* has its small but loyal congregation....usually about 15 in number. The *later celebration* attracts a wider range of parishioners, and because of the Sunday School and other children, both in the choir and the congregation, this service is the occasion when the church is seen most obviously as a family. The *evening service* has recently attracted large congregations (sometimes in excess of 100) chiefly because the confirmation candidates and their parents have been encouraged to attend Evensong and to receive instruction after the service. For this reason and also because there are a number of candidates and parents from Wickhamford, the large evening congregations present a misleading picture of church attendance in Badsey. The *Wednesday Celebration of the Eucharist* continues to draw a small congregation (sometimes 2 or 3, but much more than this on the first Wednesday of the month when the Mothers' Union attend). I believe that a quiet weekday service like this reminds us that the church's worship continues throughout the week, and that whilst most of us go about our work at home, in the office, the factory or the shop, a small group worship on our behalf. The Wednesday service serves another very important purpose by enabling me to take the sacrament to the elderly and housebound communicants in both parishes.

A general comment is, I think, worth making, and that is whilst it is generally true that special services become increasingly popular, there is a falling off in numbers of those churchgoers who are willing to attend ordinary services as a matter of duty. Clergy can usually fill their churches by arranging occasional services like those which mark Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, Easter. But we must not overlook the serious drop in that number of regular all-weather churchgoers who do not need the confectionary of 'Special Services' to prompt them to fulfil their obligations of church attendance.

Children's Work

We are being quite busy in this respect, not just because it is the Year of the Child, but because I think that the educational role of the parish church is very important. *Mums and Toddlers* meet once a week for a very informal session in the church on Wednesday afternoon. We sing rhymes, light candles, ring the church bell, drink squash (the mothers drink tea). On a good day there may be more than two dozen crammed into the transept; on a poor day our numbers fall to perhaps less than a dozen. Apart from its intrinsic value, this exercise gives some of these young mothers (who are otherwise non-churchgoers) a way into church life, even though at a very informal and elementary stage. *Church Club* (an unsatisfactory name) In the Winter term and again in the Spring term we hold a series of five consecutive afternoon meetings for children. This takes place after school, and we usually have two to three dozen 7 to 10 year olds. Miss N. Smith and Mrs Harrison, both retired school teachers help me run these meetings in the church. *Confirmation Classes* are now being given and this covers the 11 to 14 years age group. The Chrysalis Club meets usually once a month for a recreational evening in the Memorial Hall at Wickhamford. The membership is small, those attending

at any one meeting numbering anything between one dozen and two dozen. Members are drawn from the younger members of the congregations of Badsey and Wickhamford churches, and their ages range from 11 to 15.

Church Choir

The church choir has been greatly augmented by a number of adults who come to selected services – not every Sunday. At full strength the choir musters two dozen adults and children.

Adults' Bible Study

As in past years we held a course of study on five evenings during November, This year Badsey and Wickhamford held separate courses. The Badsey course was held in the vicarage and was attended by about 18 parishioners, although the average weekly attendance was lower than this. During Lent Badsey and Wickhamford combined for a course of Lenten services and sermons held alternately in the 2 churches on Thursday evenings. Average attendance: 24. In the past 3 years the Lent course has been held in conjunction with the other parishes in the local 'Group' of 7 churches. The 1978 attendance was poor, and so the 3 clergy felt it wise to revert to separate courses. In the event this proved to be more popular in Badsey and Wickhamford – even though the numbers were thin, they were less than in 1978.

Visits by our Bishop

The Bishop of Worcester paid a visit to the Deanery over the weekend April 28-30 1978. He attended a number of church functions in the Evesham area on the Friday and Saturday and preached at four services on the Sunday at different churches in the Deanery, ending up at Offenham for our quarterly 'Group@ Evensong. In October he held a Confirmation in our own church, and a few days later he was again in our area when he preached at the United Service at All Saints, Evesham at the start of the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Next Sunday (April 29th) we shall be visited by the Assistant Bishop (the Rt. Revd. Nicholas Allenby) when he preaches at our 'Group' Evensong. I believe we have been very lucky to receive so many episcopal visits in this area, taking into account the very many demands which are made upon our Bishop's time.

Stewardship Scheme Report

At present the membership of the scheme numbers 81 and although most members are regular in their giving, it does appear that some 8 or 10 have dropped out.

Total income for a year at present rates would be approximately £1300 (ex. tax recovered). When one considers that the value of the premises in 1961 was £1037, you can easily see that we have fallen badly behind in real terms. With this in mind, we hope shortly to arrange a special service to boost the scheme, when we hope for three things:

- To obtain new members
- To ask existing members to review their contributions in cases where they have remained unchanged for many years
- To persuade as many as possible to covenant their contributions

Church Warden's Report

This has been a fairly uneventful year generally, as far as the fabric has been concerned. Unfortunately, at the end of the winter, the roof was damaged considerably by the winds, made worse by continual frost and snow. However, repairs are in hand, but we regret to report will be very expensive. In spite of the prolonged wet weather, the flooding of the boiler house has been less troublesome.

Our thanks to Mr. Clint Evans, who has given up the church yard maintenance, but we are pleased to report that this work will be undertaken this year by a group of young people, who have made quite a promising start.

Report on the Cottages

The two cottages were given to the Church about eight years ago when they needed considerable improvements which were carried out to put them in proper modern condition. For that purpose loans were obtained which is the reason for the cottages not so far being a source of income to the Church.

At the end of the year to 31st December 1978, the balance of income over expenditure and after completion in that year of the repayment of the loans mentioned, amounts to £225.07. The total of the rents is now £67.35 a month out of which repairs and insurance are paid.

Vine Cottage was put in order by the end of the preceding year and has been let to new tenants throughout last year, during which new heating was installed in the living room. Rose Cottage remains let at an increased rent.

Planning consent has been given for a pair of garages to be erected at the end of the gardens of the cottages subject to building approval. The design will so far as possible harmonise with the cottages. This is being dealt with by an architect free of charge. The cost of this is expected to be repaid within two years after which there should be a continuing surplus available to the general funds of the Church.

Electoral Roll

In 1978 the Electoral Roll contained 129 names. During the past year there have been 5 deletions and 3 additions leaving a total of 127 names.

Overseas Committee

In the twelve months since last April we have continued to support Bobby Nakoolak's training at Pangnirtung, Baffin Island, in his pre-ordination studies.

On 7th May 1978, an Overseas Evensong took place when the speaker was the Rev. Peter Emmerson, Vicar of Rushwick, who has served in the Arctic diocese. A visual display was arranged in the transept, where coffee was served.

Mothers' Union Report (Daphne Bell)

Mothers' Union has 40 members with an average attendance of 29-30 at all of our meetings, also a good attendance at the mid-week Eucharist, especially the corporate communion once monthly. We continue to meet twice monthly except during 3 summer months when we have one evening meeting. Our speakers have been very varied and have included our own Vicar and the Vicar of Bengeworth on 'the healing ministry of the church' and Mrs Squires who brought us a film and talked about 'the Church of England's Children Society'. Other talks included 'Women in the Priesthood', 'Coping with Disability'. 'the Badsey poor in former times', 'Everyday Christianity' 'Prayer' and a film and talk about churches and gardens. The local geriatric social worker came with much information for members. We also had the ECO2 choir and folk songs from Mrs Ross and her guitar and Lucy and her friend and in July a cheese and wine evening in Mrs Harvey's garden.

We attended the Diocesan festival service in May in Worcester Cathedral and was the host church for the Deanery Lady Day Service this March. Some of our members attended a quiet day in Crophorne and also helped with the Three Choirs Festival catering in Worcester. We held a short prayer group in September for the annual 'Wave of Prayer' and at St. Luke's Tide in October 8 members visited 4 or 5 sick parishioners with small gifts. On June 4th we had a short admittance service for 2 new members. We had 2 delightful outings; one to Packwood House near Droitwich, and another to Bristol where we were given wonderful hospitality by a local M.U. branch there.

Our members continue to do the brass cleaning weekly in church and make up the greatest number of flower arrangers both weekly and at festivals, Mrs. Perkins, one of our members being in charge of this.

During Advent and Lent help has been given to our vicar with services for junior children and one of our members helps every week that a Mums' and Toddlers' service is held. We also help at the fete and other church events. Six of our members help monthly with infant welfare – do Sunday School and deliver baptism cards. Members also gave flowers for Mothering Sunday posies.

Lastly, we continue as a group to give inscribed New Testaments to the newly married of our church and small gifts of money to the St.Mary Home at Eastnor at Christmas and Easter, also a parcel of new clothing in August and help with the 'Help the Aged' collection of clothing. 12 members gave £1 each with which we bought 20 children's Communion books.

We have had a very happy year and are glad to have helped out our own parish church in small ways.

Sunday School Report (Daphne Bell)

Since last April's AGM the under-8 Sunday School has met in Mrs. Goldstraw's nursery school except for 9 weeks of holidays – Summer, Christmas and Easter. We have been a pretty average of 24 children. We start at 10.45 and finish about 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays but on the 1st and 3rd Sundays we spend half an hour singing hymns, saying prayers and I tell a story before bringing the children along to the Holy Eucharist service. We have also joined in with the special 5th Sunday Matins four times. With the children's collections we have bought 36 small Baptismal pamphlets which are given on the 4th anniversary of Baptism to any child baptised in our church. We also paid for four children's communion books at 75p each for use in our church and have arranged to donate £8 to 'Holidays for Handicapped Children' in Devon. (Brother Jonathan mentioned this in our January magazine.) Half of the children's collections automatically go into our own church fund when we come twice monthly to church. In detail this is what we spent:

Own parish	£5.34	Baptism pamphlets
	£3.00	Children's communion books
Outside parish	£8.00	Brother Jonathan's holidays for the handicapped
	<hr/>	
	£16.34	

About the same approximately to church funds as above I expect.

We had a lovely Christmas party for which quite a number of friends gave gifts and others helped. From our own funds we bought 26 Ladybird books so that each child took home a book, an orange, a small pack of sweets and a balloon – a very happy party. The P.C.C. continue to give us a grant annually with which we pay the very small rent Mrs Goldstraw charges us (mainly for heating) and also with which we buy books and equipment. We have had a good and varied programme of lessons and each week the children have taken home lovely collages and handmade items. They all made Christmas cards for parents or grandparents and this Easter made 22 pretty flower covered cards for anyone ill in the village – these I posted or delivered on their behalf.

We shall be sorry to lose Katie Granger in July when she goes on into full time nursing. She has worked well with us for four years and we wish her well. Phillippa Cox and Carol Burton continue to help and I am most grateful to them. We have a number of older children who join us from time to time and one or two who occasionally help.