

X Memoranda
re "Fees" in the Parish of Badsey
and the Parish of Wickhamford -

They were received by me from William Barnard
Parish Clerk

Charles G. Geyt
Vicar

An old list of fees due to the lord of the
Manor, Badsey, (to whom the churchyard
belonged) will be found in the Badsey Burial
Register (1813).

" Clerk's Stipend
How made up =

Fees re Badsey

BADSEY.

The Re-opening of the Parish Church.

Badsey Church is to be re-opened on Thursday next, October 15th, having undergone complete restoration and having been enlarged by the addition of a new south aisle and vestry. There will be a full choral morning service at 11, when the sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Worcester, after which the additions made to the churchyard in 1866 will be consecrated. At the afternoon service at 3.15, which will also be full choral, the Ven. Archdeacon of Worcester will be the preacher, and between the services at 1.20 there will be a public luncheon in an adjacent building. On the following Sunday there will be harvest thanksgiving services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., with special preachers. Badsey Church was re-consecrated in the year 1295 by the Bishop of St. Asaph, then visiting the Abbey of Evesham, but there is evidence in the Norman architecture still visible in the north doorway of the nave and elsewhere that a church had existed on this spot long before that period. It would appear that the ancient building consisted merely of a nave and chancel, and that the transept and tower were afterwards added, the former about the end of the 13th and the latter during the 15th century. The tower, with its quaint gargoyles, its eight pinnacles, and its deeply moulded windows is the most remarkable feature of the building, and its position and appearance at the west end of the church on a gently rising eminence are highly picturesque. The parish documents date from the year 1524, and the ancient churchwarden's account book contains many very interesting entries relating to the worship of by-gone times.

The work of restoration was commenced last March from the designs of Mr. T. Graham Jackson, architect, which have been admirably carried out by Mr. Thomas Collins, builder, of Tewkesbury. The additions comprise a new south aisle with a porch, and a vestry on the north side of the chancel, and they are carried out in character with the latest style of architecture exhibited in the old building. The new building is constructed of blue lias stone faced with oolite, the foundations are six feet in depth on concrete, and the timbers of the very beautiful roof are of massive oak. The new aisle, when viewed from the south side of the churchyard, forms a most charming object, and exhibits, in no small degree, the pure taste of the architect and the conscientious work of the builder. The whole is exquisitely proportioned and finished in every particular, but shows no further adornment than that necessary to keep up the character of the architectural style employed. The very beautiful porch, with its carved crockets and surmounting finial over the entrance, will at once arrest the eye on reaching the front of the building, and the tracery of the windows, the beauty of the arcade and supporting columns, and the construction of the roof timbers cannot fail to please the most fastidious antiquarian. The new vestry is placed on the north side of the chancel, with which, as with the transept, it communicates by arches allowing ample space for the organ, and permitting the free passage of sound to every part of the church. The restoration of the old building comprises the

demolition of the hideous gallery, which for so many years disfigured the west end of the church and blocked the lofty and beautiful archway leading to the tower; the removal of the high pews which had encroached upon every available space in chancel, transept, and nave; the rebuilding of the north wall of the nave and the east wall of the transept; the construction of a chancel arch; an entirely new transept roof; the complete repair of the very ancient and massive oak roof of the nave and the chancel roof—both these latter being now open to view—the whitewashed lath and plaster ceiling having been removed; the repair of the tower roof, pinnacles and battlements, with the addition of a lightning conductor, and the relaying of the floors throughout the church. The whole of the roofs are boarded and felted outside the rafters, and covered with stone slates; a Porritts warming apparatus has been fixed; the very interesting 14th century font has been repaired and replaced in a prominent position; the pulpit has also been repaired and placed on the north instead of the south side (as lately) of the church, and very many other repairs, too numerous to mention, have been faithfully and carefully completed.

Throughout the whole work the object of the Vicar (the Rev. T. H. Hunt) and churchwardens (Messrs. A. H. Savory and J. Sladden) has been to effect a real and complete restoration, the materials used are the very best obtainable in every particular, and as far as possible those selected by the ancient builders, and which for so many centuries have withstood the destroying influence of time. The new work is characterised by substantiality, true proportion, and simple beauty, and no attempt can be found to stamp the nineteenth century upon the work, except as an age of restoration and appreciation of the genius of the inspired architecture of bygone ages. Among other objects of interest in the restored church may be noticed the remains of the holy water stoup on the right hand side of the doorway, the piscina in the north pier of the chancel arch, the Norman doorway on the north side of the nave, the Norman window (found in the south wall of the nave hidden by plaster) now inserted in the new north wall of the nave, and the remains of a similar window in the north wall, the missing portion having evidently been removed to allow of the building of the transept about the end of the 13th century. In addition to the above the very beautiful oak stalls in the chancel form a noticeable feature, and the elaborate carving which they exhibit is the gift of Mrs. Hunt. The Vicar and churchwardens greatly regret that they are unable to complete their task at present through want of funds. About £550 are still required to discharge the debt for the work already completed, and further sums of £320 for sittings (whose place is now temporarily occupied by chairs), and £145 for repairing and re-hanging the bells are also required. Besides these most necessary works, there is the very interesting and ancient monument, now much dilapidated, of members of the Hoby family, dating from the year 1616, which is well worth preserving, and which the restorers hope to be able to repair at no very distant period.

