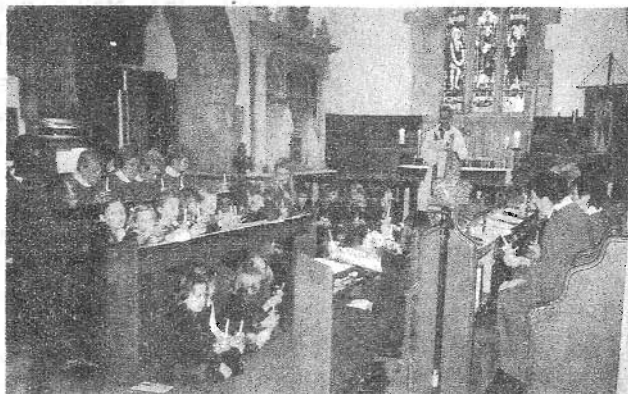


Community News

Badsey and Aldington



January 2008 Your Village Magazine

By the time you read this it will either be the last days of December or the first days of January. The time seems to go by so quickly, yet it's the same as it ever was. It must be us who have changed. Do we stop living in the present and continually look forward to the next thing to do? When I went to Africa I thought that was my last big fling abroad but here I am now, planning to go to the Holy Land at the end of January. It's a special Study Tour trip sponsored by the Church of England and heavily subsidised by the Archbishop's Council. The reaction to this has varied from 'It's a war zone', 'Don't forget to take a bullet proof vest', 'Hope your life insurance is up to date'. I don't think anyone has actually said 'Have a good trip'. No doubt I'll tell you about it when I get back and prove all those pessimists wrong.

The above pictures are from the Christingle service on the first Sunday of December, Advent Sunday. It was lovely to see so many children in church, 97 in all I think, and of course their families. It's services like these that prove all those people wrong who say the Church of England is a dying institution. I wish you all a happy new year. Keep that news coming in.

Sheila Lancaster

READER'S LETTER

How Green is Badsey Church?

Even the young residents of the parish are aware of the terms 'climate change' and 'global warming'. The Energy Saving Trust recently issued the following statement: 'If we all commit to save just 20% of the energy we use every day, together we can help fight climate change'.

Households in the parish will be doing their bit by doing things such as: using energy saving light bulbs, turning off unnecessary lights, installing energy efficient boilers, maybe increasing loft insulation, and hopefully recycling this newsletter.

The Minister of State for Energy, Malcolm Wicks, said 'We as individuals must make a contribution to the fight against climate change, as we can't just expect big institutions or governments to solve the problem for us. We all have to make a difference'.

We understand that if all the TVs in the country were left on standby for a year this would cost £88m and produce a staggering 480,000 tonnes of CO₂. So do residents of the parish think it is a good thing for the church to be floodlit so regularly, and is this setting a good example to the community of how to save the planet?

Readers might wish to let the editor know their views, either by e-mail to the address shown below or by leaving an envelope in church addressed to care of Sheila Lancaster.

Virginia Pawlyn

Editorial Team

Revd Richard Court 834550
Mrs Sheila Lancaster 833929
Mrs Yvonne Haynes 830063
Mr Terry Sparrow 833368

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Email:
badseyeditorial@ourbenefice.org.uk



Dear all,

It seems no time again and here we are at the beginning of a New Year. It is time to make all sorts of New Year resolutions that we will not keep longer than the second week in January. For some, it will be time to get on the scales and see how much weight we need to lose because of our pre and post-Christmas excesses.

I am sure that we are all wondering what 2008 will bring and if it will be better or worse than 2007. 'Better' or 'worse' is of course subjective on how good or bad 2007 was for you. Some I am sure will think that things could not get any better, while for others the thoughts will be that things could not possibly get any

worse. Whichever 'camp' you find yourselves in; we stand at the beginning of a New Year. Time to reflect for a while on the year past (however good or bad it was) but then time to move on to look forward and hope that things will get better (if you've had a bad year) or to hope they stay as good as they are now (if you've had a good one).

From a Christian perspective things are viewed in much the same way, we all have good years and bad ones. The difference is the way we look forward with hope. Saint Paul writing to the church in Rome said this of hope *'For by hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.'* Christian hope therefore is much more that wanting something nice to happen.

Christian hope is the knowledge that we are supported and are comfortable in the expectation we have of receiving from the hand of our God all the good we need in the troubles and adversities of this life. Christian hope is a sort of universal blessing, and one of the greatest that God has granted to us. Life would be intolerable without it; and it is as necessary as faith is even to the followers of God.

I look forward therefore in hope, hope for a better world to come and hope for the knowledge and love of God to be spread among us all.

I wish you all a happy New Year
With love and blessings

Richard

CHURCH

SERVICES

CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday 06 January	11.00 am Family Worship 6.30 pm Evensong
Sunday 13 January	11.00 am Praise & Worship 6.30 pm Eucharist
Sunday 20 January	11.00 am Morning Celebration 6.30 pm Evensong
Sunday 27 January	9.30 am Eucharist 6.30 pm Evensong

Vicar:	Revd Richard Court	834550
	The Vicarage High Street, Badsey	
Churchwardens:	Mr Chris Smith	830217
	Mr Chris Robbins	831004
Readers:	Mrs Penny Christison	830367
	Mrs Sheila Lancaster	833929
	Mrs Anne Potter	424429

Morning Services are normally followed by coffee

CHRISTINGLE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings: 24 November
Benjamin James Wake and Sarah Elizabeth Thomas

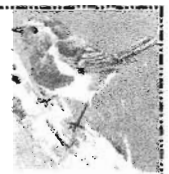
A magnificent £348 was raised at the Christingle Service both by the young people in their candle collecting boxes and the collection at the Service itself. This was sent to the Children's Society and hopefully will make Christmas and the following year a whole lot better for many children who would otherwise have a very bleak future to look forward to.

VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS' HELPER WANTED

ROUND ROBIN GROUP

Volunteer needed to join an existing team one night per week for the 11-18 year old group. Experience not essential as training will be given as required. Applicants must be 18 or over, Christian commitment essential. In line with our Child Protection Policy, references and Enhanced Disclosure for Criminal Records Bureau will be required.

This is a new house group for people to get together socially and enjoy each other's company. There will be an opportunity for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, an activity to keep our brains active, quizzes and, dare I say, games



More information and an application form are available by writing to the Revd Richard Court, The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ or email: Volunteer@ourbenefice.org.uk

The first meeting is at 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on **Thursday 17 January at 45 Brewers Lane**. If you would like to come or would like a lift contact Sheila Lancaster on 833929

QUILT OF HOLES

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. An angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry depicting our life. As my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty mine were. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labelled with a part of my life that had been difficult and demanding. They were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares, other than a tiny hole here and there. The other tapestries were filled with rich colours and bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed and held up to the light. This was the moment of truth. Each in turn rose holding up their tapestries, so filled their lives had been. My angel looked at me and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start again many times. I often struggled with giving up, only to somehow muster the strength to pick myself up and begin again. I prayed often asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been ridiculed, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hope that I would not fail beneath the

judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

Now I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. Then I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image of the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood with warmth and love in His eyes. He said "Every time you gave your life over to me, it became My life, My hardships and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you." May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

From the Vision 2007 magazine, Nottingham.

DEMENTIA

The following e-mail was received by Chris Smith re the Alzheimer's Society. It reads:

'I am e-mailing you to raise local awareness around the WR11 areas about dementia. We have recently set up two new services in the area and are hoping that through your parish magazine publications you would let your parishioners know about these services. You can contact me on 07799097729. These services are free and are available to people with a diagnosed dementia and their carers. Many thanks for your time. Louise Griffin.'

For further information contact Chris Smith.

GARDENING TIPS

General

Mid winter is a time of contradiction. On bad days gardening is impossible and spring seems very distant. In the brief spells of mild weather a whole range of winter-flowering plants manage to put on a brave display, and the shoots of many spring flowering bulbs will give a hint of better things to come. At this time it is best to forget the gardening outdoors if the ground is frozen, but make the best of the warmer and brighter days to get those useful odd jobs done.

For the Plants:

It is too early to sow seeds of most bedding plants, but geraniums and begonias need more time to reach flowering size. Both need warmth to germinate, but they can be sown in pots indoors. Even if you have a greenhouse, it is more economical to germinate them indoors than to heat a greenhouse. You can grow them on in the greenhouse after pricking out.

For the Veggie

If you have a clump of rhubarb in the garden, cover some now to provide a supply of forced stems that are always so much more succulent and appetizing than unblanched stems. Cover a crown with a box or old bucket filled with straw. Within a few weeks shoots should start to grow, and the blanched stems can be harvested once they are large enough to pull.

Visitors:

There are not many beneficial insects to be found during the winter, so it is important to recognise those that you find while digging or tidying up garden debris. Ground beetles, which can be found in almost every garden, are active all year round. As they do not like strong sunlight and hunt mainly at night, they usually remain well hidden and are only noticed when they scurry away as soil is disturbed.

READER TRAINING

At the end of this term each of us gave a ten minute presentation about our placement parish. I spoke about my six weeks in Broadway. Another reader's placement included time alongside the Industrial Chaplain, visiting places of work, like fire stations, shopping centres and factories. They chatted to management, staff and union representatives some of whom were able to share their concerns. Some have no choice about working 12 hour shifts in the run up to Christmas. What will happen to some jobs when a factory changes ownership and about the close family relationships formed amongst firefighters and how this relationship is affected by some incidents that are part of the job. A question asked by my colleague, and one I have been thinking about, is how the church can help these people. At Badsey Church, we have a monthly prayer diary which ensures that we pray for the families in every road in Badsey, Aldington, Offenham and Bretforton at least once during the month. We could add places of work to this list. If you know of anyone who would like their place of work prayed for, please let Richard or me know, or leave the name on our prayer tree in Badsey Church. I have six months left of Reader Training, so please continue to pray that I am able to complete this course and do what God wants me to in these villages. Good wishes to you all for 2008.

Sue Cole.

COLLECTION FOR TUPO - HIV/AIDS IN TANZANIA

I have received an e-mail from members of the TUPO club in Tanzania thanking us for the money sent which was donated at the talk on Our African Experience. Tsh 100,000 was salary for nursery teacher for Oct/Nov 2007. Tsh 20,000 for Matron allowance for Oct/Nov 2007. Water Bill was Tsh 10,000, Firewood and Sugar Tsh 10,000 10 uniforms for Standard 1 kids Tsh 225,000 and Home Visits for those who are seriously sick at home Tsh 80,000. The exchange rate is Tsh 2,500 to £1.00 sterling. There was a little bit left over for bank charges. We really don't know how lucky we are.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

by John Cole

One cold weekend in November I made the trek to Eastbourne to join hundreds of Christian Youth Workers from around the country. This was the 5th Conference of its kind and the first I have attended. The theme for the conference was Church Unlimited. Sending out questions on how to improve our churches and our own youth ministry at the same time giving us the chance to network with other youth leaders and churches.

The main sessions were about a rooted church. The speaker was asking us to think about who we are as a church; what are we; and what is our place in our communities as a church.

The second session was on an inclusive church saying that church is not exclusive and should be opened for all. The session on integration spoke about what churches do and what they can do in communities.

The final session was on a servant church. The message being that church is here to serve the community, it is not a service.

Seminars ranged from information and youth work laws to ideas for worship and questions to take back to our church.

I would like to close by asking this question of the community, in the hope of stirring some discussion and maybe more questions. How can we forge a greater integration between youth work and the rest of church.

SO YOU THINK GOD CAN'T USE YOU

The next time you ask whether God can't use you, just remember.....

Noah was a drunk, Abraham was too old, Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Leah was ugly, Joseph was abused, Moses had a stuttering problem, Gideon was afraid, Samson had long hair and was a womaniser, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah and Timothy were too young, David had an affair and was a murderer, Elijah was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked, Jonah ran from God, Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, Peter denied Christ, the Disciples fell asleep praying, Martha worried about everything, the Samaritan woman was divorced (several times), Zacheus was too small, Paul was too religious, Timothy had an ulcer ...AND ...Lazarus was dead!

So - what's your excuse? In truth God can use you to your full potential whatever your past. Why? Because you aren't the message, you are just the messenger...

From St Peter's Magazine, Bengeworth

FILM CLUB AT THE WHEATSHEAF INN

A monthly film evening is held in the function room at the Wheatsheaf Inn. Membership is open to all and a family membership costs just £10 per year. That's 12 films for £10 which is pretty good value. If you would like to join and come along to the next film tel. Clive on 833825 for a membership form

ST JAMES' CHURCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee are pleased to announce that **THE ABER VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR** will be making a much requested return visit to us on 05 July when they will be in concert at the Church. Details will be given later in 2008.

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BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL

News from the Headteacher in their November 2007 newsletter printed here for all those who do not have children at the school now but like to know what activities the children are doing and perhaps compare these with what they did in their schooldays or those of their children or grandchildren.

Classes B, C & I travelled back in time to find out why we celebrate bonfire night with a bang!

Meanwhile, pupils in classes H J, L & Lo re-enacted life in Tudor times. The children were introduced to a wide range of period instruments: cittern, mandolin, bowed psaltery, guitar, recorders, flageolet, epinette de Vosges crumhorn, rauschpfeifen, whistles, bagpipes, various horns and a variety of percussion

The Forest School will shortly have another trained Forest School leader on the staff.

The Headteacher thanks everyone for their generosity in donating to Operation Christmas Child. 60 shoe boxes were collected from the school on 21 November.

The school is now registered to accept Leapfrog Vouchers to help making payment for childcare easier. The school also said goodbye to Sarah Riddick on Friday 07 December and thanked her for all her hard work over the last few years.

Nursery News: following their success in gaining the Bronze Award for promoting health in their Early Years setting, they have been fortunate in gaining funding for developing and updating the outdoor play space. January 2008 sessions at the Nursery School are extremely limited. It will be September 2008 before sessions are more readily available.

SOCIAL EVENING

RHYME & REASON

New Year Celebration

Enjoy an Evening

of

Stories & Verse

Hot Roast Meal

Badsey Remembrance Hall

Saturday 19 January 2008

7.00 p.m.

Admission £8.00
(children reduced rate)

Tickets available from Sally
Mitchell, Penny Christison
Sue Cole, Sheila Lancaster
Revd Richard Court

CORONATION STREET DISABLED CLUB

Christmas, which is always a favourite time with the Coronation Street Disabled Club, started early this year when on 27th November we were entertained by Mrs Bickmore and her group of handbell ringers. This is always a great start to our celebrations. 7th December was another very special day, when the Badsey School children came along with their lovely carols. This is now the 2nd year they have visited us and they are already quite a favourite of ours. 14th December we

held our Breaking Up Party when we enjoyed mince pies, Christmas cake and a visit from Father Christmas. 18th December was our final meeting before Christmas. This is a very special occasion when we meet at Wickhamford Village Hall for a wonderful Christmas lunch put on by Dawes Caterers. Later we sit back and enjoy the music of our friend Billy Davies on the piano. So will end another very happy year. We meet again on 4th January.

Jean Dyke

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The Badsey Society is for everyone who is interested in the history and character of Badsey, Aldington and the surrounding area.

www.badsey.org.uk/Society

AGM

Our AGM is on Friday 15 February in the Remembrance Hall, followed by a selection of photos from the 1968 Photographic Expedition.

Calling all photographers – help us to create an important archive for Badsey and Aldington

On 26th May 1968, a team of 19 photographers from Worcestershire Record Office and Birmingham Photographic Society visited Badsey on "The Badsey Expedition". Their

mission was to photograph all the houses in the village. There were then about 600 houses in Badsey and, with the exception of a few houses, they all feature in a unique collection which is held at Worcestershire Record Office.

Nearly 40 years later, Badsey Society member, Peter Stewart, completed the second "Badsey Expedition" single-handedly. Using his digital camera and, with the kind permission of the Record Office and the copyright holders, he took copies of all the 1968 photos. Here is an example of just one of the photos; it shows two houses which no longer exist. Do you know where they were? See below for answer.

Now, 40 years on from the first expedition, we want to repeat this exercise. Aldington was not covered at all and the number of houses in Badsey has almost doubled. If you are interested in taking part in this project, please phone Maureen Spinks on 831154 or email maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com.

© J L Brown



Answer: In School Lane, between High Street and the School

WHAT DID YOU GET FOR CHRISTMAS

Hopefully lots of presents and lots of things to look forward to in the New Year! What have we got to look forward to? To date we have had lots of goodies for our Church: The Church Tower is now illuminated; the pathways through the Church are well lit with lovely new lamps; material has been purchased and in the process of being made are new altar curtains; altar kneelers, door curtains and Vicar's Vestry curtains, but best of all, at long last, toilets are to be built!! What a relief!! This is subject to planning etc. Being accepted and passed by the powers that be. We have a new junior choir who are coming along nicely and are already singing at various services. We hope to raise money for new choir vestry curtains and new carpeting for the chancel. So, when you come along and support our various events, when you put money in the Sunday collections, when you subscribe to the Stewardship giving scheme or make donations to the Church this is what we can do and what we spend the money on. These things make a difference for **Everyone** whether you are regular Church attendees, only come for special services, only come for weddings, baptisms and funerals or just come now and again to sit in peace in the Church or the Churchyard.

To enable us to continue with these projects and to pay for heating, lighting building and Churchyard upkeep and maintenance, we desperately need you to keep supporting and helping us. As with every household the cost of home upkeep keeps rising and the Church is no exception. It is a fallacy that the Church is rich-your local village Church struggles to make ends meet as do most of you so we really depend on your help. Many, many thanks for your help and support during the last year and if you would like to help in any way please contact the Vicar or a Churchwarden because as well as financial help we do need help with general 'housework' and 'gardening'.

A very Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Yvonne Haynes

ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

January Rota:

1st Sunday:
Avril, Hazel and Hazel

2nd Sunday:
Pat and Sue

3rd Sunday
Mary and Marg

4th Sunday:
Stephanie and Yvonne

Ladies this notice has gone to print before Christmas but I am sure the church will look lovely as usual for the Christmas Festival, and I want to thank you in advance. Also, thank you all for all the flowers in church during the year. May I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Any queries regarding church flowers please contact me, Hazel Stewart 01386 832007.

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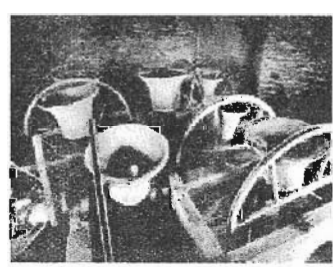
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BELL RINGING NEWS

ST JAMES' GUILD OF BELL RINGERS:

At the time of compiling these notes, arrangements are already underway for the Christmas Service ringing. It was lovely to have a full compliment to ring all eight bells for the start of Advent, and very pleasing to see so many answering the call for the lovely Christingle Service. Following this we were pleased to make up the team for the turn of Bretforton in the afternoon as they have only two active ringers at this present time. On the New Year wish list is for more help please.



On 29th January a welcome will be extended by Badsey to the Worcestershire & Districts Association of Change Ringers who will be attempting to ring a full peal to welcome the New Year, and in celebration for three Badsey ringers who will be celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries on the 20th January, especially for Tony and Rosemary Hartwell for their Ruby wedding

John and Hilary Bolton

VILLAGE SOCIAL EVENTS

At this present time we are awaiting the Social Committee's programme for the year 2008.

If it is as enjoyable and varied as the events organised in 2007 we can look forward to having a good time and at the same time raising some money for the Church.

CHIROPODIST

Yvonne Hartley
D.S.Ch.(oxon) M.Inst.Ch.P.

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PEOPLE PROFILE

The eldest of three brothers, Tony Jerram moved with his family to Fladbury in 1950 when his father took up an appointment at J M Stokes Limited, the growers and growers' merchants then based in Swan Lane in Evesham. After spending five years as a day boy at King's School, Worcester - in those days travel between Worcester and Fladbury was by steam train - he spent a year working on the land at Chadbury and at Badger's Hill by Sheriffs Lench. He also found time during this year to spend a brief period in the Merchant Navy, where he was employed as a plate scullion - washing dirty plates - on a Union Castle passenger liner



In August 1958, after two years at Sandhurst, he was commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment. In that same year he played briefly for Evesham rugby club before being posted overseas to Jamaica. Other postings followed, to British Guiana, Germany (twice), Borneo, Gibraltar, Libya, Cyprus, Berlin (at the height of the cold war, in 1973/4), Northern Ireland, the Sudan, Zimbabwe, Belize and, of course, in between to various stations in England. In January 1973, while on home leave between postings to West Germany and Berlin, he and Barbara were married at Church Lench.

Towards the end of his military service in 1988 they moved to Badsey, convenient for Tony's new civilian job at GCHQ in Cheltenham, and also to be close to both of their frail and elderly mothers. He worked at GCHQ for almost ten years, during which time he had cause to travel widely and often, visiting the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Holland, France, Sweden and Austria. It was during this period that he came to realise that there is absolutely no glamour in modern air travel.

On retirement from GCHQ, at the end of 1998, he became a familiar figure in and around the parish as he walked the local by-ways with a pair of greyhounds in tow. His sporting involvement has always been one of variety rather than success. As well as rugby, he had played village cricket (he still recalls playing against Badsey in 1954 on the terrifying matting wicket laid over the football pitch on the Rec) and squash and enjoys - or enjoyed, in the case of the latter - steeplechasing and coursing. But he confesses that far and away his favourite sport was polo, which he was able (i.e. could afford!) to play only when he was far away in Cyprus and the Sudan.

As a committee member of the Badsey Society, as well as being a Parish Councillor, he takes a practical interest in all aspects of life and work in the village (and in the wider Vale), and is a strong believer in the English tradition of voluntary service to one's local community. He hopes that the theme of 'service to others' will withstand the threat of ever-increasing consumerism and secularism in the years ahead.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Remembrance Hall.

Useful Numbers

PETER LUFF, Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire holds regular surgeries in Droitwich and Evesham.
Tel: 01905 763952
E-mail: luffpj@parliament.uk
Website: www.peterluff.org.uk
or write to: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Badsey Remembrance Hall	01386 832272
Police (non emergency)	08457 444888
Pressure Point (Local Drugs Helpline)	0800 652 9664
FRANK (National Drugs Helpline)	0800 77 66 00
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
(helping people cope with crime)	
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 980 2946
Childline	0800 11 11
(Children and young people helpline)	
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
(Report information about crime, anonymously)	
CAB	01386 443737
(Advice and information on a range of issues, including housing, benefits, consumer, employment, money and debt)	

MOTHERS' UNION

Tuesday 02 January **NO SERVICE**

Tuesday 08 January 2.30 pm AGM

Tuesday 22nd January 12.30 pm
New Year Lunch at Norton Grange

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year

Sandra Sparrow



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