

# Community News

## Badsey and Aldington



### February 2008 Your Village Magazine

I'm afraid I might have jumped the gun in anticipating my Israel trip. Apparently I'm only on the reserve list, so it's a case of wait and see. We had some lovely services over Christmas with much variety. The children's Nativity Play at the Carol Service was marvellous, people went away with a lump in their throats. The year ended with a benefice service in the barn at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton. I hope you have all made your new year resolutions, although if you are anything like me you'll have made them and broken them by now.

The above two pictures are of the Avonbank Band Concert which was held in December and the cast of the Christmas Day play at the Family Service.

With all the awful news at present of the killings in Kenya I think our joint resolution for 2008 would be for peace in the world.

Sheila Lancaster

### **BISHOP DAVID'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2008**

I make no predictions for 2008. Not least because I dislike the whole business of guessing what is going to happen. It irritates me that so much of what fills news bulletins on our TVs and in our papers is speculation about what might happen rather than reporting what is actually going on now. Everything from government policy to the identity of the next England football manager is so heavily previewed in the days before it's made public, that there is a real anticlimax when the news itself comes out. Advertising compounds the situation by pressing us to imagine how life could be if we purchased the latest product rather than learning to feel good about ourselves as we are here and now.

I can readily identify the moment when I had to learn to live in the present. In 1991 I was made vicar of a parish in Yorkshire. Until then my whole life had been spent either as a student or in a post that was intended to prepare me for something bigger. I suddenly realised that I was so used to getting my energy and enthusiasm from thinking about future possibilities that I didn't know how to cope with my present situation being more important than what might come next. I had to learn that my top priority, each and every day, was to be a good vicar for my parishes, and to let the future look after itself. Looking back I can see that it was only when I'd grasped this that I was ready for the task of being a bishop. Jesus, as ever, puts it succinctly when he calls his followers to copy the lilies of the field and not worry over tomorrow.

So let me offer you a challenge for 2008. Don't live in the future, but be true to the present. When you hear or read a news item about what is due to happen later, pledge yourself to put more effort into living in today. At the very least that could lead to a massive reduction in the gossip that St Paul placed right up among the most serious sins he confronted in the early Christian church.

So let me wish you a happy 2008, and pray that you will live it, to the full, one day at a time.

+ David

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for office supplies and printing

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Dear All,  
When something goes wrong, it is not always easy to distinguish between holding someone responsible for their actions and making a scapegoat out of them. The culture of accountability, which is essential in a democratic society, can very easily slide into a culture of blame. It is not far then to turn into a nation of litigation, I am sure that you have all seen the advertisements on the television encouraging us to 'make a claim'. If we have had an accident, someone must be to blame, there appears to be no such thing as 'an accident' or room for someone to make 'a mistake' any more.

Although he has only just started in his job as the new manager of the England football team I already feel sorry for Fabio Capello, it will be interesting to look at the press during the lead up to the friendly with Switzerland on 6 February, and then again once we know the result. Of course, people have to be responsible for their actions, but Fabio is part of a team as so many of us are and it is wrong to heap blame onto one person without looking at the broader picture.

If I try to put a Christian slant on all of this, the culture of blame and revenge has no place in the overwhelming love that God shows to us. February sees the beginning of the season of Lent when, as Christians, we prepare to look towards the death of Christ on the cross. We are all sinful and fallen creatures, humanity has over many centuries,

performed all kinds of atrocities imaginable (many I regret to say in the name of the Church) and anyone could be excused thinking that God should by now have given up and abandoned us to our own devices wherever that may lead us. This could not be farther from the truth, instead of giving up on us he shared our humanity and took upon himself the very worst that human beings could do to him when they crucified him on the Cross. And what does God demand in response? Nothing, nothing at all, God does not demand our love or our obedience he just loves us, and forgives us when we do wrong. Isn't that better than the 'blame culture'?

*Richard*

## CHURCH

## SERVICES

Sunday 03 February Candlemas	11.00 am Family Worship 6.30 pm Evensong
Wednesday 06 February	10.00 am Communion
Sunday 10 February	11.00 am Praise & Worship 6.30 pm Eucharist
Sunday 17 February	11.00 am Morning Celebration 6.30 pm Evensong
Sunday 24 February	9.30 am Eucharist 6.30 pm Evensong

*Morning Services are normally followed by coffee*

Morning Prayer is said at 0745 each weekday except Tuesdays and Wednesdays which are a Eucharist

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings:

Funerals: 08 January John Edward Grose-Hodge  
04 January Freya Isabella Mei-wah WU  
(ashes interred)

## ROUND ROBIN GROUP

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

The next meeting is at 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm on **Thursday 19 February at 45 Brewers Lane**. If you would like to come or would like a lift contact Sheila Lancaster on 833929

## CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

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

## CANDLEMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Feast of Candlemas marks the purification of the Virgin Mary and the infant Christ's Presentation at the Temple. Both ceremonies, according to Jewish law, took place 40 days after the birth of a child. According to St Luke's account of the baby Jesus' presentation in the Temple, Simeon and Anna both elderly, instantly recognise Jesus as the 'light to lighten the nations'.

Candlemas is a festival of light in the midst of winter; it is a time of candlelit processions in church and it is the day on which candles to be used in church are consecrated for the coming year.

This year a very **special celebration is taking place at the Cathedral on Saturday 02 February** to which all people and churches across the diocese are invited. The celebratory day starts with a Diocesan Eucharist at 11.30 am. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. At 2.00 pm there will be free tours of the Cathedral and its library and for families there will be special trails round the building. The day culminates at 3.30 pm with a candlelit procession and each parish will receive a special lamp to be used during Lent. This lamp is to be brought to the Diocesan Assembly in July.

## SAINT'S DAY

Isn't it odd that if you were to ask ordinary people in the street to name a Saint's Day, most would be able to name that of St Valentine on 14 February. However, if you then asked what had he done to merit being commemorated then most would be stumped.

### So who was he

There is some confusion in the story, because no less than three different Valentines were martyred around the same time during the third century AD in Roman times. Pope Galasius in 496 AD declared the 14 February as St Valentines Day but it isn't clear whether this was to commemorate a third century priest, a bishop of Interamna (Terni today) or another priest who had suffered in Africa.

### This is the most popular legend:

It is believed that the young priest rose to distinction after betraying Emperor Claudius in 270 AD by conducting illegitimate wedding ceremonies in the

capital. Emperor Claudius claimed that married men made poor soldiers and consequently decreed that all marriages of younger citizens would be outlawed. Bishop Valentine, however, maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world. He continued to conduct marriages in secret between young people, sometimes as young as twelve, in the name of love.

His success gained him unwelcome notoriety, which became Bishop Valentine's downfall. He was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailor's daughter. It is thought that on the evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note which read 'from your Valentine'. This story has blossomed into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day. An estimated one billion cards sent each year, making it the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.

*Thanks to Chris Smith for this very information article. We look forward to more stories about the Saints and if we're lucky perhaps a Valentine card.*

## BENEFICE LENT COURSE

**St James' Church, Badsey**

**Meet 7.15 p.m. for coffee**

**7.30 Start until 8.15 p.m.**

**Wednesdays**

**13 February - Sharing the Gospel**

## THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE GARDENING TIPS

'Bible and Science', 'Creation and Evolution'. Richard Wood of All Saints Worcester will speak about evolution, and video clips on evolution may be shown, if time permits.

This will take place at:

7.45 for 8.00 pm  
on  
Monday 11 February 2008  
At  
Hallow Chapel Moseley Road,  
Hallow, Worcester

Attention is drawn to a book by the philosopher Mary Midgeley, called 'Evolution as Religion' which questions whether scientists are getting ahead of themselves.

It is pointed out that to attend these meetings people do not need to be scientists, or even Anglicans, or Christians but should be interested in how science and rational thought in the broader sense influences Christian belief.

## READER TRAINING

### General

On most days the garden will still seem to be in the harsh grip of winter, despite the increasing number of very early flowers that seem determined to bloom. For gardeners with a heated greenhouse, sowing and pricking out are now priority jobs. If you have to depend on a light windowsill for your seedlings, be patient, they are slow to develop.

### Weeds

Weeds make paths look untidy and neglected. Hand weeding is tedious and a continuous job through spring and summer. However, a single application of a suitable weed killer will keep paths and drives clear for a whole season. Sodium chloride is a traditional weed killer but can seep sideways. Most modern path weed killers do not 'creep' and are better at controlling moss.

### Rockery

Whether you have just made a rock garden or need to replant parts of an existing one, now is a good time to plant your alpines. Most of them flower in spring, and may bloom while still young, so you will get quick results. If there is a very cold spell and the ground is still frozen, wait another week or two before planting. They will soon catch up once the better weather arrives.

### Visitors

Starlings are quarrelsome, noisy birds that will often try to dominate bird tables. They can turn a quiet garden scene on a cold winter's day with a noisy bundle of activity within minutes.

### Hope

Five years ago, I worked as a support assistant to a severely disabled five year old boy. He had had various brain operations to ease the pressure caused by his disability. He was deaf and could not communicate other than by lashing out. His mother, who had a milder form of the disability, was at her wits end. She was continually tired from looking after Josh and his baby brother. All she wanted was for her son to be 'normal'. She came to see me recently full of excitement because she had just watched Josh take the main lead in his school play where he had to walk down the centre of Bengeworth Church and say lines that everyone could hear and then lead the cast from the front. His mum was beaming from ear to ear, all signs of stress had disappeared and she said she would bring Josh in to see me, which she did the next day. He was excited and happy and had a conversation with me. I could not be more delighted for them both and it made the festive season special for me. After two and a half terms at Offenham School he went to a specialised language unit and he is now at The Vale of Evesham School. Hard work together with much love and care given to Josh and his family had enabled his full potential to be realised. It made me think of all the good that is in this world and I have made a decision to look for good news stories in this coming year. Maybe the troops will be out of Iraq and peace will come to the Middle East. What good new stories could happen here in Badsey?

Sue Cole

## FROM THE ARCHIVES OF CHRIS SMITH

Twice one are two.  
(Just me and you),  
Twice two are four  
(Darling, once more),  
Twice three are six  
(size meet and mix),  
Twice four are eight  
(you are my fate)  
Twice five are ten  
(kiss me again),  
Twice six a dozen  
(thirteen to the dozen)  
Twice seven are fourteen  
(men will be courting),  
Twice eight are sixteen  
(girls can't stay sixteen)  
Twice nine are eighteen  
(maids must be mating)  
Twice ten are twenty  
(Now you've had plenty)  
Twice eleven are twenty two  
(you'll agree that's plenty too)  
Twice twelve are twenty four  
(and I could do with twenty  
score)

A Valentine's postcard, circa 1907,  
In Chris Smith's family archive.

**I wonder what sort of card if you will  
be sending this year?**

It used to be the fashion to write loving  
codes on the outside of envelopes too.  
Below are a few examples.

The one we all know; S.W.A.L.K.  
= sealed with a loving kiss!

B.U.R.M.A. = be undressed and ready  
my angel.

H.O.L.L.A..N.D. = hope our love lasts  
and never dies.

I.T.A.L.Y. = I trust and love you.

C.H.I.N.A. - come home I need  
affection.

W.A.L.E.S. - with a love eternal my  
sweetheart.

Perhaps you have another favourite, if so do share it with us.  
Some can be quite rude or risqué and as this magazine might be  
read by the Vicar I've left the ones I know out.

## MOTHERS' UNION

**A Welcome  
Christmas  
Present**



On 18 December we  
were pleased to receive a gift of  
£100.00 for church funds. Our  
grateful thanks go to the  
anonymous donor.

Tuesday 12 February 2.30 pm.  
Speaker Tony Jerram  
Sandra Sparrow

## FILM CLUB AT THE WHEATSHEAF INN

A monthly film evening is held  
in the function room at the  
Wheatsheaf Inn at 7.30 pm on  
the 1st Saturday each month.  
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. In February the  
film is **Grease**, in March **A  
Prairie Home Convention**  
and in April **This is England**  
(18) If you would like to join  
and come along to the next  
film tel. Clive on 833825 for a  
membership form.

## Change Today - Choose Fairtrade - Fairtrade Fortnight (25 Feb - 9 March 2008)

Please watch out for events happening locally and support these weeks by buying products marked with this logo you can sure more money goes direct to the producers of these products and helps the local economies of developing nations. With awareness levels of the FAIRTRADE Mark reaching their highest level at 57% (TNS Omnimas) in 2007 and UK product sales doubling every two years, predicted to be over £450 million in 2007, the Fairtrade Foundation is using Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 to increase understanding about how the impact of consumer decisions can help tackle poverty in the developing world. Too many producers the world over remain at the sharp end of international trade, often forced to sell their produce for less than the cost of production. Similarly, too many workers in developing countries endure low wages, insecure working conditions and are often denied the right to join a trade union. Besides continuing to lobby governments to make changes to international trade rules so that they work in favour of the poorest countries, incorporating Fairtrade products in to our daily shopping routine is a way to send a powerful message to industry and eventually force the conventional players to rethink the impact of their business models. Badsey church has already made the commitment to always use Fairtrade tea and coffee for its events. Please join us in trying to change the world.

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We celebrated the start of the festive season with a lovely, varied and plentiful American Supper in December. We were entertained by a production of Cinderella under the guidance of producer, Judy Foster. This was a most hilarious production and showed us what rising star thespians we have in the W.I. Following this we sang carols by candlelight led by organist Marlene Atkinson. In January we shall be having our New Year Lunch at the Broadway Hotel and will start the New Year by having Diane Bennett from Caring Hands talk to us about the work of this marvellous organisation. Caring Hands help and support all needy families and homeless people in the Vale and its aim is to help the relief of poverty and need in the Vale of Evesham. Activities include donation of food parcels, toiletry packs, bedding and clothing to individuals and families in a variety of circumstances, together with backpacks, sleeping bags and blankets to individuals who are homeless/sleeping rough. This organisation is based at the Vale of Evesham Christian Centre in Bewdley Street which also caters for the spiritual needs of people. Members will be bringing along items and goods for Diane to take back with her and which we hope will help in some small way. Anyone wishing to find out more about this worthwhile organisation or who wish to give any of the above items should contact the Centre or look it up on the Internet under 'Our Church in Evesham' Badsey W.I. wishes everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.



*Yvonne Haynes*

### Winchcombe Community Choir

Come and sing uplifting songs from around the world, all taught by ear.

Starting Wednesday 20 February, 10.00 am to 12 noon and every following Wednesday morning in term time.

This will take place in the Cleeve Annex at Abbey Fields Community Centre, Back Lane, Winchcombe GL54 5QH.

All singers and absolute beginners welcome.

No auditions and no sight-reading

Experience the sheer joy of singing.

Further details: Alice Robin 01386 882889

We learn and sing great harmony songs together, including: Gospel, African, British and American, Pop, Jazz, Balkan, Pacific, Sacred and more ...led by Alice Robin

### GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

10.00 am - 12 noon

21 March 2008

Offenham School

£1.00 per child

### WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

This club will next meet at 7.30 pm in Wichamford Memorial Hall on Wednesday 27 February when the talk will be presented by Adrian James 'Exotics in the Garden', the competition being a Potted Plant Cactus or Succulent.

The club ended last year on a high with a social evening in November which was well attended, the food being prepared by many members and enjoyed by all, and especially enjoyable was the entertainment provided.

New members are always welcome, you do not need to be an avid gardener, just enjoy seeing and hearing about anything to do with gardening, be it flowers, vegetables, wildlife or places of interest, you name it, we cover it, so do not hesitate to come along and find out all about us.

For more information contact Colin Hill on 01386 853412.

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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](http://www.badsey.org.uk/Society)

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

Last month we told you about the photographic survey of Badsey which took place in May 1968. Forty years on, we are seeking to repeat this survey, as the number of houses in Badsey has almost doubled and Aldington was not covered at all. In addition, a number of houses have been demolished and been replaced by modern housing estates. For example, I wonder if the residents of

a small 1980s' housing development recognise the location of these cottages? Turn this page upside down for the answer.

You do not have to be an expert, just keen to take part in the project. We welcome both "happy snappers" and keen photographers. If you are interested in participating, please

phone Maureen Spinks on 831154 or email – [maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com](mailto:maureen.spinks@btopenworld.com)

### AGM

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

© R W Horsley



The picture shows Brefforton Road and the site of Hither Green.

## WEATHER LORE ASSOCIATED WITH CANDLEMAS DAY

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
Winter will have another flight,  
If on Candlemas Day it be shower and rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again.

Also Candlemas day is supposed to be the day on which the Hedgehog leaves its winter hibernation to look at the weather.

In the United States and Canada it is known as 'Groundhog Day' and the woodchuck, marmot or ground squirrel is said to emerge from its burrow, if this causes a shadow then it will return underground for a further six weeks, as winter will continue, whereas if there is no shadow and it is therefore cloudy, winter is said to be over for the year.

## ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

### February Rota:

**1st Sunday:** Maureen and Sandra

**Lent:** No flowers in Church during Lent

Thank you ladies for the beautiful arrangements in Church for Christmas, also for the flowers during January.

Any queries regarding Church flowers please contact me, Hazel Stewart 01386 832007

## PANCAKE DAY RECIPE

Tuesday 05 February

### You will need:

#### Ingredients:

120g plain flour  
2 eggs  
210 ml milk  
1 tablespoon melted butter or sunflower oil  
Some oil for cooking  
Pinch of salt

#### Method

Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl, add the salt and give it a mix before making a well in the middle. Break two eggs in the well and pour in roughly a quarter of the milk. Gently whisk everything together and slowly add the rest of the milk until it's all used up and you have a smooth mixture.

Put a small amount of oil in the bottom of a frying pan, just enough to coat the base, and heat this up. Put a small amount of the mixture in the pan, enough to cover the base and allow it to cook for roughly a minute.

Shake the pan to make sure the pancake slides and hasn't stuck and if you're brave, toss the pancake over and allow the other side to cook for a minute. Pancakes are best eaten as soon as you've made them. You can top them off with a squeeze of lemon juice and a sprinkling of sugar, or maybe cream, chocolate sauce or even bananas.

If you like savoury pancakes, try filling them with cheese, ham or mushrooms.

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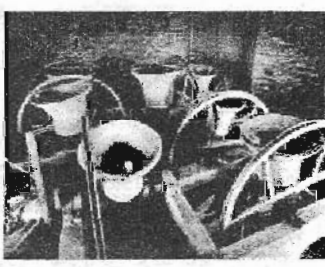
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## BELL RINGING NEWS

### ST JAMES' GUILD OF BELL RINGERS:

After joining with a host of others to link arms and sing out the old year at the Cross, Bretforton, accompanied by the Bretforton Silver Band, it was good to welcome another year, having come in like a lamb, and to wish friends and strangers a Happy New Year. A few hours later we were back in the Tower ringing, first at Bretforton for 10.00 am, then at St James' Church, Badsey, for 12.00 midday, where again we had a full compliment of eight to announce the arrival of another busy year.



This month (February) will be the start of the wedding season with a ceremony on the 23rd for which the bells have been requested. Let's hope the weather will be kind to all.

*John and Hilary Bolton*

## OPEN GARDENS IN BADSEY

It has been suggested that we have a Open Gardens in Badsey. This will take place on 14/15 June. Are there any keen gardeners who would be willing to open their gardens to the public. This has been very successful in neighbouring villages and in addition to being a nice day out for families and visitors it raises much needed money for the Church. If you have any ideas for this venture or would be prepared to open your garden please let Chris Smith know on Evesham 830217

## CHIROPODIST

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### APRIL FOOLS QUIZ and FISH & CHIP SUPPER

7.30 pm 05 April

at Badsey Memorial Hall

Proceeds for Caring Hands in the Vale and the German Partnership

*For a sympathetic and respectful service contact:*

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## PEOPLE PROFILE

The person profile this month is John Cole, Youth Group Leader and Church Webmaster. John moved to Badsey in 1988 from Enfield, London, and went to Badsey First School, followed by Blackminster Middle School and Prince Henrys. He took private tuition in drama from the age of five achieving success in various exams in LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Arts).



At the age of 15 years John joined 33,000 scouts at the Scout Jamboree in Holland, which is the second largest international event in the world next to the Olympics. John was a cub scout leader for some years at Badsey

After completing a National Diploma in performing arts John spent a year as a volunteer overseas with USPG in Japan. This was in their farming training centre. He made many friends, mainly from Africa, Asia and the U.S. with whom he is still in contact.

After returning from Japan John still felt he wished to see more of the world and spent six months travelling round Australia. He is now training for work in Homebase for when it opens in Evesham in the old Focus building.

John maintains the benefice web site together with other web sites of local businesses and is always looking for new site projects. He is the co-founder of the benefice youth groups for young people 11-18 years of age. With all John's experience with youth work in many fields, he is now looking at the possibility of studying for a degree in Youth and Community work with applied theology at Nottingham University.

At school John always did well in music exams, played the cornet and saxophone and was a member of the Celebration Band at Hampton. He played at various concerts in and around Evesham, and occasionally out as far as Ludlow.

John feels extremely proud of his achievements in drama, music and travelling despite being partially deaf and would urge anyone with a disability to follow their dream.

Someone once asked Bette Davies why she always played the part of a bitch in her films. She said it was because in real life she was not a bitch and that was why Joan Crawford always played the part of a lady.

## 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**

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

## DOG FOULING

Will the person who keeps letting their dog foul the path by St James Close please refrain from doing so. There are a lot of children using this path together with parents who use it to take their children to school.  
*Mr R Keyte, 5 St James Close, Badsey, tel. 831273*

## NEW BISHOP

### Worcester Cathedral

The Enthronement is an ancient ceremony. It is the occasion in which the new bishop is formally seated in his teaching seat, or 'cathedra' in the Cathedral. Bishop John's enthronement will include the reading out of the Queen's mandate, and during it he will preach his first sermon in the diocese, so beginning his public ministry here. The service will be attended by representatives of the various parishes of the diocese, civil dignitaries and leaders of other denominations and faith communities.

## Tirebuck Deliveries

Single items upto a van load  
Reasonable rates



Van with 2 operatives available  
Ring Steve or Malcolm on:  
07833 170406