



**The United Benefice of:
Badsey with Aldington, Offenham and Bretforton**

Vicar: Revd Dr Adrian Hough

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March 2001

Possible Toilet and Meeting Room at Badsey with Aldington Parish Church

Over the past few years it has become apparent that the provision of toilet facilities within Badsey Church is highly desirable and indeed is almost becoming a necessity. Weddings, Funerals and children's work as well as regular services and evening meetings all generate this need. In addition, the facilities for providing refreshments after services or at talks are very restrictive. There is also no space to work with children during main services or to carry out preparation when the Church is full, such as at the Carol Service.

We are therefore considering an extension to the present building in the area between the transept and the vestry. Overleaf you will find a statement prepared for English Heritage which gives more details. The Church Architect and Diocesan Authorities have already examined the building and see no particular problems. The Architect has produced some sketch plans and given a rough idea as to costs (over £75,000) much of which is for the foul-water drain. An outline of what is envisaged is now on display in the Church. This work would also provide disabled access to the Church and tidy up the boiler-house with its unsightly chimney. Clearly we will be seeking grant aid towards the project, as well as using some of our own capital funds and seeking support within the Parish. However, we first need detailed plans, costings and planning permission.

Plans, costs and the necessary permissions are likely to cost some £3,000. I am therefore writing to ask you to consider making a contribution towards this sum, as well as asking you to consider pledging an amount towards the actual building work if we decide to go ahead. If actual donations towards the planning stage pass the £2,000 mark then the Church Council will pay the balance, we will proceed to the planning stage and any surplus funds will be placed in a restricted building fund. If we fail to reach the £2,000 target, donations will be placed in the Church fabric fund. Any pledges will be recorded, and we will contact you if we go ahead with the full project.

All contributions will be valuable, however large or small, as they all add up to make the whole. If you want to make a donation and/or pledge for the future, please complete the attached form and return it either to me, or to the Church Treasurer, Mr Terry Sparrow at 36. Brewers Lane.

Yours sincerely

Adrian

I enclose a donation towards the planning stage of a possible Church Extension to provide toilet facilities in Badsey with Aldington Parish Church.

If the project goes ahead, I pledge the sum of £

towards the actual building costs.

Name:

Address:

Proposed Development to the Parish Church - Statement of Needs.

The Reason for Development.

The present Church Building has no toilet facilities. Several elderly parishioners feel unable to worship in the absence of toilet facilities. The absence of toilets also causes problems at Weddings when guests often need toilet facilities following a long journey. It also restricts the development of our children's work, as children have to be taken to nearby houses - an arrangement which relies on the goodwill of our neighbours. The North Transept of the Church is used for meetings, training sessions and studies and the length of these and any events in the main Church have to be restricted.

The Present Church Building has no Kitchen. It is therefore tedious and labour intensive to serve refreshments as these cannot be prepared away from the point of consumption. It also involves access to water and washing up in the Vestry whilst the Vicar, Churchwardens and Sidesmen perform other duties.

The present access to the building involves the descent of several steps. Under the legislation on equal rights of access, this would require modification. The proposed extension would include disabled access and remove the need to alter the entrance.

Proposals.

To build an extension to the building in the North West corner between the North Transept and the Vestry. This would replace the existing Boiler-House and would include a Toilet (with disabled access), a multi-purpose room which could serve as a kitchen or a meeting room. It would also include a new location for the boiler. Access would be via a door in the east wall of the transept or via an external door which would also serve for disabled access and as a fire-door.

Other Options/Alternatives.

There is no spare space within the existing building to locate a toilet or a kitchen. The Nave seats 150 and the Transept 50. Congregations exceed 200 several times each year. The Chancel is small as is the Vestry. The only other space is at the base of the tower which is both the choir vestry and a storage room.

Impact.

The main structural impact would be the opening of a doorway in the East Wall of the Transept. This wall was rebuilt in the nineteenth century. Several flat and semi-buried gravestones (eighteenth Century) would need to be removed, but the graves below would be unaffected. The visual impact would be restricted to the North East Quadrant where the extension would be more in keeping with the existing Church Building than is the present flat roofed (asphalt) boiler house with tall chimney. The principal view of the Church from the public highway is from the West, with a view also being available from the East.

The fourteenth century window in the north wall of the transept would be relocated to the north end of the extension, where it would be more prominent than its present position and also not hidden behind the unsightly chimney (which would no longer be present).