



Badsey and Aldington

# Community News

Part of the Benefice of East Vale and Avon Villages

March 2023

## The Church looks towards Mothering Sunday

Sunday 19th March will be celebrated as Mothering Sunday, or Mother's Day, when we give thanks for our mothers.

In 1947, I was just five years old when my father sadly passed away, leaving my mother a widow with me to look after - it was very difficult in those early post-war years, with a very small widow's pension. I am so grateful that, along with some help from aunts and uncles, my mother cared for me and was always there for me when I came home from school.

She passed away a number of years ago, but I still have such fond memories of her and her sacrifices for me until I was 17, when she married again which allowed me the freedom to move out into the world and create a career for myself.

The Virgin Mary went through so many hard and difficult times, beginning with the birth of Jesus in that very unhygienic stable in Bethlehem and then as a refugee in Egypt, fleeing from the ruthless King Herod.

She realised from the beginning that Jesus was someone special, that He had a mission to accomplish here on Earth and would no doubt have had many 'run ins' with her other children born after Jesus in explaining who He was.

At the cross, when Jesus died all alone, Mary was there - feeling His pain and anguish along with the Apostle John. Jesus reached out to them both by committing each one to the other, and that special love which Jesus had for Mary and John is available for each of us today as we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour.

- Revd Ralph Bolland



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## Badsey Guides take on Blackwell Court

A recount from one of Badsey's Guides...

*On Saturday 19th November, we had an activity day at Blackwell Court, which was an amazing experience. I loved doing fun activities with my friends, and I made my Guide promise on the zip wire (best thing ever!)*

*We split into two groups to do orienteering through beautiful forests. We did crate-stacking with Sam (who was the best instructor), and I thrashed everyone by building the highest tower and staying standing for the longest. I then ate my lunch after going on an awesome obstacle course - overall, I had the best time ever!*



**1st Badsey Guides and Rangers meet together every Wednesday during term time, between 6:45pm and 8pm in Badsey. Feel free to register interest online, and either email [badseygirlguides@gmail.com](mailto:badseygirlguides@gmail.com) or call 01386 832685 to ask any questions.**

## Honeybourne Over 60's Club

Residents of Badsey and Aldington are invited to Join the Honeybourne over 60's Wednesday Club at the new Honeybourne Village Hall.

Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm.

The annual fee for the club is £3, which is payable at the March meeting (also our AGM). Monthly attendance is £1, which includes entertainment, tea or coffee and a cake.

Membership of the club is not a requirement to participate in the trips out, and it is anticipated that the coach fare for the 9am pick ups will be £15 per person. Our upcoming outing to Weston-super-Mare will be in August, and is open to children too - so bring your kids and your grannies!

**For a full list of meetings and outings, please contact Mick Neal of 28 Seward Road Badsey on either 01386 832306 or 07724809128.**

## Computer Club

If you need help or advice with using your computer, why not drop in to one of the computer group sessions, which run on alternate Monday mornings at 10.30 in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. Sessions are very informal, and usually consist of a short presentation and then time to chat about individual issues over as much coffee and tea as is necessary. **Sessions so far this year have included:**

- **Connecting devices to your computer such as extra screens and printers**
- **Writing letters and documents in Word**

During March we plan to keep looking at Microsoft Word and formatting documents, but our programme very much depends on the needs of the group.

We shall meet on **Monday 6th March and Monday 20th March**. There is no charge and no need to sign up or make any form of commitment, just drop in when you would like. Sessions are on alternate Mondays from 10.30 to about 12.00.

For more information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 or [alantutton@talktalk.net](mailto:alantutton@talktalk.net)

## Badsey Film Club

Luvvies!

This month's film will be showing on **Saturday 4th March**, and will be:



## TICKET TO PARADISE

(Bit of George Cooney and Julia Roberts)

**The film starts at 8pm** in the backroom at the Wheatsheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval.

If you would like to be an official member of the Badsey Film Club, it's just £5 per year.

**For more information, contact Clive Richards on 01386 832 685.**

**Date for your diaries:**  
Saturday 1st April will be...  
'Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris'



Image credits  
[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)



## A reason to celebrate!

Presented to

Mr & Mrs P.F. Stewart

on the occasion of their Marriage

on 23rd March 1963

in St. James's Church, Badsey,

by The Badsey Branch

of the

Mothers' Union.

Last edition we focused on the subject of love, and appealed for stories to make our hearts sing.

On Thursday 23rd March, Peter Stewart and his wife Julie are celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary. Peter (from Plymouth) and Julie (from Badsey) wed in St James' Church 60 years ago, during a time when they were both serving in the Royal Air Force.

The Stewarts' wedding attracted a lot of publicity from the local press, and Peter and Julie still have the Bible that was presented to them by the Mothers' Union.

On behalf of the editorial team, we'd like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Stewarts on their 60th anniversary, and we wish you more continuous years of happiness together.

## Residents get planting at Pear Tree!



Some 20+ volunteers came along for the first planting of trees session at Pear Tree Fields on Saturday 4th February 2023. Weather conditions were warm, although not sunny, and the ground had defrosted making planting a little easier.

Planting teams worked in pairs, with one slicing the ground and the other popping the whip in with a cane and securing the protector sleeve. As they got underway, the progress got quicker. A large section was initially marked indicating dying trees so that they could have a tree planted next to them, with a second smaller section if time allowed. But, the teams were so efficient that both got done in the two hour session - with time for a bacon sandwich and a coffee too!



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If you would like to get involved, we will have more trees being delivered in March, slightly less than the initial delivery but still 800+. So, if you would like to take part, sessions will be advertised on the Parish Council Facebook page.

The Parish Clerk and Vice Chairman will mark out a further section prior to planting, and a very kind allotment holder has volunteered to lay out the trees, canes and sleeves before planting begins.

All in all, a great team effort with councillors and volunteers getting involved and working together.

## Coming soon to Community News...

... We are excited to announce that we are collaborating with local Veterinary professionals Graeme & Julie, to bring you pet and vet related content!

Keep an eye out for their Easter feature in April, and an introduction to the dynamic duo. Check out our appeal for your pets at the back of this edition.

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## When Spring arrives, so does Venus

By Stargazer

While driving back from Leicester about two years ago, I spotted in the evening twilight what I assumed was a helicopter with a bright search light hovering over Coventry airport as I drove down the M69. As I approached the Tollbar Roundabout, it became clear that the helicopter was much further away and probably hovering above Warwick. Back on the A46 again, I could see the helicopter hovering even further ahead and it became clear to me I had mistaken the object, and what I was looking at was, in fact, the planet Venus.

The brightness of Venus in the early evening is probably the cause of most reports of unidentified flying objects, and reports of flying saucers. The reason is that an object that is far away can appear to follow you down the road - try watching the moon while on a car journey, for example.

Venus is an inner planet, orbiting between the earth and the sun. The result is that it is only seen in the early morning around sunrise, and in the early evening around sunset. You will never see it during the middle of the night, as it will always be on the sunward side of the earth.

With a telescope, if you can get the focus really sharp, you can see that the planet goes through phases just like the moon. At present, Venus is brilliantly bright in the sky during the early evening for about an hour or so after sunset. This bright appearance of Venus is due to the light from the sun reflecting off a very dense layer of clouds. Venus was often referred to as Earth's sister (because it is a similar sized planet with similar gravity), and it orbits the sun in the "Goldilocks Zone" where water could exist on a planet's surface. For a long time, people dreamed that there must be a water world beneath the clouds.

Many science fiction stories in the early twentieth century featured an ocean world filled with fantastic creatures, including the novel *Perelandra* or *A Voyage to Venus* by C. S. Lewis in 1943. The reality of the climate on Venus is very different; rather than being a lush vibrant world, the surface of the planet is the hottest in our solar system with temperatures of over 460 °C, which is hot enough to melt lead. The atmospheric pressure is also 92 times higher than that found here on Earth, equivalent to being about 1,000 metres underwater, and, what is worse, when it rains, it rains sulphuric acid. Altogether, it isn't a particularly pleasant place to be.

It takes 225 days for Venus to orbit the sun, a Venusian year. However, it takes 243 earth days to turn on its axis. Its day is longer than its year, and it is turning in the wrong direction on its axis. Astronomers have long wondered why Venus is spinning in the wrong direction, as everything else in the solar system spins in the same direction except for Venus.

One suggestion was that the planet must have been hit by a large asteroid in the distant past, and the result of that impact was that the planet flipped over. However, in recent years a different hypothesis has been put forward, in that the planet is closer to the sun than the earth, and that the tidal forces on the thick dense atmosphere have caused the rotation of the planet to slow down and eventually start to reverse.

There is little chance of life as we know it existing on the surface of Venus, with the excessive temperatures and the toxic and acidic atmosphere. It has been speculated that in the distant past Venus once had oceans, and may have had a richly diverse ecosystem that was destroyed as the planet gradually heated up. It has therefore been suggested that extremophiles may have survived.

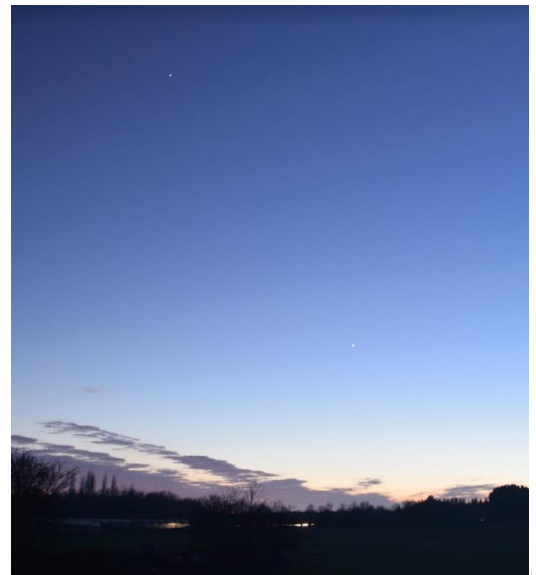


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Planets over Badsey in February 2023, with Jupiter upper and Venus lower

While examining photos taken of the surface of Venus by the Russian landing craft Verera 13 from 1980, one scientist suggested that the photos show objects that move between successive photos, and that these could be small creatures. Others also claim that these objects could be nothing more than parts of the landing craft. However, in 2020, NASA scientists using a radio telescope discovered the signature of the chemical phosphine in the atmosphere. This chemical (as far as we know) is only produced by anaerobic bacteria, and should not exist for long in the Venusian atmosphere.

The discussion about life on Venus is continuing. Look towards the southwest just after sunset on a clear evening during March, and you will see a very bright Venus in our evening skies for about an hour or so. The best time to see Venus will be at the beginning of March, but it will be in our skies for some time. Take a few moments to marvel at the magnificent sight of what could have been Earth's twin.



## Badsey Puzzler

Fill in the blanks to reveal some of Badsey's most historical spots.

*Hint: For each of the spots to be revealed to you, from the bottom to the top you must keep true...*

1. \_h\_ B\_\_\_\_ \_s\_
2. \_\_n\_ \_e\_\_\_\_ V \_o\_\_a\_\_
3. P\_\_\_\_ \_o\_\_e
4. \_\_ad\_\_y \_\_u\_\_
5. T\_\_ \_h\_\_\_\_h\_\_\_\_ \_n\_\_

ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S PUZZLER: BINYON, MANOR, SEWARD, SLADDEN, PACKS, ST JAMES, FOTHERSWAY, FIELDS

## Badsey Flower Show updates



Spring is almost upon us, which means peak planting season for those with green fingers!

There are so many competition categories to enter at the Badsey Flower Show, from flowers to vegetables to gardens in general.

**So, why not enter one of them?**

The 2023 Flower Show schedule will be out shortly, so keep your eyes out for that! In the meantime, we want to know: what's been your favourite Flower Show moment? **Get in touch with us at [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com), and we may just put your entries in next month's issue!**



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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
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- \*GAMES
- \*TUG OF WAR
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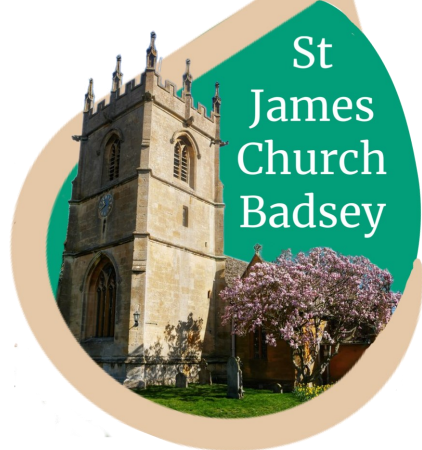
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St  
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Badsey

**Churchwardens:**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE**

Tel. 830638 Email: lizral.bolland@btinternet.com

**Mr. Chris Smith**

Tel. 830217 Email: smithvce@msn.com

**Readers:**

Mrs. Margaret Pye

Tel. 833537

Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache

Tel. 839464

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer:**

Lisa Farmer Tel. 40401

**Safeguarding Advocate:**

Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

**News from the pews**

By the time you read this, the Justice Department should have completed the legal process to close the churchyard, and a profile of the six churches of our Benefice is being prepared to send to the Diocese so as they can advertise for a new incumbent.

Additionally, the drop ins at 8.45am to 11.00am on Monday mornings in term time is continuing to thrive with an increase in numbers.

It also looks good for the future of the Community News, with our advertising spaces all filled with a couple on the waiting list, and increased financial support from the Parish Council along with a JustGiving page.

As spring is approaching, the Wednesday Work Group is meeting again between 10.00am and 12.00pm, and you are welcome even if it is just for a cup of tea and a chat. You will also notice that The Commonwealth War Graves have installed signs either end of the churchyard.

**Benefice**

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Testimonials from Our Messy Church...

"Thank you God for Messy Church that brings us together and gives us special time with the family"

" Thank God for Messy I am thankful because messy church is really good and I really like doing the craft "

"I am thankful because it is enjoyable and I have lots of fun its about being your own person and helping each other to learn about God."

"Messy church is about kindness and sharing skills"

Join us for our March session, email pennyanne68@gmail.com for more info!

**Services this month**

Please see notice board in Church Porch for more services within the Benefice. For more information about any of our churches please visit [www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com)

	9.30am Morning Praise/Family Service	11.00am Eucharist/Matins
05 March	Badsey	Offenham Cleeve Prior
12 March	Bretforton	South Littleton Cleeve Prior (Matins)
19 March	South Littleton (Family Service)	Badsey (led by the Archdeacon) Cleeve Prior (Mothering Sunday Service)
26 March		Bretforton Cleeve Prior

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## Jane Neill's Nature Notes



"Mad as a March Hare" as the saying goes, refers to the mating behaviour of a female hare boxing with the male. I hadn't seen one for years, until I caught one in my car headlights driving along the Bredon Hill village lanes recently. Thankfully, it ran into the verge.

Lately, I encountered another of our native mammals: the red fox. I was walking through the meadow when I heard a pheasant; it flew to safety. I saw the red fox stride along, through the hedge and into the field above. I waited just in case it returned, and I was rewarded with a perfect view as it appeared in the open gateway.



The fox is carnivorous, eating rodents, earthworms and game birds, but it also eats fruit and nuts when they are plentiful in autumn. They hunt mostly at sunrise and at night, preferring woodlands where they dig 'earths' or take over existing holes. The male is called a dog, the female a vixen, and their young 'kits'.

Foxes live for one to five years, and known for being cunning. Traditionally, in the Cotswolds, witches were thought to take the shape of a fox to steal their neighbours' butter! But for me, it was a magical encounter.



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

At the February meeting, members tried out crafts that they had either forgotten or had not tried before. Embroidery, knitting and card making were exhibited, the skills demonstrated and then members were able to have a go.

We had a super time, with no promises that we would be able to keep up our newly acquired skills! As usual, the meeting ended with tea/coffee and cake.

We return to an evening meeting on 8th March at Badsey Remembrance Hall, starting at 7.15pm. We are looking forward to a fully-dressed demonstration of Tudor Clothes and Home Crafts by the ladies of "From Time to Time". They will be talking about the what, how and why of Tudor clothes, interspersed with folk songs and craft demonstrations of the time.

There will be also be a talk on "Bespoke Shoes" at our meeting on 12th April.

If you would like to come along, please give our Secretary, Alex Owen, a call on 01386 830083

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our meeting on January 10th was our annual AGM.

Sadly, at this meeting we had to make the decision to close the branch. I was planning to finish as leader after three years, and no replacement leader was found.

After having a branch for 100 years, it was not an easy decision to close. We thank you for your interest in the Mother's Union thus far, and we wish you all the best for the future.

- Sandra Sparrow

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The Parish Council can be contacted by:

Email [badseypc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:badseypc@yahoo.co.uk)

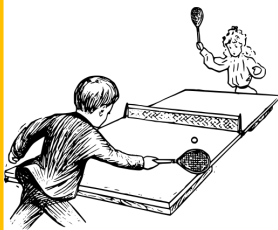
Phone **07591 533557** (Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 3pm)

Website [www.badseypc.uk](http://www.badseypc.uk).

Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of the month (except in August) at Badsey Remembrance Hall at 7.30pm.

Date of next meetings: **Wednesday 15th March**  
**Wednesday 19th April**

## The Wychavon Parish Games return for 2023!



We are once again recruiting Badsey & Aldington residents to take part in this year's Parish Games.

The Parish Games are a series of events that run throughout the summer, where residents of 25 different parishes in the area compete in a variety of light-hearted sports.

The sports include:

Angling	Bellboating	Bowls
Crib	Cross Country	Ladies' Darts
Men's Darts	Dominoes	5-a-Side Football
Petanque	Pool	Rounders
Skittles	Junior Table tennis	Senior Table Tennis

If you would like to take part in any of these sports to support the parish, please contact Russell Knight at [russell@serk.co.uk](mailto:russell@serk.co.uk).

## WE NEED YOUR PET (Photos)!

With April looming, did you know it is National Pet Month? With this in mind, we are hoping to have a 'Pets of Badsey & Aldington' page.

Send a photo of your pet, with a name and age to [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com)

*Please note that we can only include one photo, and information may be limited depending on how much interest we receive.*



We are happy to include picture of pets no longer with us, we understand they always hold a special place in our hearts. Just include this info, and we can add a small footnote to let our readers know that the pet has gained their angel wings.



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