



Badsey and Aldington

Community News

Part of the Benefice of East Vale and Avon Villages

January 2024

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

How do you feel about New Year’s resolutions? Are you a maker/keeper/ breaker of those promises to yourself – or do you prefer to sidestep the whole thing altogether as it is too much to cope with?

However you feel about it, the beginning of a new year can be a good time to take stock of our lives, to think about what we want to change, or to value the patterns that we have already. Some of us find striking out in a new direction exciting and challenging – and some of us...not so much!

Why is it that trying new things can be so hard sometimes? As children, we learn that January is named for Janus, the Roman god, who presided over times of change – like this time when we move from the old year into the new. He is usually represented with two faces – one facing forward into the future, and the other back into the past. Putting changes into practice (like doing things to ensure our new resolutions take root and become part of our everyday life) can be really difficult. Why? Because we are creatures of habit, and we bring our past memories, relationships and stories with us as we walk into our future.

So, how do we make successful transitions and become who we really want to be? One answer is that positive change is often more successful if we have effective help and support from people who love us or who offer assistance as our friends, or from within organisations. People who come to walk alongside us, who encourage us and keep offering hope that we CAN do this! As I get to know this community across East Vale, meeting people in our churches, schools and our beautiful villages, I am already seeing so many ways in which people support and encourage each other, in ways that enable us all to feel that we belong, that we can be heard and seen. I hear worries about the difficulties of meeting greater demands with fewer resources - but I am also hearing a hopefulness for our future, which is really encouraging.

So I would like to ask: as you think about the past year, what are your hopes for your life and this year ahead? So many of us are hesitant about change, or we feel unsure about making decisions that affect our lives. But when we are honest about those feelings, it can help to know that God understands. “Do not be afraid, for I am with you always” are words that God says to people in so many different (and difficult) times throughout the Bible. And if words on a page (or a screen) are not enough, and you would like to hear about that assurance of God’s love and support for yourself, you can usually find a whole bunch of people who have experienced it for themselves and happy to talk about it in your local church congregation! You can see details of our services on our website at www.eastvaleavon.com.

I wish you a very happy and blessed New Year, full of hope for the future, whatever lies ahead.

The Rev. Joanna Fielding
 Priest in Charge, East Vale & Avon Benefice
 Tel: 07561823135 & 01386339669 | Email: Joanna.fielding@hotmail.com

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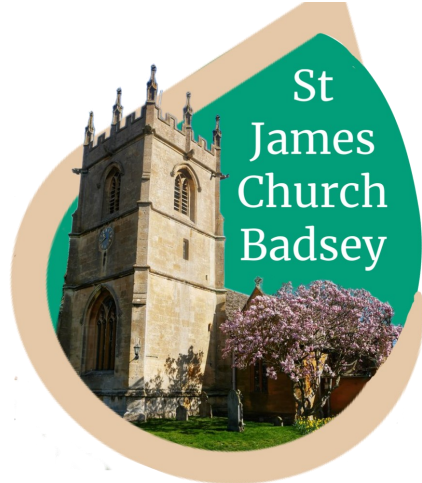
 

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Churchwardens:
Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE
Mr. Chris Smith

Tel. 830638 Email: lizral.bolland@btinternet.com
Tel. 830217 Email: smithvce@msn.com

Readers:

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

The Revd. Joanna Fielding - Priest in Charge of the East Vale and Avon Benefice
(Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, The Littletons & Cleeve Prior)

Jo can be contacted on **07561823135** (WhatsApp & phone) or **01386 339669**,
Email **joanna.fielding@hotmail.com**
And at The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ

Day off is usually Fridays.

Please do get in touch with Jo directly for any enquiries about weddings/baptisms/funerals across our group of parishes or alternatively you can contact our administrator (see above for details)

St James Church, Badsey is in need of someone who could help out with playing the organ for church services - could this be you?



Even if you are not available every Sunday, we would love to hear from you!
For more information or to apply, please contact our Churchwardens or email us at badseycn@gmail.com.

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

**Cleeve Prior services not available at time of going to press*

Date	09:30am Morning Praise	11:00am Eucharist
7th January EPIPHANY	BADSEY	OFFENHAM
14th January EPIPHANY 2	BRETFORTON	SOUTH LITTLETON
21st January EPIPHANY 3	OFFENHAM	BADSEY
28th January CANDLEMAS	SOUTH LITTLETON	BRETFORTON (with baptism)

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Did you know?...

Badsey High Street was once a prominent watering hole!

A roadside pool (close to the house known as Pool House) provided a much-needed beverage for cattle and horses passing through the village in the 1870. It was erected after local farmer William Byrd was asked to tidy the area up and fit a pump and water trough at his own expense.

However, by 1897 the site was in need of repair. After an unsuccessful attempt to persuade Evesham Rural District Council to assume responsibility for the facility, the pump and trough were dismantled and a drinking fountain was built in its place.

The King George V Fountain has stood in the High Street since 1912 and is now obsolete, but provides a significant historical landmark for people to admire.

For more fun and engaging historical facts like this about our parish, feel free to visit the Badsey Society website at www.badseysociety.uk/.

Are you interested in trees and would be willing to be a volunteer Tree Warden?

Worcestershire County Council has worked with the Tree Council for the last 33 years to support the Parish Tree Warden Scheme throughout the county. Countless volunteers have fulfilled the role over three decades and many parishes have undoubtedly had their Treescape enriched as a result. During Covid the scheme was suspended in terms of volunteers going out on Tree Warden duty and the scheme has been rather dormant since. So we are now looking to reinvigorate the Tree Wardens in Worcestershire.

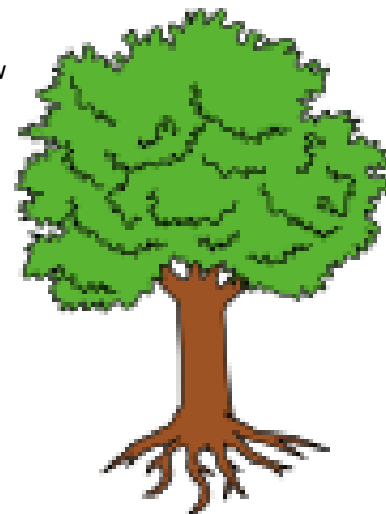
Our Tree Wardens are local tree champions who plant, look after and stand up for the trees in their patch. Whether you want to get your hands in the earth and plant trees, raise awareness about trees in your local community, or simply be the eyes, ears and voice for the trees down your street, you have what it takes to be a Tree Warden.

What Tree Wardens do?

Tree Wardens plant, protect and promote their local trees.

No training or experience in tree management is needed – just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. Some of the projects Tree Warden groups have done include:

- Arranging local tree planting days
- Pruning, watering caring for local trees
- Working with local authorities to plant & care for street trees
- Rejuvenating local woodlands
- Raising funds and finding land for tree planting projects
- Going into schools to talk about the value of trees.



For more information, please contact the parish clerk on: 07591533557 or email: badseypc@yahoo.co.uk

The Medieval Graffiti of St James Church, Badsey - a Talk by Shirley Tutton

In the summer of 2022, three members of the Badsey Society - Shirley Tutton, Helen Green and Kerry Moreton undertook a photographic survey of the medieval graffiti in the local church. Come and here about what they found, and what the graffiti tells us about the beliefs of medieval people.

Friday 12 January 2024 at 7.30p.m. at Badsey Community and Sports Club

Members free, non – members £2.50



Friendly reminder!

Please remember to scoop your dog's poop! We are an amazing community, please do your bit to keep our village safe and clean. Before you leave with your dog, please make sure you have enough poop bags, and use the designated waste bins around the village.

Our November meeting was held at Wayside Farm Shop in Wickhamford, for an instruction and demonstration of the making of sausages by Tom Cumberland. He described how circumstances had led him and his wife to the Farm Shop, and

the development of flavouring the minced sausage meat to create his own variety. We enjoyed a sausage, mash and gravy supper and this writer can confirm that they were extremely good! As usual, the meeting ended with tea/coffee.

Our Christmas meeting was held on 13th December at Badsey Remembrance Hall. Christmas decorations bedecked the hall, thanks to the Hall's committee. We decorated the tables and members brought a sharing plate of food. Ruby entertained us with her lovely voice and brought festive cheer by leading Members in a singalong of Christmas Carols.

And now we are in the New Year, Badsey WI wishes everyone a Healthy and Peaceful 2024.

Our next meeting will be on 10th January at Badsey Remembrance Hall at 7:15 pm.

This time we are having a members meeting to socialise, and perhaps play a board game or two - a more relaxed meeting to recover after the busy Christmas period!

Our February meeting on 14th February has a talk by Adrian James, a popular local speaker who will talk about 'Lundy Island, a place on its own'.

If you would like to come along, please give our Secretary, Yvonne Haynes, a call on 01386 830063.

Computer Club

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.

Over the next two months we shall meet only on:

- **Monday 8th January**
- **Monday 22nd January**
- **Monday 5th February**
- **Monday 29th February**

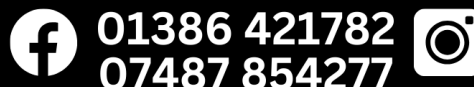
Each week we will give little hints and tips to help improve you get the best out of your computer, and give a little more depth in how to use specific applications. In January we will start at the beginning with what happens when you switch on your computer. Everyone is welcome.

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



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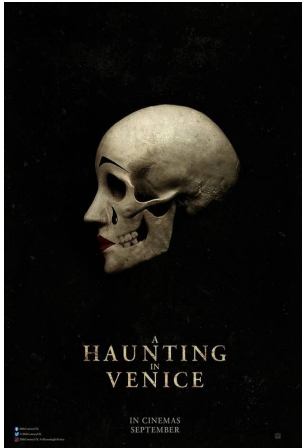
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Badsey Film Club



Luvvies!

The next film will take place on
Saturday 6th January

We will be showing:

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12a)

This is the third movie where Kenneth Branagh has played Poirot, and the other two movies were very enjoyable indeed. This movie is a little darker and spookier, but with an all-star cast it should be as entertaining and gratifying as the other movies in this series.

Date for Your Diary: On 3rd February we will be showing **The Great Escaper**, the final film for both **Glenda Jackson** and **Michael Caine**.

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 Alan Tutton on 01386 831539

The Beavers are back in Badsey!

Does your child love the outdoors and want to learn new skills? Why not sign them up to the Badsey Beavers?

If you have a child aged 6-8 who would like to become a Badsey Beaver (or you're an adult looking to volunteer), come along to the Badsey Scout Hut at WR11 7EZ on Wednesday 17th January from 6pm.

For more information, contact Julie at: heretohelp@scoutshw.org.uk or call 07774667074.



Will the 2024 Badsey Flower Show be your year?

The 2023 Badsey Flower Show was a complete success, and the BFS Committee have already been busy planning next year's Show!

The 2024 Flower Show will take place on Saturday 27th July, and everyone is welcome! But if you'd like to get involved, why not enter one of the Show's classes and have the chance to win first prize!

There are a whole range of categories to enter, including:

- Flowers and Plants
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Domestic/Baking
- Arts and Crafts
- Photography

There are classes for entrants ranging from toddler to senior, so there really is something for everyone! Look out in future issues for more information regarding this year's Show.

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The Hyades in Winter

By Stargazer

The winter's night sky is quite wonderful, and the most magnificent jewel is probably Orion with its super giant stars and nebula. It also acts as a pointer to other equally wonderful stellar objects. If you follow the line of the three stars of Orion's belt up and to the right, you will find a grey sort of smudge surrounding a group of bright stars. This is the Pleiades or Seven Sisters, a star cluster of about 3,000 stars some 444 light years away.

Midway between Orion and the Pleiades you will find the head of the constellation of Taurus, the Bull, with the red/orange star of Aldebaran forming the eye of the Bull. The other four stars making the "V" in the head of Taurus are part of the star Cluster known as The Hyades. This is the closest star cluster to the earth. If you give your eyes a little time to adjust to the night sky, you can just make out this open cluster with the naked eye, and it is even better if you use a pair of binoculars.

The bright star of Aldebaran is not actually part of the cluster, it is just in the same line of view from the point of view of the earth. The Hyades are about 150 light years from the earth, while Aldebaran is only 65 light years away. The Hyades formed as a group of stars about 625 million years ago; the stars are mere youngsters in astronomical terms! This was during the Precambrian Period on earth, before life began on our planet. Since this time, the gravity acting between the stars in the Hyades has thrown the stars apart as they dance around each other.

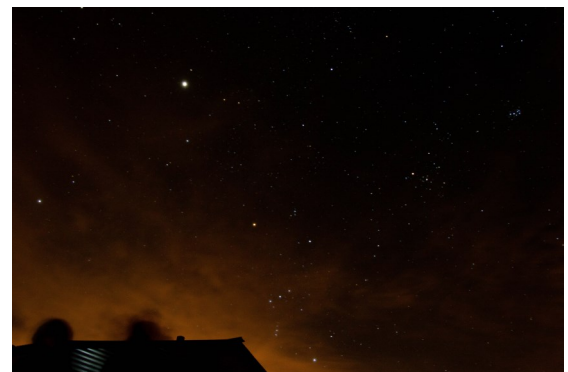
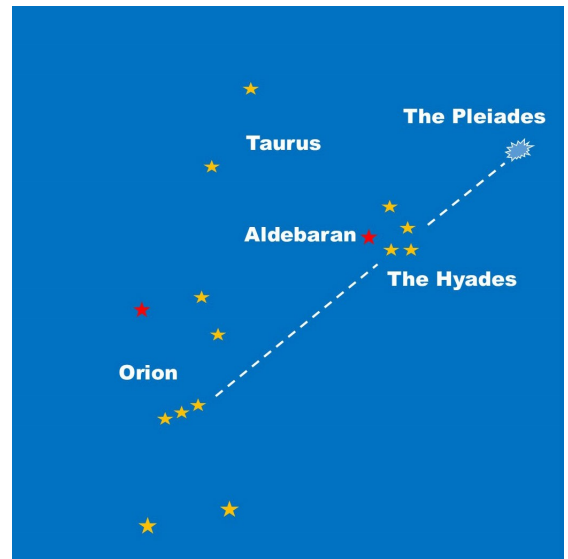
We are used to thinking of gravity as pulling objects together, but in space it can equally throw stars away from each other like sling shots. The result is that, given enough time, many clusters of stars will dissipate. The central core of the star cluster is ten light years across and contains around 500 stars.

The theory describing the formation and evolution of star clusters predicts that there should be an even distribution from small brown dwarfs up to blue super giants. However, the Hyades shows a deficit of both the smaller and larger stars. Analysis of the chemistry of the stars within the cluster shows a distinct commonality, so that it is possible to identify which stars were created as part of the group.

It has been known since 1869 that there are other stars that appear to be the same distance from the earth as the Hyades, and have a similar motion around the centre of the Milky Way. Recent studies have shown that in addition to the 501 stars within the Hyades itself, there are 292 stars up to 550 light years in front of the cluster, and another 237 stars trailing behind by up to 230 light years. The spread of stars from the original cluster have probably been spread out by the gravitational stirring from the barrel shaped centre of the Milky Way.

Recent analysis of the measurements taken from the Gaia Satellite suggests that there could be a at least one black hole within the Hyades, or at least very close to it. If there is a black hole, it would be the closest to the earth.

On a clear cold night, look out for the Hyades and wonder at the beauty of the closest star cluster to the earth, and the possibility of the overpowering nature of the closest black hole.



Orion & Taurus



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Based in Aldington, Alan Wilks Scaffolding is a new Community News advertiser for 2024! They are a family run business with over 45 years' experience in commercial, industrial and domestic scaffolding services, as well as scaffolding towers, temporary roofs and inspections.

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Jane Neill's Nature Notes



“In January if the sun appear, March and April pay full dear” as the old saying goes. Redwings and fieldfares move in great flocks, and the pretty pied wagtails are almost invisible on the ploughed field till they take flight - the most undulating flight of all British birds.



Deep winter frosts are a wonderful time to see nature's patterns and formations as water freezes in puddles, and dramatic icicles form as the rushing water splashes and freezes on the vegetation. It's also a chance to marvel at the intricate pattern of the orb spider's web (the most common of the seven different British webs). Only the female produces two types of silk, sticky and non sticky, a natural protein from spinneret glands from which she weaves the web. She applies an oil to her feet to prevent herself sticking to the web.



The male scavenges food off her web! The silk has a greater tensile strength and elasticity than the equivalent weight of steel. Since Pliny recommended wrapping cuts in cobwebs in 77AD, and Shakespeare



said in “A Midsummers Night's Dream” (c.1594) “if I cut my finger I shall make bold with you”, it has remained a traditional remedy. A great tip if you don't have a plaster handy!

Have you got a new year's resolution?

The start of a new year is always a time where people begin to reflect on the previous year, and set goals for themselves going forward. These come in the form of resolutions, and sometimes they're stuck to throughout the year - but some rarely see the light of day!

Are you planning to implement some changes in your life in 2024? If so, here are some of the most common New Year's resolutions to get the ideas flowing!

TOP 10 MOST COMMON NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

- Exercise more
- Eat healthier
- Lose weight
- Save money
- Spend more time with loved ones
- Spend less time on social media
- Travel more
- Drink less alcohol
- Quit smoking
- Learn a new skill

Tell us about YOUR new years resolution, or if you stuck to your 2023 goal and would love to share your story. Email us at badseyCN@gmail.com



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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**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th January / Wednesday 21st February

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



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

I think about seven years now!

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

I am currently Chair of the Planning Committee

3. What sub-committees are you on?

Planning, Events and Land (specifically Pear Tree Corner), so I am fairly busy!

4. What's your favourite village event?

Christmas! Especially with the lantern parade, reindeer and of course Badsey's Brass Band! It's a magical evening that makes so many people smile.

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

I originally rented in 2004, and moved out and back since 2008. After living in Wolverhampton, Manchester and Glasgow I was nervous about village life - but it's wonderful!

6. Where were you born?

Wolverhampton (a Scottish enclave!)

7. What's your favourite meal?

I enjoy trying foods from around the world, especially spicy food. But we are so lucky in Badsey to have the skills of Peter Zemla in Walter's. He makes a huge range of world food.

8. What's your favourite holiday destination?

The Maldives is amazing, as is Cornwall, but the Isle of Skye is truly breath-taking.

9. How would you describe your music taste?

My favourite band is Big Country, however I have an eclectic music taste and keep up to date by listening to Radio 6! My first concert was Undertones, and my last was Gabriels. My next is either Mysterines or Sprints - depending on the dates of the tours!

10. What's your claim to fame?

I played football in the same Wolves team as Steve Bull at Molineux. Haven't put my boots on since!

We are aiming to return the 'useful numbers' section of the Community News from February.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the Community News, please do let us know! We are keen to hear any feedback that will help improve future editions. Please email BadseyCN@gmail.com or if you would prefer to remain anonymous, please drop a note into 32 Seward Road FAO: Louise Knight

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