



Badsey and Aldington

Community News

Part of the Benefice of East Vale and Avon Villages

October 2023

Harvest and Halloween

What is the Harvest you are waiting for? What is the Harvest that you want to celebrate? Why do Christians celebrate Harvest? The simple answer: it is an opportunity for us to thank God for everything He has blessed us with.

In Old Testament times, there were three major festivals where the Jewish people took the opportunity to thank God for blessing them. The first festival was the Feast of Passover; it was usually held in April each year - at the beginning of the harvest - and it was at this festival that God's people recalled how God had been their Saviour by miraculously leading them out of slavery in Egypt.

The second festival was the Feast of Weeks or 'Harvest', where the Jews gave thanks to God for their crop. This festival occurred at the end of the barley harvest, and it was also known as Pentecost because it was timed to be 50 days after Passover. It was at Pentecost when the power of the Holy Spirit was released on the disciples, and they were then able to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The third festival was the Feast of Tabernacles, which occurred after the grape and grain harvest was over. All three of these festivals reminded the people of God's blessings on them - physical blessings and spiritual blessings - and the festivals reminded the people that God is a faithful God who would continue to bless the people, year after year after year.

Maybe today you are not waiting for wheat to grow in your field, but I would guess that you are hoping for a harvest of some kind. Is your harvest about finances, or to have a certain amount of money? Is your harvest a dream of a bigger home? For some, a harvest would be simply a roof over their head and sufficient food on the table.

What about the church - what does harvest mean and look like for us as the church? Simply put, Harvest represents the harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God, and the harvest is the consequence of what you sow. Sow to satisfy sinful desires, and you will harvest the consequences of decay and death. Sow to please God, and the consequences will be eternal life and daily blessings. To have friends in this life and in the next, we need to be planting seeds now.

- Alan Bache
Lay Minister

5 ways to celebrate harvest



Harvest Festival celebrates crops being gathered from the fields and allows people to reflect on the food that they have. Plus, it provides an opportunity to help those in need by donating food to charities or community organisations.

If you're looking to do something to mark this year's Harvest, why not try one of the following:

- Bake/cook a delicious dish for a neighbour
- Donate food to schools, churches, or charities
- Attend a Harvest Festival church service
- Tidy up your green spaces e.g. garden, plant pots, allotment
- Try growing your own fruits or vegetables

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Spotting Cetus

By Stargazer

With the darker evenings of autumn and winter just around the corner, we see a change to the constellations visible in the night sky. The summer triangle is still visible in the western skies, but later in the evening Taurus and Orion are rising on the eastern horizon.

This month's object is a star in the constellation of Cetus, which appears in the southern skies during the early evening. Cetus was a sea monster in Greek mythology but is also called the Whale in English. In the motion picture "The Wrath of Kahn", Ceti Alpha V was the planet where Captain Kirk had marooned Khan Noonien Singh and his followers. The stars in a constellation are given Greek letters in order of their brightness, so Alpha Ceti is the brightest star in the constellation.

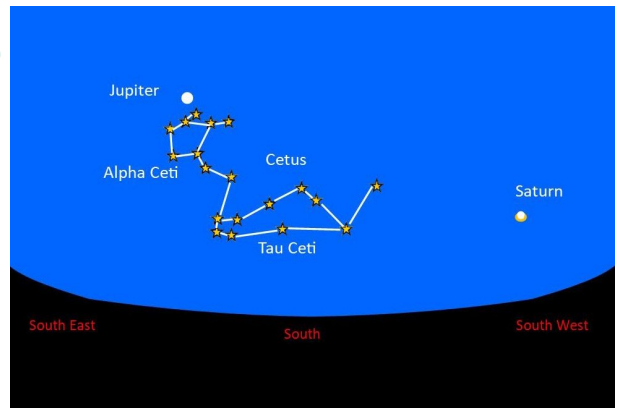
Unfortunately for the plot of a very good movie, Alpha Ceti is a bright red giant, a star at the end of its life that has swollen up to a massive size, and will have consumed any planets in its habitable zone.

A far more interesting star is Tau Ceti, a star that is similar to our own sun (if not a little smaller), and at a distance of only 12 light years is the closest sun-like star to our own sun. Proxima Centauri is the closest star to us, but it is a red dwarf star and has three known planets, one of which is possibly Earth-sized. However, this planet is close to the star and is in all probability tidally locked so that one side of the planet always faces the star. So, one side is in eternal sunlight and very hot, while the other side is in permanent darkness and very cold.

It is possible that there could be a habitable region in the twilight zone, but recent radiation storms seen emanating from the red dwarf in the last few years mean that there is little chance of there being even bacterial life on the planet. On the other hand, Tau Ceti is a sun-like star and is relatively stable like our sun, having a low variability. Current research has shown that there are at least four planets orbiting Tau Ceti, with two in the habitable or 'Goldilocks' zone. This does not mean that there is any form of life on these planets, but it is worth continuing to search as instruments improve.

Proxima Centauri is just over four light years away, and there is a proposal to send a swarm of very small, credit card-sized satellites towards Proxima Centauri, but with current technology the journey time would be around 20 years. Using the same technique, it would take 60 years to reach Tau Ceti, a timescale that would exceed the career lifetime of most scientists. Therefore, there is no plan to actually explore the Tau Ceti system at present, but there are great advances being made in attempts to actually image planets around distant stars.

For the time being, it is likely that our understanding of the planetary system will be from Earth-based telescopes. However, it is still worth looking for this star and wondering if there is the possibility of life on a distant rock. Take a little time during October to look to the southern skies and find the constellation of Cetus, the Whale, and its individual stars. Currently it is situated between the two bright planets of Jupiter and Saturn, and it is unlikely that there is intelligent life on one of Tau Ceti's planets - but the implications of just finding the chemical signatures of bacteria would be incredible. **So, look towards the south in the late evening, try to locate Tau Ceti and just take a little time to wonder.**



We need
your
stories!

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT OR FUNDRAISER COMING UP IN NOVEMBER? A SPECIAL DATE OR CELEBRATION ON THE HORIZON? ARE YOU ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW MEMBERS OR VOLUNTEERS? Get in touch - we're now looking for content for our November edition. Please email us at BadseyCN@gmail.com or leave handwritten entries at 32 Seward Road, Badsey.

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If you would like more information, please contact **07792 162 577** or find them on Facebook

Badsey Rangers adults team are also on the lookout for new players, open to all abilities and a great way to build fitness as well as enjoying a competitive team sport. For more information, please contact Wayne on 07843 754 631



You have to see it to believe it... Right?

Of all the stories told in the village and its surroundings, there's one talking point that's circled the local area for many years: the 'Badsey Panther'.

Claims surrounding the panther's existence are few and far between, but there are a number of local residents who are certain they've seen a big cat roaming around at one time or another over the last few decades - even as close as Badsey Spar! **But is there any truth to the claims?**

According to the British Big Cats Society, they have received hundreds of sightings across the Midlands in the last eight years, and experts say these animals - if they do exist - could be the result of big cats being released into the wild around 45 years ago.

Before strict laws were introduced over the ownership of large cats in 1976, animals such as panthers were popular and prized pets. But, when the law changed and expensive licences were required, many of them had to be let go.

Could these cats have been breeding in the British countryside this whole time?

What are your thoughts on this long-standing village tale? Have you seen this local beast for yourself, or are you sceptical about the whole conversation?

Send your thoughts and opinions on the subject to us at badsecn@gmail.com or post them to 32 Seward Road, Badsey, and we'll feature them in next month's edition!



Soapbox Success!

The August Bank holiday brought about another successful event for the village, The Badsey Soapbox Races!

There was a great atmosphere to the day as our competitors raced down Knowle Hill to achieve glory. A HUGE thank you all who made the effort to attend. These events cannot thrive without support, and to see crowds of faces at the event was affirmation of what an incredible community we are. A statement from the Parish Council read: *"Very many thanks to everyone involved in any way with the 2023 Soap Box Races - organisers, everyone (and there were a lot of you!) who helped in so many ways over the weekend, the residents on Knowle Hill and High Street, all our intrepid racers, the St. John Ambulance team, Dowdeswell's Bar, Gin Bar, the Sports and Recreation club for the BBQ, Cliff the Ice Cream man, the staff at the Wheatsheaf Inn and Walter's for hosting Race HQ."*

Top 3 results for 2023 are as follows

SENIOR DIVISION

- 1 JAMES SAVAGE - TEAM SAVAGE**
Time of 1:02.17 (MPH 23.39)
- 2 DAVE WEBSTER - THE BADSEY BUG**
Time of 1:03.19 (MPH 23.01)
- 3 PAUL FOWKES - JASON AND THE AGA NUTS**
Time of 1:03.28 (MPH 22.98)

JUNIOR DIVISION

- 1 OLLIE MARSHALL - THE AVON ATOM**
Time of 1:07.12 (MPH 21.66)
- 2 HARRY RICHARDSON - THE GLO KART**
Time of 1:17.10 (MPH 18.86)
- 3 JAYDEN ALLISON - WINGIN' IT**
Time of 2:03.13 (MPH 11.81)



Event photographs kindly provided by Tony Bennett

Puzzler



Below are eight descriptions of various spooky objects or creatures that tend to be associated with Halloween. Can you figure out what (or who) each one is referring to?

1. A common staple in a witch's kitchen
.....
2. Often crafted to light the way
.....
3. An arachnophobe's worst nightmare
.....
4. The monstrous result of a scientific blunder
.....
5. A soul or spirit that's always being busted
.....
6. It sees things from a different angle, and lives its life in darkness
.....
7. A child's prize for trick-or-treating
.....
8. An immortal being invisible only to himself
.....

Badsey Society Event

Why did 150 Londoners move from the East End to Chipping Campden in the early 1900s?

Who were the Russells of Broadway?

How can I solve my Christmas present list?

Want to know the answers to the above and more?

Then come to **Badsey Community & Sports Club** on **Friday 20th October at 7.30pm** for a Badsey Society talk by Gill Woods on "The Arts and Crafts Movement in the Cotswolds".

The talk is **free for Badsey Society members**, and only **£2.50 for non-members**. The bar will be open for refreshments.

For more information about Badsey Society's research and events visit www.badseysociety.uk



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Badsey Film Club



Luvvies!

The next film will take place on **Saturday 7th October**

We will be showing:

FISHERMANS FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL (12a)

This is the sequel to the 2019 film Fisherman's Friends; the film follows the continuing career of the Fisherman's Friends up to their performance at Glastonbury.

The film starts at 8pm in the backroom at the Wheatsheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval. For more information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539

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In August, Gary Farmer of Vale Landscape Heritage Trust gave us a fascinating talk about this charitable organisation which is hardly known in our area. They are doing marvellous work with benefactors and volunteers to create wildflower meadows and bring back life to those orchards that have not been removed.

We carried on the theme of nature at our September meeting with a talk by Fiona Gibson about bees, their life and needs, how we use their products and our love of honey. We found out just how important those buzzing insects are to human life, and how we can encourage them to come to our gardens. As usual, the meeting will end with tea/coffee and cake.

This month, our meeting will be on **October 11th, starting at 7:15pm at Badsey Remembrance Hall**. This will be our Annual General Meeting.

Alongside the statutory business, our WI Advisor will give a short talk about how the Badsey WI is run and its relationship to the county Worcestershire federation. **Would you like to find out more?**

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

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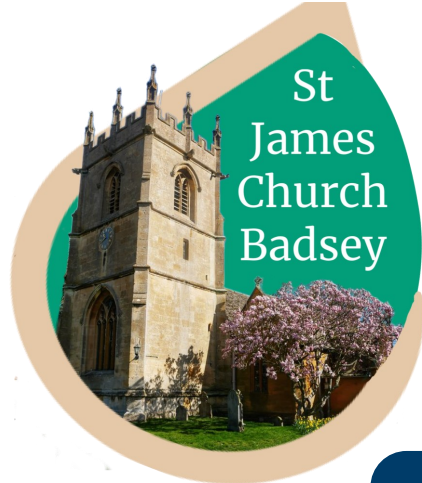
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Mrs. Margaret Pye Tel. 833537
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache Tel. 839464

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:
Administrator
Safeguarding Advocate:

Lisa Farmer Tel. 40401
Faith Quinn: eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com
Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

Success for the German Partnership Benefice Visit

The eight guests from our partnership churches arrived with us late on Thursday 10th August

Friday was a visit to Worcester Cathedral Library to look at a fascinating set of books and documents, followed by a guided tour in German of the Cathedral then lunch in the Cathedral café. Afterwards, it was time for shopping and to look round the city before returning for a restful evening with the hosts.

Saturday was a trip to the National Trust Croome Park, which was much enjoyed and then to Pershore Abbey for a tour and worship, before returning for an evening BBQ for which summer thankfully played ball.

On Sunday 13th August there was a special Benefice Eucharist in both languages at South Littleton church, led by the Archdeacon of Worcester Robert Jones. At the end of the service a gift of an engraved Perspex tray was presented to us to mark 25 years of our partnership.

In the afternoon, we ventured to Evesham for a talk on Evesham Abbey and the new Heritage Gardens not yet open to the public by a member of the Trust. In the evening, our guests and hosts all met together for an evening farewell meal. Once again, the weather was kind and let us sit outdoors in the peace of the countryside.

On Monday we gathered at Badsey Church for a farewell service, and a talk on the medieval graffiti in the building followed by goodbyes and the promise of a visit to Germany next year.

Thanks to all who took part in helping and organising this visit, especially the hosts!

For more information on our Partnership please contact Alex Christison at xtison13@gmail.com or 01386 830367, or look on the Benefice website www.eastvaleavon.com.



Dates for the diary:

Harvest supper at St. James Badsey: SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH - 6:30PM- 7:30PM
Harvest supper will be held in church, details to follow.

December Band Concert: FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH - 6:30PM- 7:30PM
Avonbank Band in concert in Badsey church, details to follow.

Services this month

Please see noticeboard in Church Porch for more services within the Benefice. For more information about any of our churches please visit www.eastvaleavon.com

Please do take the opportunity to share fellowship and enjoy worship in any of the parish churches in our benefice

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	Morning Praise/ Family Service	Eucharist	
01 OCTOBER Trinity 17 - Harvest		Offenham (Eucharist) Cleeve Prior Harvest (Eucharist) Badsey Family Harvest (non eucharistic) Bretforton Family Harvest (non eucharistic)	
08 OCTOBER Trinity 18	Bretforton	South Littleton Cleeve Prior (Morning Praise)	
15 OCTOBER Trinity 189	Offenham	Badsey Cleeve Prior	
22 OCTOBER Trinity 20	South Littleton	Badsey Cleeve Prior (Matins)	
29 OCTOBER Last after Trinity		Benefice Service Badsey Archdeacon Nikki	4.00pm Badsey All Souls Memorial Service

Jane Neill's Nature Notes



In October, the sun still has warmth but the days are shorter and the nights cooler. The wild flowers are diminished, but the ivy thrives giving the bees welcome nectar. The leaves turn brown, red, orange or yellow before they fall to the ground, adding a valuable mulch to the soil. Amongst these damp leaves and vegetation, snails lie hidden. Snails are shelled gastropods with a muscular foot, whereas slugs (also gastropods) have a soft shell hidden underneath their flesh, making them more flexible.

Snails come in a variety of colours and sizes, and can live up to three years. The Roman edible snail, being much larger, lives up to ten years and is a protected species found mainly on chalkland. The shells of all snails in Europe coil right-handed, and they lay up to 80 eggs in the soil.

As gardeners know only too well, snails are herbivorous and will be hibernating from now until April. Song thrushes and hedgehogs are their main predators, and both are welcome visitors to our gardens. The song thrush breaks the snail shell open on a stone called an anvil. Now that is a useful garden tool!

Wickhamford Gardening Club

We had our Summer Show in August with an amazing amount of very good exhibits, which were judged by Tom Locke who once again had a very difficult task. We saw Sheila Taylor winning the show & Lesley Dingley a close second. However, everyone that entered needs a mention as there were some amazing exhibits. We were also very pleased with the attendance; as of late our numbers have increased and hopefully we will continue in this direction.

Our September meeting was with Paul Williams, a local horticulturist from Shipston-on-Stour who, after leaving agricultural college, was head gardener at Bourton House for 19 years before branching out on his own. His talk was be on planting a container for autumn & winter colour.

As always, visitors and potential new members are always assured of a warm welcome. If you need any further information please feel free to call on 01386831002.

Computer Club

If you need help or advice with using your computer, why not drop in to one of the computer group sessions? They run on **alternate Monday mornings at 10:30am 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.

Throughout autumn, we shall meet on:

- Monday 2nd October
- Monday 16th October
- Monday 30th October
- Monday 13th November

For further information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831 539 or email alantutton@talktalk.net.

Each week we will give little hints and tips to help improve you get the best out of your computer, and give a little more depth in how to use specific applications.



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Badsey & Aldington Parish Council

The Parish Council can be contacted by:

Email **badseypc@yahoo.co.uk**
Phone **07591 533557** (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm)
Website **www.badseypc.uk**
Post **Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham, WR11 8RW**



1. How long have you been on the Parish Council?

I was co-opted to the Council in June 2014 and subsequently re-elected at three successive local polls, so I have been a Parish Councillor for a little over nine years.

2. What post on the Parish Council do you hold?

I am currently Vice-Chair of the Council.

3. What sub-committees are you on?

I serve on Committees for Planning, Events and Land.

4. What's your favourite village event?

My favourite event is the Christmas gathering, which has developed over the years into a really special village occasion.

5. How long have you lived in the parish of Badsey & Aldington?

I moved to Badsey from Essex in September 1984 when I took up a post at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, and have lived in Badsey Fields Lane ever since. Both my children (now long since grown up) went to Badsey First School.

6. Where were you born?

I was born in Sunderland and lived there until I went to university, then work took me to the south east before bringing me to Worcestershire.

7. What's your favourite meal?

I find it very difficult to pick a favourite meal, as I eat most dishes with enthusiasm - but if pressed I would say pan-fried duck breast with a glass of Syrah to go with it.

8. What's your favourite holiday destination?

I have always enjoyed holidays in rural France, where the way of life as well as the cuisine really appeals to me. We shall be back again in 2024!

9. How would you describe your music taste?

I am a lover of classical music, though I do not have any instrumental skills.

10. What's your claim to fame?

I have remained a loyal supporter of Sunderland AFC over many years through thick and thin (mainly thin!) which must surely qualify as a claim to fame?

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GET INVOLVED WITH PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITY:

- Attend Parish Council meetings - see above for future dates and times.
- Get involved by volunteering - you may have a special area of interest such as play spaces or funding, contact PC clerk on the details above!
- Involve the Parish Council on groups or associations within the village so that the Parish Council can keep you updated with relevant information.
- Have a look at the agendas for upcoming Parish Council meetings - share your views on issues affecting Badsey and Aldington. Each meeting has a public forum at the start, to voice your view - alternatively if you are unable to attend in person you can write, phone or email the Clerk or a Councillor using the contact details above.

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday 18th October
Wednesday 15th November

Meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Remembrance Hall.

Parishioners are welcome to raise matters that they wish to bring to the attention of the PC at the beginning of the meeting. After that, they can stay to observe the meeting

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