



Deck the halls with boughs of holly!
CHRISTMAS EVENTS AROUND BADSEY...

Badsey Parish Council:

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT!

This year's Christmas Event will take place on **Friday 15th December.**

The event will start with a lantern parade led by children from Badsey First School.

The parade will be accompanied by real-life reindeer, and the Badsey Brass Band will provide musical support for traditional carol singing.

We also hope to have a special arrangement for a large, jolly gentleman dressed in red! If he can manage to accommodate us in his busy schedule, he will be distributing selection boxes to the children to celebrate the festive season.

Plus, to give the evening a Christmas market feel, we would like to invite local small gift sellers to set up their stalls for the evening. If you are interested, please contact Badsey PC Clerk Andrea Evans on either 07591533557 or badseypc@yahoo.co.uk.

Avonbank Band Christmas Concert

Come along and celebrate the festive season with us at St James Church, Badsey on **Friday 8th December at 7:30pm.**

Admission is £8 (£4 for children under 12), and includes both wine and mince pies. Tickets can be purchased from the following people:

Yvonne Haynes (01386 830063)

Annette & Chris Robbins (01386 831004)

Anne McCombie (01386 640801)

Elizabeth Bolland (01386 830638)

Badsey Community & Sports Club :

Badsey Community & Sports Club have a whole day and night's worth of festive activities for everyone of all ages to take part in!

Be at the Club on **Saturday 16th December for...**

CHRISTMAS EVENT & SANTA'S GROTTO!

From 12pm we will have multiple stalls for adults to browse, and plenty of arts and crafts opportunities for children! Plus, for just £5, children can meet Santa himself and receive a very special Christmas gift! Get in the festive spirit with us!

CHRISTMAS BINGO

It's that time of year again! All kinds of prizes will be up for grabs at our annual Christmas bingo, so make sure you bring your dabbers! Please arrive at 7:30pm to have your eyes down at 8pm.

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An introduction to our new priest in charge - Joanna Baxter-Fielding

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome that we received at the service at Offenham last week, and as we walk around the area. David and I are so pleased to be here, and are very much looking forward to all that lies ahead. It has been such a long wait before I could come, and I am so grateful to the East Vale ministry team and colleagues who have been taking services in the meantime.

I am originally from North Devon, where my school friends were from the local farms (beef or dairy mostly), so the seasonal rhythms of rural life are very familiar to me. After university, I worked for a couple of years as a secondary school teacher in a Methodist-run secondary school in Zimbabwe before returning to the UK and the Midlands, where David and I raised our children and I worked as a Careers Adviser in Northamptonshire. I also trained as a Lay Reader and was taking services in Leicester Diocese for some years.

In 2004 we moved to Dunedin, South Island of New Zealand, where we had 15 very happy years. I joined David (a professor in Development Economics) at Otago University where I found work as an administrator for some years before returning to Careers Guidance work, this time with adults, helping them to retrain and find new direction after life-changing injuries.

In 2012 I was ordained, and by 2014 I was serving as vicar for a large rural area (the Otago Peninsula) on the outskirts of the city. As far as I know, I am the only vicar in the world to have had an albatross colony in her parish; we used to ring the church bell when they returned to the headland each Spring.

In 2019 we followed our daughter Anna (who was a postgraduate in London) back to the UK to be near our families again. There were also so many aspects of life in Britain that I missed - people, places, ancient buildings carrying such deep history - and being able to get mushy peas with fish and chips! David was offered a post at Manchester University, and we moved to West Yorkshire where I have served as Associate Priest in the Colne Valley near Huddersfield for the last 3 years, giving me some familiarity with working within the English parish church world again!

We lived near Marsden Moor, with beef, dairy and sheep farming neighbours (can you see a pattern here.....?) who became our good friends too. We enjoyed our time in Yorkshire, but I saw the advertisement for the East Vale vacancy and...here we are!

"My lot has fallen in a fair and pleasant land" (Psalm 16 v6) and I keep thinking of this verse as I explore the Vale. It is so beautiful here, and I am so pleased that I have been able to come and share and explore this shared life with you across our parishes.

Advent and Christmas are just around the corner, with all its special seasonal events and services. Please come and say hello if you see me at your church, in the school, shop, or out and about (with or without Lilyru our cockerpoo). As your Priest in Charge, I hold you all in my prayers each day, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks and months.

I wish you an expectant Advent full of hope for the future, and a joyful Christmas as we celebrate God's Son dwelling among us as Love, here with God's people in this beautiful land.

God bless you,
Joanna




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Admiring the aurora By Stargazer

One February, about ten years ago, we took a short break to Iceland staying in Reykjavik and taking trips out around the island. We did all the tourist trips that included visiting the hot pools where you can bathe in the open air where the temperature was about freezing, yet the water was as warm as a bath. We also took the Golden Circle coach tour, visiting the spectacular rift valley where Europe touches America, the original named Geyser and the magnificent Gullfoss Falls that were frozen at that time.

However, the highlight of the tour for me was an evening coach trip to a car park at a service station about 10 miles outside Reykjavik. There was nothing special about the site - in fact it was quite unspectacular - yet the sky was dark enough to see a spectacularly clear night sky. In time, as predicted by the tour guide, the sky changed colour and was filled with wonderful dancing curtains of green and red.

We were there to see the Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis, and the evening did not disappoint. Apparently, it had failed to appear for the previous two weeks but that night the display was bright enough to be seen in Reykjavik, despite the street-lights.

However, this year I could have saved my money because the Aurora has been seen as far south as Cornwall, and there have been many photos pasted on social media of the display above the Vale of Evesham. In the coming months it is possible that the display could continue sporadically, reaching a peak in late 2025, so there should be many opportunities to see the display from our own back gardens.

The Aurora is caused by charged particles being ejected at very high velocity from the surface of the sun. These particles are thrown out from the surface of the sun by breaking magnetic lines from areas that can be seen as sunspots. These magnetic storms rise in strength and frequency on a roughly eleven-year cycle. When the ejected particles are projected in the direction of the earth, they are deflected and captured by the earth's magnetic field. If there was no magnetic field, it is quite probable that over millions of years the atmosphere would have been stripped from our planet by the solar storms, and there would have been no oceans and no life.

The redirected solar particles follow the lines of the earth's magnetic field and meet the atmosphere at very high altitudes, causing the thin atmospheric gases to glow. The most common colour that you can expect to see is green, produced by the interaction of solar particles with oxygen. These reactions take place high up above our heads at altitudes between 60 miles and 150 miles up in the atmospheric layer, known as the Thermosphere or Ionosphere. If the incoming solar particles have very high energy, they will react with oxygen at even higher altitudes and produce red colours. At lower altitudes, below 60 miles, the reactions occur with nitrogen and give off blue colours, but these only appear at times of particularly high energy solar storms.

There are several websites that can be used to predict Aurora displays and particularly those that are visible in the UK, such as AuroraWatch UK status (lancs.ac.uk). The next time we have a clear night, check to see if an Aurora is possible. If you are lucky, you will see the beautiful multicoloured dancing display of the Aura Borealis.



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Would you like to get involved in the community speed watch?



What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes are coordinated by the police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enables local people to take an active role in road safety and make their community safer.

The aim of CSW is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible. It aims to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, reduce speed in areas of concern, re-educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their neighbourhood.

How does CSW work?

At specified safe locations, volunteers monitor the speed of passing vehicles with a handheld speed detection device. Offending vehicles' details are recorded on a log sheet, along with the make/model and registration number of the vehicle and the speed recorded by the handheld device.

Log sheets must be submitted to West Mercia Police via email within seven days, and warning letters will be sent to the registered keepers with advice on safer driving. Schemes will be evaluated to ensure they are having a positive impact on vehicle speed, driver behaviour and community reassurance.

Which communities can have a scheme?

There are a number of criteria which must be met before a scheme will be established:

- Speeding must have been identified as a community priority
- Active speed enforcement operations must not already be underway in the area by West Mercia Police
- There must be at least six volunteers in each CSW scheme
- Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers
- The area must have a 30 or 40 mph speed restriction

Can anyone become a volunteer?

Schemes are open to anyone aged 17 or over, and volunteers will only be accepted onto a scheme once appropriate checks have been carried out. Volunteers must be able to make a regular commitment to carry out the activity, and must adhere to the scheme's safety rules at all times. Although reasonable adjustments can be made, volunteers should be mindful of the physical nature of the role.

Want to get involved?

For more information on Community Speed Watch and how to become a volunteer, contact badseypc@yahoo.co.uk or telephone: 07591533557.

(Badsey & Aldington Parish Council has a zero tolerance policy to protect its staff and councillors).

Badsey Film Club



The next film will take place on **Saturday 2nd December at 7:30pm**, slightly earlier than usual.

We will be showing:

OPPENHEIMER (15)

The story focuses on studies, his direction of the Manhattan Project during World War II, and his eventual fall from grace due to his 1954 security hearing.

The film **starts at 7:30pm** in the backroom of the Wheatsheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval. A new programme for the new year will be available from the beginning of December. **For more information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539**

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

Sadly we don't have enough space this edition for a puzzler! Hopefully it will return in January. But in the meantime...

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER'S BADSEY PUZZLER:

1. Guido
2. 1605
3. The Houses of Parliament
4. St Catherine of Alexandria
5. 150mph
6. Ashmolean Museum in Oxford
7. King James I of England



Jane Neill's Nature Notes



December harbours the shortest, darkest days of the year with frost, ice and snow - but it can be mild, too.

For me, December means turkeys! In 1958 my mother became the only turkey breeder in Warwickshire. She started in a small way with a flock of bronze turkeys, but by 1994 when my parents retired they were preparing up to 1,700 white turkeys for the Christmas table, supplying both butchers and private customers.



Turkeys are native to North America and Mexico. There are eight recognised heritage breeds, including the beautiful Royal Palm turkey that we were surprised to see in a pen in Atlanta Zoo! A male is called a stag and the female a hen, and all turkeys "gobble".



Turkeys are natural ground feeders, like the pheasant, partridge and grouse, and they only fly far enough to roost and escape danger. The indigenous natives domesticated the turkey about 2,000 years ago, and it is believed the first turkeys came to Britain in 1526. Henry VIII was the first monarch to have turkey for Christmas! However, goose remained the favourite choice until the Victorian Royal family revived the tradition.



I know we don't see turkeys in the wild but I cannot imagine Christmas without turkey. **Merry Christmas!**

**Are you part of a local business? Maybe you run your own?
Either way, we want to hear from you!**

We currently have space for new advertisers in the Community News for next year, and for a payment of £190 you can place an ad in our magazine for the whole year.

Spaces are limited, so this will be on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information or to request an ad place, please email us at badseycn@gmail.com

Computer Club

This past month we have been looking at computer basics such as how to switch on your computer and how to start programmes. If you need help or advice with using your computer, **why not drop in to one of the computer group sessions 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. Also, we now have spare laptop computers that you can use during the sessions if you can't bring your own.

We shall meet only once in December, on Monday 11th before taking a short break for Christmas.

**In the new year we shall meet only on:
Monday 8th January & Monday 15th January**

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. **For further information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 or email alantutton@talktalk.net.**

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 Mr. Alan & Mrs. Joyce Bache Tel. 839464

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

Notice of work in the churchyard

Wychavon District Council, in the Parks and Greenspace section of Client Services, have taken on responsibility for the churchyard and the following will be carried out in the next few weeks:

- Repairs to the north wall
- A tree survey and safety inspection of headstones

Notices with Wychavon's contact details are to be put on any headstones that have issues and Wychavon will try to inform relatives beforehand, but will need to get sympathetic works carried out on any that are deemed unsafe in a timely way. Any queries should be directed to Parks and Greenspace, Wychavon District Council, 01386 565438 or www.wychavon.gov.uk.



A new Vicar in our benefice

A welcome service for Reverend Joanna Fielding as Priest in Charge was held on the 5th of November at Offenham Church. The service was presided over by Right Reverend Dr. John Inge Bishop of Worcester and the Venerable Robert Jones Archdeacon of Worcester. Others that welcomed Jo were District and Parish Councillors and Head Teachers of the Benefice. There were also clergy from the Deanery and a Pastor from our link to churches in Germany.

The Parishes of the Benefice look forward to working together with her as she brings her gifts of ministry to us.

Alex Christison



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

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

Date	9.30am	11.00am	Other Services
	Morning Praise/ Family Service	Eucharist	
03 DEC Advent Sunday	Badsey	Offenham Cleeve Prior (matins)	4:00pm Benefice Advent Carol Service- Bretforton
10 DEC Advent 2	Bretforton	South Littleton Cleeve Prior (morning praise)	
17 DEC Advent 3	Offenham	Cleeve Prior	4:00pm Carol service - Badsey Carol service - Bretforton
24 DEC Christmas Eve		3:30pm South Littleton Carols 4:00pm Offenham Carols & Crib 4:00pm Bretforton Crib All Eucharist Services at 9:00pm Badsey Bretforton by extension Offenham	
25 DEC Christmas Day	9:30am South Littleton (Eucharist)	11:00am Cleeve Prior	10:30am Family Service Badsey
31 DEC Christmas 2		Benefice Service Bretforton	

A word from our licensed minister

December seems to have come round so quickly, and Christmas will soon be upon us. I grew up in a Christian home, so that meant church Services, carols, nativities and Sunday School parties. There will be Carol Services and Crib Services in the Benefice as usual this year, together with Eucharistic Celebrations. Details will be advertised.

The way that Christmas is celebrated has changed somewhat in my lifetime for many people. There are now office parties, music, dancing and drinking – a noisy time! The shops are usually only closed on Christmas day and the sales start on Boxing Day – very early if you want the best bargains.

I guess that many of us will be spending time with our families, enjoying Christmas food, fellowship and fun, but the season will be difficult for those families experiencing hard times, either financially, with relationships or homelessness. Many are also in war torn countries this year. Let us not forget them.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born in an inn - the stable, actually, so I imagine that would be quite noisy, as well as the singing of the angels! In spite of that, there would be a feeling of love, peace and gentleness, as well as joy at a new birth. I hope that we can all find some peace and joy among the business of Christmas.

The stable was visited by shepherds who brought their gift of a lamb, and later by the Magi (wise men) with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Perhaps we know someone who will be lonely or sad this Christmas and needs a gift from us. It doesn't have to be expensive; one of the best gifts we can give is the precious gift of our time. Time to show we care can bring a little joy, peace and gentleness to someone who needs it. As the baby Jesus grew up he spent his short life giving his time, his peace and his healing to everyone he met. We give thanks for the example he set us.

I pray that you will have a happy Christmas, and find some joy, peace and kindness - as well as a little noise!

Every blessing,

Joyce Bache
Licensed Minister

We had our AGM at the October meeting. Business having been discussed and a new committee formed, we had time for talking with our friends. The monthly competition was for 'any craft'. Our WI advisors made the decision that the knitted doll celebrating a friend's promotion to head of her golf team was the best. And what a worthy winner it was - the doll was fully dressed in golfing clothes and carried a knitted golf bag within which was knitted clubs and even tiny knitted balls!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

On 9th November, our meeting was held at Wayside Farm Shop in Wickhamford. This was a change to our usual venue so that, after business, our speaker Tom Cumberland was able to instruct and demonstrate the manufacture of sausages. The evening ended with a sausage supper - it was an event that was enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas meeting will be held on 13th December at Badsey Remembrance Hall. Christmas decorations will bedeck the hall, thanks to the Hall's committee. We will decorate the tables and members will bring a sharing plate of food. No instructions on type of food is given, and yet we always have a brilliant variety, both savoury and sweet. **If you would like to come along, please give our Secretary, Yvonne Haynes, a call on 01386 830063.**



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Phone **07591 533557** (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm)
Website **www.badseypc.uk**

Dates of next PC meetings are:
Wednesday 20th December / Wednesday 17th January

Wickhamford Gardening Club

In November we welcomed Mr Chris Small who talked to us about how to get the best exhibits for shows, what the judges look for and how they decide what is the perfect or near-perfect specimen. He also showed us lots of slides which included many delightful flowers and vegetables. Chris has been involved with lots of local shows in the Cotswolds for about thirty years, and he is very passionate about judging and was very encouraging to us all about just having a go - even though sometimes we don't think what we've got is good enough, as it very often is!

We will have had our AGM by the time you read this report; this includes our Christmas celebrations after the business has concluded.

Just a reminder to all that we don't meet in December. Our first meeting of 2024 will be in January, where our speaker will be the very popular Adrian James.

Happy New Year to all our members and our many visitors that we've had over the past twelve months from all the committee.

See you all in the New Year.

A year of new editors! How have we fared?

We can't believe it's gone so quickly, but it's been almost a year since we became the new editors of the Badsey & Aldington Community News!

We've had so much fun bringing you all the latest and greatest news from around the parish, and we hope you've enjoyed the content we've brought to you so far. But we're always on the hunt for feedback, so why not let us know your thoughts?

What have you loved the most about your Community News this year? Is there anything you'd like to see more of? Anything you'd like to add?
Send all your messages and comments to us at badseycn@gmail.com, or post them to 32 Seward Road, Badsey, and we'll feature them in the first edition of 2024!

We thank you all for your interest in the Community News thus far, and we can't wait to continue bringing you more fun-filled content in the coming months. See you in the New Year!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Jo Bennett & Louise Knight
Editors



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