



NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

Last month John Waters appealed on behalf of the Church Clock restoration fund. Our photo highlights the damage that a century of weather has done to the clock face. Unless the defective parts are not repaired or replaced soon Badsey could lose this valuable asset that has been looked up at by generations of villagers. Time is of the essence, and the church is asking for your support. Together we can bring the clock back to its original splendour whilst ensuring the continuation of this timepiece at the heart of the community. If you have not already donated then please give generously either by sending a donation to the PCC Treasurer (10 High Street, Badsey) or by a donation placed in the wall safe inside the church. If you can Gift Aid it too, your donation is worth 25% more. There are envelopes in the church which should be filled in and signed so that we can claim from HMRC. If you prefer to write a cheque, please make it payable to:- **PCC Badsey St James Church**; or you could make a BACS payment to our account (Sort Code 30-93-11, account number 00263405)



ONCE MORE - DRAWING ON TRADITION

The graphic drawing at the top of this page is by local artist Ian Gibson. He is following in the penstrokes of Charles Binyon and Michael Barnard who had drawings on the front page of the village magazine in the past. Mr. Binyon's sketches were of the church and lychgate, and Michael's the enclosure map.

SPAR

**SPAR / POST OFFICE
BADSEY
01386 830359**

In store bakery now available:
 • Fresh Bread baked daily
 • Breakfast baps
 • Rolls/Baguettes
 • Hot Food
 • Lunchtime request - call us now to place your order
 Willersey Provisions - Bacon / cooked meats & cheese

Mon - Fri	6.30am - 8.00pm
Sat	7.00am - 8.00pm
Sun	8.00am - 6.00pm

**YOU CAN PLACE
YOUR ADVERT HERE**

**Seen by over 2500 local
people monthly**

**Delivered to 1400
homes**

The Round of Gras

TAKEAWAY MEALS
Collected or Delivered
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

OPEN: ALL DAY
www.roundofgras.co.uk
Tel: 01386 830206

BADSEY AND ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We hope that you have been keeping up to date with news and information by looking at our webpage and updates on Facebook. We will be continuing with our monthly PC meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Look out for the minutes after the meetings on the noticeboard at the Spar and on our webpage. If you would like to be involved in the meeting, you will need to contact the parish clerk no later than midday on the Friday before each meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Wednesday 20th January 2021** at 7.30pm.

Neighbourhood Watch.

This project has been delayed due to Covid-19, however, following discussions at the PC meeting, if you have previously expressed an interest in being involved or would like to become involved, please contact the parish council. We intend to meet in some form this month to get this project up and running again.



**Clerk's contact details: Andrea Evans (Mrs),
Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham WR11 8RW.
Tel: (01386) 760332
Email: badseypc@yahoo.co.uk**



The first meeting since March was held using Zoom on Wednesday, 11th November and twenty-two members attended. Members expressed great sadness that one of our long-standing members, Win Skitt had died. It was only a few months ago that another very loyal member, Eileen Goodall also died. Both ladies are very much missed.

The Christmas meeting on Wednesday 9th December was again held using Zoom and twenty-one members attended. Among lots of activities,

we sang Carols, listened to poems, took part in a quiz and a merry time was had by all.

At the next WI members Zoom meeting on Wednesday, 13th January we will have a guest speaker, Frances Benton. She gives a very informative talk on her love of pearls, how she sources them and makes jewellery items, which can be bought directly from her. This is a wonderful and very interesting talk and non-members are very welcome.

Please contact the secretary, Kathy Small, on 830083 if you would like to join us.

QUICK IT'S PRONTO

Linda Core Reminisces

I met Pronto when he joined our group entertaining the residents of a care home. He slid into the car-park at breakneck speed, a vision dressed in vivid tangerine with hair as brightly coloured as dandelions on a sunny day, and a broad grin on his rosy cheeks. The music went well with residents loudly participating with foot-tapping and hand-clapping. This was until a sudden loud ping, when the middle C key shot off the piano and flew across the room. Any musician knows middle C is a vital note in every song. The note was retrieved and reunited with the rickety piano, and as the song says, 'the band played on.'

One day we were invited to an evening meal. My contribution was a ginormous trifle. Half had

been eaten before Pronto arrived. His face was pure bliss when he was invited to try the trifle. He precariously balanced the bowl on his knee before speedily devouring all of its contents.

We were invited to entertain at Wickhamford Church's harvest supper, where our rendition of Macnamara's Band would have upset members of the noise abatement society. The evening ended with a game of bingo which was in danger of being cancelled when the vicar was called away. 'Don't worry padre, I'll call the numbers,' said Pronto beaming broadly. What a riot, the windows were closed to obliterate the noise from a decidedly exciting finale.

Editors Note: Pronto is Linda's nickname for George Dallimore, the older brother of John and Will.

READERS STORY OF THE MONTH

REFLECTIONS ON CANDLEMAS

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM REV. PHILIP MORTON

This might be one of the most unusual New Year's reflections I have yet written. I say this because, as I sit here writing, I have no idea what the beginning of 2021 is going to look like. We might very well be in another lockdown, and there is also a lot of uncertainty on the international stage about Brexit, amongst other things. So much uncertainty can be very difficult to handle!

So, today, I offer a brief reflection on a service that comes right at the end of January. It is called Candlemas, and its origins go back to the days of the medieval church. It coincides with the day when the Church celebrates the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, according to the traditions of the Jewish people. Here, two prophets called Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus as the one who would bring salvation to the world. The story itself is a mixture of uplifting joy (a new baby!) and foreboding (foreshadowing the Cross). At the darkest, bleakest time of year, the Church realised that this story was ideal as a way of recapturing some of the hope and joy that people celebrated at Christmas, but also the need to recognise the difficulties that life brings.

And so, the service of Candlemas was created. People would bring candles to church to be blessed, so that they could take them home and light them and carry that blessing with them into everyday life, when everything felt dark.

I think this message of Candlemas will be even more profound this year than usual, simply because we need to recapture the hope that comes with realising that God is always with us, even when everything feels bleak and dark and uncertain. So, as we head into a new year, I pray that this sense of hope and God's presence with us will sustain us and our communities for the year to come.



BAGS OF FUN FOR THE CHILDREN

We have found a way for Messy Church to reach the children.

A team of volunteers have placed between four and six different craft activities into individual paper bags. There are two types, one for 5-7 year olds, and another for the older children. Covid-19 rules apply.

These are now available. If you are interested in receiving these bags for your children please contact:-

Penny Christison
pennyanne68@gmail.com



CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR JANUARY 2021

Sunday 3rd January <i>The Epiphany</i>	Offenham Cleeve Prior	9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Timothy Hupfield Philip Morton
Sunday 10th January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	S. Littleton Bretforton	9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Philip Morton Timothy Hupfield
Sunday 17th January <i>2nd Sunday in Epiphany</i>	Badsey Offenham	9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Margaret Pye Philip Morton
Sunday 24th January <i>3rd Sunday in Epiphany</i>	Cleeve Prior S. Littleton	9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Rod Careless Timothy Hupfield
Sunday 31st January <i>Candlemas</i>	Bretforton Badsey	9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Eucharist	Philip Morton Timothy Hupfield

FAMILY HISTORY TIPS FROM THE BADSEY SOCIETY

This month we start a series of 12 lessons on how to trace your family history. Written by Maureen Spinks

Lesson 1 – Talk to Granny

First let me warn you, looking into your family history can be addictive. Secondly, you never know what you might find – an ancestor convicted of duck-stealing, perhaps, or something much worse. Or you may find that you are not who you thought you were – that unbroken line of the Bloggs family you thought went back generations may have had the odd illegitimacy along the line to upset the apple-cart.

If you're serious about looking into your family's history, the most important thing to do is to start with yourself and to work backwards. Write down your name, date of birth, where born, and any marriage details, and do the same for your siblings. Then do the same for your parents, grandparents, etc, and see how far back you can go. If relatives have died, record their place and date of death and, if known, where buried or cremated.

At some stage you need to decide whether to concentrate on just one branch of the family or to look at all lines simultaneously. It's often tempting to look just at the line which has given you your surname, but remember, if your mother's mother's mother had not been born, you would not be here. Sometimes it boils down to what information you know to be available. In my own case, when I started delving into the family history in the 1970s, I began with my mother's side of the

family because there were a number of elderly relatives with a fund of stories and a considerable number of photographs.

Which gets me on to talking to Granny. It doesn't have to be Granny, but anyone in the family who can give you information about the past. Often the stories are rambling, but try to jot it all down, as you never know when, at some stage in the future, that family legend about Great-Grandfather having a lady friend in the next town might prove to have more than a grain of truth in it. Think about it like collecting pieces in a jigsaw puzzle in the hope that it will all come together one day to give you the picture of your family history.

When you interview people, start with a list of notes about what you think you know about your relatives and try to confirm as much of that information as possible. Check to find what documents (certificates, letters, newspaper cuttings, family bibles, photograph albums, diaries, etc) they might possess. These days it's very easy to take copies so elderly relatives can be reassured that their precious memorabilia will be returned promptly.

You might want to do an audio or video recording of your chats with Granny which, in addition to allowing you to go back and check what was said, allows you to capture her accent. Always ask permission before you record someone.

Having talked to the people around you and made notes of all you know, it's now time to start some serious research.

Next month we'll look at the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

Jane Neill's

Countryside Calendar

We are so lucky in Badsey and Aldington to live in villages surrounded by fields with footpaths beside the brook and along the woods. If we stop, look and listen to nature there is so much to see and hear through the seasons. January is particularly challenging. Insects survive by hibernating; butterflies in sheds, ladybirds under tree bark, bees in their hives. An empty nest box in the garden can provide welcome shelter for small birds such as tits and wrens. It is so tempting to tidy up the

leaves and dead foliage on the borders and trim the shrubs ready for Spring but these are perfect materials for hedgehogs to hibernate under. I love the Winter gathering of crows, rooks and jackdaws mass feeding in the fields especially around the feet of the sheep. When they are disturbed they rise in a black cloud to settle in the tops of the tall, bare trees. As you walk out on a crisp, bright day you may just hear the 'chup chup' sound of the fieldfares seeking out the hawthorn berries.

Andy Tyrrell Handyman

From a door that sticks to a kitchen refit, I'm your man.

Many aspects of home maintenance undertaken.

For further enquiries call me on
01386 642945
or 07971086487

Bluebird Care Care in your home



We provide flexible and bespoke homecare and support services from 30 minute visits to 24 hour live in care. Get in touch today.

Call: 01386 764 830

Email: worcesterandwychavon@bluebirdcare.co.uk

bluebirdcare.co.uk/worcester-wychavon

WIZPAN

- Blackminster Business Park -

Ebay selling on commission

China
House Clearance
Collectables & Curios
All Items Bought & Sold

MARY CAMPBELL

Email: wizpan1@outlook.com
Tel: 01386 833894

CYRIL BIRD'S SHOP

November's Photo Competition featured this iconic Badsey building, here Brian Smith reminisces

Cyril Bird's shop was on the south side of Bretforton Road, the Evesham side of the entrance to Hither Green. The "Green" footpath now emerges alongside his former house, and the shop stood next to it. Back in the early 1950's Cyril scaled-down the motor and cycle repair side of the business, due probably to his failing eyesight. The petrol pump and oil dispenser were still in operation.

The shop was of a wooden construction and was painted a bright green colour. He had a great assortment of sweets on offer and I was a regular visitor, living only a few doors away. He was ahead of his time, the only Badsey shop opening on a Sunday.

Customers would often find the shop unattended and there was a push-button bell to bring Cyril from his house to serve you. He always whistled between his tongue and the roof of his mouth as he came. It was always the same tune.

Cyril's eyesight was very poor and slowly deteriorated. He would hold coins close to his eye, in which he held an eye-piece, similar to that used by a jeweller. At the same time he would be feeling the coin with his fingers.

Sweets and tobacco formed his main sales, plus a variety of bits and pieces. He kept some tinned groceries, but little in the way of fresh items, as far as I can remember. When



he requested payment, he would always say, "That's....., if you please!"

Later, the petrol sales ceased and the pump and oil dispenser were removed. As he became older, his son, John and daughters Joan (Lake) and Muriel (Morecombe) helped out to a greater extent.

Then came the day when the shop closed forever and was demolished, I wrote:-

*I remember seeing them knock it down,
No trace of it remains today, I fear.
When that old shop became no more,
I watched part of my childhood disappear.*

The painting of Cyril Bird's Shop at the top of the page was painted by Cyril's son, John. John was known for his paintings of local buildings. Many painted from memory, like Dennick's Fish and Chip shop in Synehurst, or the Cider Mill in the High Street.

GLO electrics
Tom, your local electrician
Fully qualified for all domestic, commercial and testing electrical needs, big or small.
M: 07510 123 438
E: theglo@live.co.uk
www.glo-electrics.co.uk

TRUST MARK
Government Chartered Standard

TRADER REGISTER

safe

NAPIT

StarChip
MOBILE FISH AND CHIPS
@ BADSEY SPAR
EVERY Saturday
11.30am- 1.30pm (Last Orders)
PLUS
Offenham Post Office EVERY Friday
11.30am- 1.30pm (Last Orders)
A Bi-weekly service is also available
at the following places from 4.00pm-7.30pm
Wednesdays: Willersey Duck Pond 3rd/17th June Harvington Shop 10th/24th June
Thursdays: Lenches Club 4th/18th June Offenham Post Office 11th/25th June
Alternate Fridays: Middle Littleton Village Hall 5th/ 19th June

OAP and Kids Specials
Put it in your diary and please make this
"YOUR FAMILY FISH AND CHIP TIME"
✉ jeff@starchipenterprise.co.uk ☎ 01386 570470

Thomson & Banks SOLICITORS
You matter to us

Expert legal services
Taking care of all your personal and business needs

tbsolicitors.co.uk

Pershore 01386 562000
Tewkesbury 01684 299633
Cheltenham 01242 235250
Stratford-upon-Avon 01789 295544

ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FIRST BEND OF THE ROAD TO BOWERS HILL IS A SPOT KNOWN AS FRANCIS'S GRAVE. WHO WAS FRANCIS?



Asked a reader in our last publication. Here is the answer to your question from our local history man, Terry Sparrow.

Who was Francis? This question straightaway leads to two more questions, namely when did he (or she) die and why did the burial take place at this lonely roadside location, far from the village and the churchyard?

I am sorry that I have no precise answer to any of these questions and can only speculate. Certainly the place name has been in use locally for well over 200 years.

Some time ago Maureen Spinks saw a document at Birmingham City Archives which tells us that in 1781 one Edward Cooper contracted to buy several pieces of land in the open and common fields of Badsey, including a small plot in Francis's Grave Furlong in Meerden Field. (Meerden was one Badsey's five common fields, the other's being Hadshill, Foxhill, Sandfield and Bullybrook.)

Proof of the actual burial site came in 1927, when workmen engaged in widening the road at the corner unearthed two human skeletons, one male and one female, but without any clue as to their identities.

In 2008, prompted by a note I found in a collection of papers left at the vicarage by the Reverend Peter Braby on his departure from the parish in 1973, I went to Wickhamford Manor, where the then owners allowed me to inspect the old Manorial Book. In it I discovered that on 22nd October 1639, at the court of Samuel Sandys, lord of the Manor of Wickhamford, a man named Thomas Francis was presented for homicide. It can be assumed that a guilty verdict followed, as lands and goods were said to be forfeited to the lord. Such a person would most likely be denied a Christian burial in the churchyard, but instead taken to a place well away from it.

So my guess is that it is this Thomas Francis whose name is remembered at Francis's Grave on the Willersey Road, on the edge of the parish of Wickhamford. The female skeleton remains a complete mystery.

Next month our local history man has been posed this question from a reader. *The Round of Gras seems an unusual name for a pub. Is there a story behind it?*

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Local Branch Leader, Sandra Sparrow would like to wish all the members a happy New Year, and she will be in touch with them as soon as she knows when they can have a meeting again.

Wickhamford Gardening Club

Sincere apologies to all our members, I missed the deadline for the December issue to enable the committee to wish you all a very merry Christmas. We hope that you all had an enjoyable time however you managed to celebrate and most of all kept safe and well.

I'm sure that everyone will be glad to see the end of 2020 and all of the challenges that it brought, hopefully never to be repeated!!

Looking forward to 2021 as a committee we still don't think we will be in a position to restart with the restrictions that are still in place and don't look as though they are going to change much until Feb, March time, so fingers crossed March will be the start this being the case it will be our Annual Spring Show.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to get out in the gardens or allotments much in recent weeks due to the inclement and now very cold weather but hopefully you've managed to put everything to bed that needs some winter protection, so I suggest that you sit down in front of the fire with a nice cup of whatever takes your fancy and make plans for the garden and what new ideas you can come up with to make things easier to manage in the garden.

Wishing you all a very Healthy, Happy and safe 2021 to all members past and present and any prospective new members who might be considering giving us a go when we resume, we're a small and friendly club which tries to provide a varied and interesting programme with good speakers.

For more information contact club secretary Barbara Bennett on 01386 831002

Priest in Charge:

Rev. Fr. Philip Morton

The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ
Tel. 832599 Email: revphilipmorton@gmail.com

My Surgery is held on alternate Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm at The Vicarage. I use this time to meet and get to know the people who have a desire to book a baptism or wedding at any of the wonderful churches in the Benefice.

Our administrator, Wendy Stafford, is available to help you arrange your appointment. Wendy can be contacted on
Tel. 424728 Email: eastvaleavon2018@gmail.com

Our Church Website: www.eastvaleavon.com

The Vicar's Day Off is Friday

Churchwardens:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland Tel. 830638
Email: lizral.bolland@btinternet.com
Mr. Chris Smith Tel. 830217
Email: smithvce@msn.com

Readers:

Mrs. S. Cole Tel. 831260
Mrs. Margaret Pye Tel. 833537
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache Tel. 839464

Curate:

Reverend Timothy Hupfield Tel. 01386 769432
Email: timothyhupfield@cantab.net
Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Farmer Tel. 40401
Safeguarding Advocate: Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

Useful Contacts

Badsey Remembrance Hall	Sue Brooks	641234
Badsey Community & Sports Club	Sue Evans	830867
Badsey Church Bell Ringers	Tom Sandham	834070
Badsey Church Flower Guild	Hazel Stewart	832007

Organisations, Institutes and Societies

The Badsey Society	Shirley Tutton	831539
Women's Institute	Lorraine Goodman	832653
Mothers' Union	Sandra Sparrow	833368

Youth Organisations

1st Badsey Scout Group	Nichol Brown	882350
1st Badsey Guides	Mandy Young	423215
Cafe Freedom	Tracy Hemming	830200
Messy Church	Penny Christison	830367

Over 60s Friendship Groups

Mary Dore's Friendship Club	Mary Dore	830879
Coronation Street Club	Jean Dyke	830714
Sundowners	Val Davies	833423

Sports and Entertainment

Badsey Film Club	Clive Richards	832685
Air Rifle Club	Ashley Green	832296
Archery Club	Ian Trout	831509
Badsey Cricket Club	David Powell	833122
Badsey TaeKwonDo	Marie Hall	0748 478 5882
Model Engineering Club	Roger Cull	831933
Round of Gras Cricket Club	Andrew Ogg	0779 216 2577
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club	Andy Osborne	0797 068 1505

COMING NEXT MONTH

Dedication of the Mother's Union's new banner, a history of Badsey's old vicarage, and more ancestry and countryside features

PHOTO COMPETITION



Where in Badsey would you have seen this signboard in the 1950s?

Email your answer to the Editor, no prize, just a name check of the selected winner next month with the answer.

Last month's photo was not Seward House but the Old Vicarage (more info next issue). The selected winner was Joyce Hemming of Badsey.

Articles for publication in

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please contact The Editor
(Will Dallimore)

on the following email address:

editorbadseycommnews@gmail.com

Handwritten articles are also accepted.
Please post them through the door of
30 Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey

Deadline for email or handwritten articles
is the 10th of each month

FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PRINTING SERVICES



Tel No. 01386 442004

INSIDE CARTRIDGE WORLD, MERSTOW GRN

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS 2021

This year let's all make the same resolution, and that is to become a volunteer. Let's promise that we will do our bit for the village in anyway we can. We cannot leave it all again to the the few kind souls who last year offered their time and help to the old and vulnerable members of the community.



There are many ways to volunteer, and volunteering is not only the ideal way of helping others it also goes a long way in making you feel good in yourself.

The village carnival is one of the earlier events in the year. Organised by the Parish Council, it weaves it's way from the top of the village to the Community and Sports club in Brewers Lane. Marshals are always being sought to help with crowd control and traffic management. Or why not enter a float in the carnival?



One of the oldest events in the year is the annual Flower Show. This takes place on the Saturday closest to St. James day, usually near the end of July. Volunteers are always needed to help with the preparation of the ground, pitching marquees, car-parking duties, ticket collecting and raffle selling.

Christmas is also a time of celebration with the annual community carol singing at the Wheatsheaf (or the Freedom Club, pictured).

Let's make 2021 the year of the volunteer

The Wheatsheaf Inn



Fish & Chips Now Available

For details visit our website
Call us on the number below
Or call in and enjoy a meal with us

Tel: 01386 830380

www.thewheatsheafinnbadsey.co.uk

Diggit

Man & Digger Hire, Site Clearance
Concrete Foundations & Bases
Water & Waste Treatment Tanks
Landscaping & Slabbing, Driveways
Planning Applications Specialist

01386 830626

wenard69@aol.com

BADSEY

**THE GROUND
FORCE TEAM**



BUZZ

ELECTRICAL LTD

We guarantee a professional,
reliable and personal service
for all your electrical needs.

For free no obligation quotations,
Call 01386 423600
email info@buzzelectrical.co.uk
or visit www.buzzelectrical.co.uk

