

RESTORATION & ENLARGEMENT

— OF —

ST JAMES CHURCH

BADSEY

7.

ARTICULARS
of the
RESTORATION AND ENLARGEMENT
OF
St James Church
BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
A.D. 1885.

At a public Meeting of the Parishioners
of Badsey and Aldington held June 20th
1883

It was unanimously Resolved that —

“The dilapidated condition of Badsey Church
“renders it desirable that the Edifice shall
“undergo a complete restoration as soon as
“the necessary funds can be obtained,” —

and the Vicar. — The Revd J. H. Hunt, together with
the Churchwardens, Messrs. Arthur H. Savory and Julius
Gladden, were requested to take the matter in hand;
at a subsequent Meeting held February 2nd 1884

It was further resolved that —

“It was desirable to enlarge the Church” —

Donations to a considerable amount having
been received by the end of 1884, the Vicar and
Churchwardens appointed Mr. J. Graham Jackson

A List of some of the principal Donors to the Restoration Fund.

Rev. J. H. Hunt, Vicar of Badsey _____ £ 500
 Arthur H. Savory (Churchwarden) Aldington Manor £ 100
 The Wors. Diocesan Church Extension Society _____ £ 100

Subscribers of £20 to £50.

W. H. Ashwin J.P., Bultforton Manor. _____
 Christ Church, Oxford. _____
 The Marquess of Salisbury, K.G. _____
 Julius Stadden (Churchwarden) Seward House, Badsey.
 Rev. W. Parker, Little Comberton Rectory. _____
 The late F. W. Holland, Vicar of Evesham. _____
 The Lord Bishop of Worcester. _____
 Miss Constance Savory, Aldington Manor. _____
 Mrs Hunt, Badsey Vicarage _____

Subscribers of £5 to £10.

Albert Savory, Leamington.	Rev. G. I. Master, West Dean Rectory, Salisbury.
Edgar Flower, Broadway. _____	Mrs G. I. Master, Do. Do. _____
C. H. Hunt, Badsey Vicarage. _____	A. W. Hunt, Badsey Vicarage.
J. A. Shaw-Stewart, Eaton Place, London.	Miss Robinson, Chesham St., London.
J. P. Dixon-Hartland, M.P. London.	Mrs Stadden, Seward House, Badsey.
H. R. Savory, Guildford. _____	Rev. R. Duke, Birlingham Rectory.
Miss C. G. Savory, Ottersham. _____	The Earl Beauchamp, Madresfield Court. _____
Mrs Swells, Enfield. _____	Rev. Canon Burne, Weston Subedge Rectory
Mrs J. Savory, Sunninghill. _____	Henry Workman, J.P. Hampton.
G. W. Hastings M.P., Malvern _____	
Miss Parker, Little Comberton Rectory. _____	

Introductory Portion
 of the
Architect's Report
relating chiefly to the
Architectural History of the Church.

[*Written just prior to the Restoration and Enlargement.*]

January 1884.

Gentlemen,

It may be interesting if I preface my report on the present condition of your Church by some account of its history as told by itself.

Like most of our English country churches which have escaped injudicious restoration Badsey Church, though very small, offers examples of almost every style of our native architecture.

The enriched Norman door in the north wall of the nave, now blocked up, is the sole architectural feature that has survived of the church which stood here in the 12th century, but it is not impossible that the fabric of many of the walls may date from the same period though later windows and doors have been inserted in them.

The church of that date was probably, as usual, a small building consisting of merely a nave and chancel communicating by a low round arch, and entered by a door on the south exactly opposite that still remaining on the north side of the nave. The south door has however been replaced by a later one, and no chancel arch at all now exists.

Probably towards the end of the 13th century the North transept was thrown out, the architectural features of which though rudely executed are interesting. It is possible that the south door of the nave also belongs to this date and one of the side windows in the chancel and the adjoining door, but they are so simple that it is difficult to assign them to this rather than to the succeeding century.

To the 14th century belong the east window of the chancel and two if not three of the side windows. The very interesting font belongs to the end of this or the beginning of next century. To the 15th century belongs the fine Tower and its arch opening into the church, a work altogether conceived in a more magnificent spirit than that of the earlier builders. It is possible that the oak roofs of the whole church belong also to this century but until their plaster ceilings are removed it is difficult to speak positively.

To later times still belongs the fine though lamentably defaced monument in the north chancel wall, probably dating from about 1600 - 1620 and some panelling now worked up into pews of the last century. The arms of Mr. Richard Hoby, younger brother of Sir Philip are placed on the top of the monument, which was erected to the memory of his wife and that of her first husband by Margaret Newman their daughter. This Mr. Hoby was elected Churchwarden in 1602.

At this time the church seems to have been repaired and the upper part of the East Gable

perhaps rebuilt as the date 1653 cut on it implies, the old 13th century gable cross being carefully reset. The church retains another very fine cross dating from the 11th century on the gable of the north transept which has the peculiarity of being set to face east and west. I will not venture to say it was so set by the original builders.

There is a handsome Communion Table bearing the date 1730 which is probably that of the repairing of the church in something like its present form.

The modern pulpit contains some panels much mutilated of the 15th or 16th century.

There is a modern porch of no character which has replaced an older one.

The church is built of lias rubble which has stood but badly as is usually the case with this material and has consequently been rough cast over. The dressings are of Broadway stone, a fine yellow colite with which the whole of the Tower is faced.

With the fortunate exception of the Tower the remainder of the church is, I am sorry to say, in a very dilapidated condition.

Owing to the cutting away of most of the tie beams of the roof which are of massive timbers covered with heavy stone tiling, and also, as I have no doubt we shall find, to the undermining of the shallow foundations by deep graves and vaults there is hardly a wall in the whole church which is upright.

(signed) T. G. Jackson.

To the Vicar and Churchwardens of Badsey.

The Belfry.

In 1895 a fund was started by The Rev^d C. G. Gepp, then Vicar of the Parish, for re-hanging the six old bells, the oak framework being no longer safe and it was also determined if possible to add two new bells and thus make a complete peal of eight. In the latter part of 1897 during which year The Rev^d W. H. Price became Vicar, the first portion of the work was carried out by Mess^{rs} Taylor & Co. of Loughborough, the old bells being re-hung at a cost of £214, in a framework of iron, space being provided for two extra bells. After an interval of five years these new bells were cast and erected by Mess^{rs} Mears & Stainbank of London at a cost of £95 and the full peal was first rung at Christmastide 1902. As will be seen by the inscription the two bells were put in as a Parish Memorial to the great and good Queen Victoria.

Julius Sladden

Henry Keen

Churchwardens

The following history of Badsey Bells as collected by Mr. C. A. Binyon, a parishioner, should here be recorded as most interesting:-

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BADSEY BELLS.

Although there had no doubt been bells of some kind at the Church ever since its erection, it is not until the year 1529 that we get any definite information concerning them. At that time there were five bells in the tower and a small sanctus bell. They were probably cast soon after the tower was built. They were not hung for ringing in the present sense of the word, but for chiming and tolling. The clappers were fastened on with baldrics, strips of white leather, which had to be constantly renewed. The tenor which must have been a fine bell, somewhat larger than the present one had, (as appears in Dr. Prattinton's M.S. History of Worcestershire, preserved at the Society of Antiquaries) this hexameter for inscription :-

DET SONITUM PLENUM JESUS ET MODULAMEN AMENUM.

from which we gather that the mediæval custom of naming the lighter bells after different saints and the tenor after Our Saviour, prevailed here.

In the year 1623 one of the lighter bells was recast, most likely having become cracked.

The enthusiasm displayed by chameringers throughout the country at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th centuries was responsible for much rehangings and recasting of existing peals.

At Badsey the work was undertaken in 1706 and the old five bells were melted down and recast into six. This was done at Evesham by Clark & Bushell. It is noteworthy that this is the only set of six bells in existence cast by this firm, whose work is only found locally and all dated between 1700 and 1712. The inscriptions are:—

Present	Original		Note
3 rd	1 st	† IHS (twice repeated)	D 30 ⁱⁿ in diameter
4	2	Same as above	C
5	3		B ^b
6	4	ROB PIGEON THO BYRD THO DVDLY CHVRCHWARDENS	A
7	5	M † IHS B F	G
8	6		F 45 ⁱⁿ in diameter

MV^TAV^IT VI^GLANS IN SEX NOS CV^RA ROBERTI HILL IBI VIC
 GVL CLARK EFFICIT ANO ARTE S^VA.

By adding up all the enlarged letters as Roman numerals we get the date of casting 1706.

There are but few instances of such a chronogram on bells.

The bells were also hung for ringing at this time in a frame of oak.

Clock AND Chimes.

The old clock and carillon chimes (playing "Rousseau's Dream") were of necessity dismantled during the restoration of the belfry in 1897 and, being practically worn out, were replaced in 1903 by a new clock playing the Westminster chimes; this work was carried out by Messrs Smith & Son of Derby at a cost of about £150.

Inscriptions on the two Bells added to the existing Peal in 1902.

(1st)

MEARS ET STAINBANK, LONDINI, FECERUNT.

I.H.S.

GUL: HENR: PRICE, A.M. VIC:

JUL: SLADDEN. HENR: KEEN. ECCLESIAE

CUSTODIBUS. MCMII.

(2nd)

MEARS ET STAINBANK, LONDINI, FECERUNT.

I.H.S.

A.M.D.G. VICTORIAE REGINAE

DILECTISSIMAE REGNUM NOS CANIMUS.

MCMII.

Churchyard Memorial Cross

This Cross was erected by public subscription to the memory of The Rev^d Thomas Henry Hunt, M.A. Vicar of Badsey 1852 — 1887, to whose energy and liberality were largely due the restoration and enlargement of the Parish Church in 1885; it bears the following inscription: —

AD HON: DOM: NRI: JESU XTI: ET IN
MEMORIAM THO: HEN: HUNT. A.M. HUIUS
PAR: VIC: MDCCCLII — MDCCCLXXXVII.

Designed by Mr. J. Graham Jackson, B.A. and erected by Messrs W. & H. Gardiner of Evesham, at a total cost of about £50, this cross was dedicated on October 15th 1910 by the Archdeacon of Warwick, it being the twenty fifth anniversary of the re-opening of the restored Church.

The structure is of Broadway stone and stands 12½ feet high. The stone immediately below that bearing the inscription, together with two smaller ones in the base, formed it is believed part of an earlier cross standing probably near the site of the present one, no record of such ancient cross has been found but some fragments which long lay scattered in the Churchyard, coupled with a faint local tradition, supply strong evidence as to the correctness of this belief.

Julius Sladden Churchwarden



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as their Architect and gave him instructions to prepare the necessary plans and specifications; Mr. Jackson's work at Oxford as a most careful restorer and as the Architect of the New Schools being very well known. (Mr. Jackson was elected R.A. in 1896).

Estimates were obtained in 1885, the tender of Mr. Thomas Collins of Tewkesbury for the sum of £1,575 being accepted. The last Service was held in the old Church on Sunday March 15th, and the following day the building was handed over to the workmen.

The unsightly and uncomfortable high pews were removed, the oak, carved or plain, being carefully preserved for future use in the Church. The ugly gallery, erected in 1793, which blocked the fine arch at the west of the nave and obscured the west window of the tower was demolished, together with the lath and plaster ceiling throughout the inside of the Church, opening to view the massive oak timbers and rafters of the roof which, over the nave, was found to be in fairly good order. The dilapidated south wall of the nave, which presented no single feature of interest, was removed - with its modern wooden window frames - to allow of the addition of the new South aisle, its place being now taken by the arcade between the new aisle and the nave, and with it disappeared the modern lath and plaster porch. In the south wall alluded to a small Norman, possibly Saxon, window completely hidden by plaster was found, which was afterwards built into the North wall of the nave towards the

From Evesham Journal Oct 24/08

(355) THE PICTURES IN BADSEY CHURCH.—
The "Raising of the Widow's Son," by Otto Venius, was given by a Mr. Bloxham when the church was re-opened after restoration in 1885, whilst that of the "Virgin and Child" by Carlo Cignani, was the gift of "A Friend" at the same time. Otto Venius or Van Veen (1556-1634) was a pupil of Zuccherò and the master of Rubens; many of his pictures may be seen at Antwerp and Brussels. Carlo Cignani (1628-1719) belonged to the Lombard School and founded the Clementine Academy at Bologna. He painted a picture for S. Peter's at Rome, but the chief of his very numerous works is the "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin" in the cathedral of Forlì. Mr. J. Sladden, who was churchwarden of Badsey in 1885, is of opinion that the donor of the first-mentioned picture was a son, or other near relative of the Rev. Charles Bloxham, curate of Badsey and Wickhamford 1820-1839.—W. C. ALLSEBROOK, Vicar.

Worship

Badley & Aldington

May: 2: 1658.

1658

Collected in the Parish of Badley and
 Aldington, towards the relief of Dissident
 Protestant Churches driven out of Poland
 and of Twenty Protestant families driven
 out of the Countie of Bohemia (according
 to his Highness Declaration) the next summe
 of Twenty five shillings and five pence
 the first day of May in the year of
 our Lords One Thousand six hundred
 fifty and eight.

Summe: 7-6-5.

Richard Cragge Minister

Jakob Doog

Thomas Pigeon

ye. 4th of May 1658

G-1A

Then received the sum of 7
 five & twenty shillings & five pence

By J. Cragge

west. Traces of a similar window are to be seen at the eastern end of the same wall, being exactly opposite the original position of the window above mentioned. It is evident that the window of which these traces remain was partly removed when the north transept was added to the Church about the end of the 13th Century. It may here be stated that the restorers were careful to destroy no original features of the Church in the necessary work of demolition in preparing for the restoration itself, and this record will now proceed to give the details of which this latter consists.

The pinnacles of the tower were reset and repaired where perished, and a lightning conductor was installed connected with each pinnacle. New lead gutters were fixed in readiness for a flat lead covered roof at some future time in place of the existing slated one, and new mullions were inserted in the west window. The north wall of the nave was found to be so dilapidated that it was entirely rebuilt on new foundations six feet deep, care being taken to replace in its exact former position the Norman doorway and the traces of the ancient window close to the transept arch, while the window from the old south wall as before mentioned was inserted in this wall. The east wall of the transept had also to be rebuilt, the stone shelf which doubtless formed part of an Altar when the transept was used as a distinct Chapel, being replaced in its former position.

The various reconstructions involved the taking

down and re-erection - with the old stones in their proper order of the transept arch; and a new roof was found to be necessary on the transept, deal being used for this partly on account of the costliness of oak and partly because the old roof was composed of various ordinary timber. The Vestry was an entirely new feature, an entrance being made through the east wall of the transept, the monument to William Jarrett having to be removed for the purpose, and it was re-erected on the north wall of the nave. A portion of the north wall of the chancel had to be taken down and an arch formed under which the organ now stands, this rendered necessary the removal of the sadly mutilated Holy Monument somewhat further to the east. The small window taken out of this wall was built into the east wall of the Vestry, and the finial from the apex of the masonry forming the east end of the Nave was placed on the apex of the east gable of the Vestry. The chancel floor, formerly level with that of the nave, was raised one step above it, and two more steps at the altar rails. The chancel arch is entirely new, no traces of any former arch were to be found, it superseded a feeble and unsafe curved wooden structure which alone supported the stone gable, plaster and woodwork above. The window next the nave in the south wall of the chancel was supplied with a surmounting arch in stone in place of the old wood lintel. The oak choir stalls were entirely new, and the cost of carving the same was

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depraved by Mrs J. H. Hunt, wife of the Vicar. The inside of the walls throughout the Church, being in places too rough to allow of pointing, were plastered, leaving a space at the bottom which it was hoped to cover later with a dado made of the oak from the old high pews; but the decaying plaster which disfigured the outside of the chancel walls was removed, and the stone work repaired and repointed, the east gable of the chancel, much out of the perpendicular being partially rebuilt. The numerous vaults in the Church were carefully filled in, the inscribed stones being used for the chancel floor, while the remainder of the building was paved or floored throughout over a layer of concrete. The font which stood under the gallery was in a very bad state, the basin being cracked beyond repair, this was replaced by a new basin but the ancient base and shaft dating from the 14th century remain.

The south aisle and porch are entirely new, with the exception of the old stone doorway and oak door removed from the old south wall.

On May 8th 1885 sufficient progress having been made to allow of the laying of a Memorial Stone in the east buttress of the new south wall, this Ceremony was performed with an appropriate service, and in the presence of a large number of parishioners and others; in a cavity underneath the Memorial Stone a glass bottle was placed, containing current issues of the "Times" newspaper and the "Cresham Journal", specimens of copper and silver coinage of a recent date, and a parchment document inscribed as follows:—

"Restoration and Enlargement of Badsey Church 1885.

"Bishop of Worcester, Henry Philpot; Vicar of

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• Badsey, Thomas Henry Hunt; Churchwardens of
• Badsey, Arthur Herbert Savory and Julius Gladden;
• Clerk, William Barnard; Architect, J. Graham
• Jackson; Builder, Thomas Collins. _____

" The Church having fallen into a serious state of
" decay, it was decided at a Parish Meeting held
" on the 2nd February 1884 that a complete restoration
" had become absolutely necessary, and that it was
" at the same time desirable to enlarge the Church.
" In the year 1885 the following works were under-
" taken in accordance with this decision:— The
" rebuilding of the north wall of the nave; the
" construction of a chancel arch; the erection of a
" new aisle and porch on the south side of the
" Church (the old south wall being superseded by
" an arcade of four arches and the ancient doorway
" being reset in the new south wall;) the erection
" of a Vestry and Organ chamber on the north
" side of the chancel; and the complete restoration
" of every other part of the building, including the
" chancel, transept, nave and tower.

" On the thirty third anniversary of the day on
" which the Vicar, Thomas Henry Hunt, came to
" Badsey, a Stone (beneath which this document
" is deposited) to commemorate the construction of
" the above works, was laid by Charlotte Hunt,
" his wife, in the presence of many parishioners
" and friends including those whose signatures are
" appended hereto. May 8th 1885". _____

[Here follow numerous signatures]
On October 15th 1885 (exactly seven months

after the commencement of the work, the Church was re-opened amid signs of much rejoicing in the Parish and immediate neighbourhood, the sermon after morning prayer being preached by the Bishop of Worcester and that in the afternoon by the Archdeacon of Worcester. A public luncheon took place between the services in an adjacent barn; on the next day another service was held in the Evening, followed by some parochial festivities, and on Sunday, October 18th there were Harvest Thanksgiving Services; on all these occasions overflowing congregations assembled in the Church.

The total expenditure involved in the carrying out of the Works and in providing chairs and other necessaries was £2,131. 8. 10, about three fourths of which had been subscribed or collected at the time of the re-opening of the Church, the balance was not finally discharged till some years afterwards.

It should here be recorded that after the re-opening morning service the Bishop, Clergy and Choir walked in procession, singing the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers", to the new portions of the Churchyard, where his Lordship read the Consecration Service and the customary formalities were observed for the dedication of the ground to sacred purposes. These new portions, viz:- a narrow strip of ground running parallel with the main street and another plot on the eastern side, were added to and enclosed with the then existing Churchyard about the year 1866 when Christ Church College, Oxford, purchased the Manorial rights and became lay Rectors of the Parish.

An Account of the Receipts the Restoration and Enlargement Badsey.

Receipts.

	l.	s.	d.
Donations	1443	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Collections in Church	216	4	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Entertainments	110	18	6
Bazaar and Sales	265	3	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Various sources	65	16	5

L 2131 8 10

and Payments in connection with
of St. James' Church,
Worcestershire.

Payments.

	E.	s.	d.
M ^r . J. Collins, Contractor	1748	10	5
" " " Interest	34	19	4
Architect	110	14	1
Clerk of Works	69	10	0
Chairs	26	4	0
Lamps	24	0	0
Heating Apparatus	20	16	2
Printing, stationery and advertisements	25	3	9
Consecration of Churchyard (new portions) and legal expenses	21	6	10
Removing Organ	5	5	0
Flassocks, curtains, bell ropes, desks mats, &c., &c.	25	1	10
Repairs to Chimes	3	0	11
Work in Churchyard and grass seeds	16	16	6
	<u>2131</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>

Arthur H. Savory } Churchwardens.
Julius Sladden }