

Vicar

BADSEY, ALDINGTON and WICKHAMFORD PARISH REVIEW

APRIL, 1973

PRICE 30p. PER ANNUM

Vicar (& Rural Dean): REV. P. BRABY, M.A.

(Tel. Evesham 830343)

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BADSEY.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

- First Sunday Holy Communion 8 and 11 a.m. (said). People's Service 6-45 p.m.
Second Sunday Family Eucharist 10-15 a.m. Evensong 6-45 p.m.
Third Sunday Holy Communion 8 a.m. Evensong and Holy Baptism 4 p.m.
Fourth Sunday Holy Communion 8 a.m. Mattins (said) 11 a.m.
Sung Eucharist 6-45 p.m.
Fifth Sunday Holy Communion 8 a.m. Family Service 10-15 a.m.
Evensong 6-45 p.m.
Holy Baptism See 3rd Sunday. (Parents must see the Vicar personally at least
seven days before).
Sunday School 10 a.m. Over 8, in Church. Under 8, Meeting House.

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

- Churchwardens Mr. D. W. Hartwell, 35, Willersey Road.
Mr. R. J. Taylor, 34, Badsey Fields Lane. (Evesham 830250).

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WICKHAMFORD.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

- First Sunday and
Festivals Holy Communion 9 a.m. Evensong 5-30 (3-0 Nov. to Feb.)
Second Sunday Family Service and Holy Baptism 3 p.m. (all the year).
Third Sunday Family Eucharist 11 a.m.
Fourth & Fifth Sundays Evensong 5-30 (3-0 Nov. to Feb.).
Holy Baptism See 2nd Sunday. (Parents must see the Vicar at least seven days
before).

WEEK-DAY SERVICES. According to notice in porch.

- Churchwardens Mr. J. E. Parry, Wickham House. (Evesham 830244).
Mr. H. J. Dunkerley, C.B.E., M.A., Gallipot Farm, Broadway.
(Evesham 830395).
Clerk Mr. C. H. Willis, 35, Pitchers Hill.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners of Badsey and Wickhamford,

You will see elsewhere in this number of the Review announcements of the Easter Services and of the Annual Church Meeting in both parishes. Traditionally the A.G.M. of the parish Church and the greatest Festival of the calendar have been held at the same time of the year. This reflects an important truth: that joyful worship needs efficient organisation, and vice versa.

There is a mistaken view that somehow worldly efficiency and Christian sanctity don't mix. And yet so many of the great men of prayer have also been extremely clear-headed administrators. The Apostles could not have founded and maintained a rapidly growing federation of local churches, which in less than four decades spread over much of the Roman Empire, without a fair amount of organisational skill. We know from references in the Bible that Our Lord and his disciples regulated their communal life with the help of a treasurer and a group of women to see that they were properly fed (Matt. 27. 55). Jesus' ministry was evidently supported by a small but effective 'organisation'.

In the parish, the Church's programme of worship, her teaching rôle and her ability to serve the local community, all depend upon work carried on behind the scenes by the Parochial Church Council. Although it is sometimes fashionable to decry committee work as tedious (and who can pretend that domestic chores are not wearisome), there is no doubt that without the Church of England would rapidly grind to a halt. This is one area where I am convinced that the modern Church is much healthier than her Victorian predecessors. Do you recall reading in one of Mr. Braby's articles recently about a previous incumbent, how in the 1890's only one person attended the Wickhamford Annual Meeting, apart from the Vicar himself, and at Badsey only four people turned up! The modern Church certainly takes her responsibilities more seriously.

I do urge all of you to try to attend the Annual Meeting of your parish Church (Badsey April 10th, Wickhamford, April 11th) so that you can elect your Churchwardens and Councils and give them your support. It will also be a chance to thank them, particularly the wardens, for shouldering the burden of the Interregnum during February and March.

I wrote in a previous paragraph that the programme of the Church's worship depended upon the P.C.C. Now let me qualify that by saying that ultimately all our praise and all our faith depends upon the Spirit of God at work amongst us. Compare the behaviour of the Apostles at the time of Our Lord's arrest with their behaviour at Pentecost a few weeks later. On the one hand, we see a panic stricken group of men, disbanded by fear and uncertainty. On the other hand, we see a cohesive Church united by the Spirit of the Risen Lord. Without that Spirit none of us, whether we be 1st century apostles or 20th century apostles, can really do very much, but with His presence amongst us there is no guessing what we might achieve.

May I conclude by wishing you and your families a very happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

ADRIAN LEAK.

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON NOTES

Church Services

April

- 1 Mothering Sunday. 8-0 H.C., 11-0 H.C., 6-45 Evensong. Preacher: Mr. A. C. Kerr.
- 4 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 8 **Passion Sunday.** 10-15 Family Eucharist, 6-45 Evensong.

- 11 Wed. 10-0 H.C.
- 15 **Palm Sunday.** 8-0 H.C., 4-0 Evensong and Holy Baptism.

Holy Week

- 16 Mon. 7-30 p.m. Evensong and Address (for Young Wives and others).
- 17 Tues. 7-30 p.m. Evensong and Address.
- 18 Wed. 10-0 H.C., 6-30 Evensong, 6-50 Choir Practice.
- 19 **Maundy Thursday.** 7-30 p.m. H.C. (7-30 a.m. H.C. at Wickhamford).
- 20 **Good Friday.** 10-0 Family Mattins (for children and adults). 2-0 An Hour by the Cross. 7-30 Evensong.
- 21 Holy Saturday (Easter Even). 7-30 Mattins and Ante-Communion. 9-30 Decoration of the church. Helpers welcome, and flowers which should be brought to the church by 9-30.
- 22 6-30 Evensong & Preparation for Holy Communion.
- 22 **EASTER DAY.** 8-0 H.C., 10-15 Parish Eucharist (sung). 6-45 Evensong.
- 25 Wed. St. Mark. 10-0 H.C.
- 29 **Low Sunday.** 8-0 H.C., 10-15 Family Service, 6-45 Evensong.

Notes: The Vicar will be in church for any who seek the **ministry of absolution** and/or spiritual counsel on Tuesday, 17th April and Saturday, 21st April, at 7 p.m.

Easter Communion for the Sick. The Vicar will be glad after Easter to take Communion to the homes of those who are sick or infirm and unable to get to church. If you are not already on the regular list, please let him know.

Lilies of Remembrance. On the two Sundays before Easter there will be a bowl in the church, for donations towards lilies in remembrance of loved ones departed.

The Institution, Tuesday, 3rd April, at 7-30 p.m.

A most important event in the church this month will be the Institution and Induction of our new Vicar to the parishes of Badsey with Aldington, and Wickhamford. The service will be conducted by the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean. There will be a Reception in the Meeting House afterwards.

We hope that both parishes will be well represented.

Servers for April. 1st, 8-0 P. Gresty; 11-0 G. Toney; 6-45 M. Clements. 3rd, 7-30 p.m. A. Owen. 8th, 10-15 A. Owen (server), D. Barrand (crucifer); 6-45 T. Bell. 15th, 8-0 N. Bell; 4-0 D. Barrand. 22nd, 8-0 T. Bell; 10-15 D. Barrand (server), A. Owen (crucifer); 6-45, M. Clements. 29th, 8-0 D. Norden; 10-15 N. Bell; 6-45 T. Bell.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

AND VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, 10th April, 7-30 p.m. at the Meeting House, Chapel Street.

This occasion begins with the Vestry Meeting, for election of Churchwardens, at which any parishioner, whether a church member or not, is entitled to vote. That will be followed by Reports from P.C.C. Officers and committee chairmen of work during the past year, including a presentation of audited accounts. An election of the new P.C.C. then follows, at which all those on the Electoral Roll of the church are entitled to vote.

Nomination forms are now on the table in church. Please place your nominations in this box, signed by a proposer and seconder after securing the candidate's agreement to serve if elected.

This year, six members are to be elected to serve on the Deanery Synod for a period of three years, and these persons automatically become members of the P.C.C. The same forms are used for either nomination.

You will see in the Vicar's letter of his particular wish to see a good attendance at the meeting, and of the importance which he attaches to the work carried out by the Council. We hope that there will be a good response to this request of our new Vicar - do not leave it to those who, you say, "are sure to be there", but come yourself and take your part.

Mothers' Union. Wed., 4th, 10-0 Corporate Communion.

Mon., 9th, 7-30 p.m. Pray-In at St. Andrew's Hall, Worcester. Please give names to me for the coach.

Tues., 24th, 7-30 p.m. Annual General Meeting, with triennial elections. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Watkin, Committee; Mesdames Wilkin, Sharp and Allen.

Subscriptions are now due to Mrs. Watkin; will members please pay as soon as possible? J.B.

Young Wives. April 2nd, Fashion Show by Bellman's, in the Village Hall at 8-0 p.m. Admission 20p. including refreshments. In aid of Kidney Research. Everyone welcome.

April 16th, Service in Church, at 7-30 p.m. Refreshments afterwards in the Meeting House. Tea Hostesses: Mrs. Mary Knight, Mrs. Daphne Cleaver, Mrs. Susan Simmonds. J.A.W.

Sixty Plus Club. Wed., April 18th, at 2-30 p.m. in the Meeting House. The Rev. Adrian Leak will be making his first visit to the Club on this occasion.

War Memorial Flowers. April 22nd, Mrs. F. Barnard, April 29th, Mrs. I. Jones.

Christian Aid Week will take place during the week beginning 14th May.

Mrs. Phyllis Churchill, Chapel Street, will welcome offers of help in a house-to-house collection, especially from new helpers who have not yet taken part in this very important, nation-wide fund-raising effort. Wherever in the world there is sudden disaster - earthquake, flood, tornado, etc. Christian Aid sends immediate assistance, and at all times its permanent work goes on, helping those in under-developed areas to build up their economic life and lift themselves out of the trough of poverty.

Acknowledgments. In memory of Evelyn Stewart, from Mr. & Mrs. J. G. White, Stratford-on-Avon, 50p. In memory, E.M.S. £1.

Burial. R.I.P.

Mar. 19 Hepzibah Curtis. (Cremation after service in church).

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The under 8 year-olds

Our school meets three Sundays a month, in the Meeting House at 10 o'clock. After a little chat with our teachers we begin by speaking to Jesus and thanking

Him for his love and care of us and those we love. Then we sing a hymn to Him and have a game to show how happy we all are. After that, we go and sit at our own tables and hear a story, then we try to make a lovely picture from cut-outs and sticky coloured paper patterns and crayons, to show our families at home what we have been learning about that Sunday. We like to make models in plasticine too, and at Christmas time we work hard to make our Mummies and Daddies lovely cards to remind them that it is Jesus' birthday. Sometimes we make dolls from wash-pegs and animals from pipe-cleaners. We like making things to take home very much.

A little while ago, in January, we had our Christmas party and it was great fun. Mrs. Marshall played the piano for us and our teachers arranged lots of games. We liked 'Farmers in his den' and the forfeit parcel with funny clothes to dress up in when the music stops, the best - 'Lucy Locket's pretty good too!' We had a super tea with crisps, ice-cream and sausages, oh! and lots of good things, then we went home and left the bigger children to have their party. It was exciting going home in the dark, carrying our balloons and big oranges, feeling tired but happy.

We love our school, and wish all the children in the village would join us, so that when we sing, everyone in Badsey would hear us.

From four 7-year-olds.

Owing to shortage of space the article on the over 8 year-olds will be held over until next month.

WICKHAMFORD NOTES

Church Services

April

- 1 Mothering Sunday. 9-0 H.C., 5-30 Evensong. Preacher: Rev. A. Webb, Rural Dean.
- 8 Passion Sunday. 3-0 p.m. Family Service.
- 15 Palm Sunday. 11-0 Family Eucharist.
- 21 Maundy Thursday. 7-30 a.m. H. C. (7-30 p.m. at Badsey).
- 20 Good Friday. 11-0 a.m. Family Mattins (see Badsey service 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.).
- 22 EASTER DAY. 9-0 H.C., 5-30 Evensong.

Lilies of Remembrance. On the two Sundays before Easter there will be a bowl in the church, for donations towards lilies in remembrance of loved ones departed.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday, 11th April, at 7-15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

You will note in the Vicar's letter his urgent request to parishioners to attend their Annual Meeting. We hope that there will be a very good attendance.

FORMER VICARS OF BADSEY & WICKHAMFORD

6. William Henry Price (2)

(Part 1 of this article appeared in the February issue).

Material Improvements

Very much was done in a material way in both parishes during his incumbency. At his request, the land on which the present new Vicarage stands was bought by Christ Church for £1700 and presented to the benefice in 1898. Badsey bells, which had been silent for so long, were at last rehung on a cast-iron frame and rededicated by the Suffragan Bishop of Coventry on Jan-

uary 24th, 1898. Later an appeal was launched for the purchase of two additional bells, to make up eight. These were cast by Mears and Stainbank and hung in December 1902, at a cost of £95. The present clock, by Smith of Derby, with Westminster chimes was installed a month or two later, at a cost of £128. This and the two new bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester, Charles Gore, in memory of Queen Victoria, on February 12th, 1903.

In 1899 it was decided that a major restoration of Wickhamford Church was necessary, and a report was drawn up by the distinguished architect, Sir Arthur Blomfield. Several events were held to raise money, among them a fête at Wickhamford Manor in 1901 at which the Right Hon. Arthur Balfour (who became Prime Minister the next year) turned up, apparently in mistake for somewhere else, but it got Wickhamford into the papers next day and helped to raise the last £100. There were delays. First the architect died, then the builder. The work was begun in October, 1900 and the church closed for Christmas services, but on Sunday, February 3rd, 1901 the opening services were held. Builders worked quickly in those days! It was in the course of this restoration that the mediaeval wall painting in the chancel was discovered.

At this time Wickhamford Manor ("in a terrible tumble-down and dilapidated condition" - Mr. Price) was undergoing a very thorough restoration at the expense of the owners, the Lord Trustees, and the new tenant was Mr. John Idiens. The gardens were laid out and farm buildings demolished, including unfortunately the ancient monastic tithe barn which stood between the house and the church. The stone walls surrounding the churchyard were built at this time by the owners of the Manor.

Death at the Altar

No one expected the suddenness with which Mr. Price's valuable ministry was brought to an end. It happened on Sunday, 15th March, 1903. Mr. Cyril Sladden recalls it all very vividly. He was home at that time because of an epidemic of diphtheria at his school. Mr. Price was celebrating Holy Communion when he suddenly collapsed at the altar. They got him round to the Vicarage and he lay on the hearthrug in front of the fire in the drawing-room, feeling terribly cold, Mrs. Price beside him in a chair. Before the doctor arrived he had died.

"For him", as Mr. Binyon wrote at the time, "it was a beautiful death to pass from the altar in the presence of God beyond the veil." But the loss for those left behind was tragic. He was survived by his wife and two young children. His son, Thomas, died some years ago and his daughter, Gwen Price, died on the 2nd January this year. We are sorry that she was never able to read this tribute to her father. Fortunately for the parishes, he had a good successor in W. C. Allsebrook, but it was disheartening at the time of his death to see the sudden end of his godly and earnest endeavours.

The east window of Wickhamford Church was installed as a memorial to him in 1905. P.B.

(Concluded).

Note. We are deeply indebted to the Rev. Peter Braby for the series of articles on former Vicars which he has contributed to this Review, covering the period 1731 to 1903. They form a valuable historical record for the archives in both parishes.

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