



March 2024

Dear Friends,

How connected do you feel with your village community?  
Is this something that is important to you?

For some of us, that sense of connection is really important – for others, not so much. Very often, it is that sense of being known, belonging and being recognised or heard in some way by the people around us that helps us thrive. It can be key in giving us a sense of purpose in our lives. We get it in so many different ways, sometimes in major things like going to special events – or contributing to them – like the Christmas carol singing or the Big Help Out in the summer. But we can also feel connected with each other in really straightforward, apparently minor ways, like simply saying hello to someone we recognise in the shop or in the street on the way to the Rec.

I've been thinking about how this sense of connection can be so important since someone asked me if I had a big vision for our churches in the local area. I thought about the book on my desk, which has "THRIVE" in big multi-coloured letters splashed across its front cover. How do we thrive? How do we feel encouraged? How do we feel that our life has a purpose and is worth something?

The Bible says that God loves everyone and that God cares about us, and it also reminds us that we should love our neighbour as much as we should love ourselves. That tells us that God is all about connection - a relationship based on love and care between God and the world, and between one neighbour and another. Every week in our church services, we hear words from "the Gospel" (of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John), and we listen, remembering that "Gospel" means "good news". For me, that good news is based on the belief that life does have a purpose (to learn more about God's love, and to get better at showing that love and kindness to others in any way I can).

The "good news" is that every single person in our community is valuable, that we do belong, and that we are connected to each other in some way because we are all loved by God. So, I invite you to explore that sense of connection further if you would like to. There are lots of things going on in our villages where people come together to make some brilliant events happen within the community, and we also have quite a bit going on and events being planned within our church congregations over the next few weeks and months, too – watch this space!

**But whatever you do, I hope that you feel known, valued and cared for, whether you have lived here all your life, or if you just moved in last week.**

God bless you,

Rev. Jo Fielding Priest in Charge

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com | 07561823135

**Lent Lunch**  
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5 MARCH  
In  
St. James Church  
Badsey

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Badsey**

**Churchwardens:**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE  
Mr. Chris Smith

**Readers:**

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer:  
Administrator  
Safeguarding Advocate:**

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

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

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

**Badsey Wednesday Work Group**

**Meets at Badsey Church between 10.00 and 12.00 on Wednesdays**

This is a building and churchyard maintenance volunteer group which meet regularly on Wednesday morning.

Everyone welcome to join this sociable and friendly group even if it is just for tea and biscuits.

**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](mailto: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)

**Services this month**

Please see the noticeboard 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). 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
1 <sup>st</sup> March World Day of Prayer			2pm Cleeve Prior Service for World Day of Prayer
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 3rd Sunday of Lent	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham (Eucharist) Cleeve Prior (Matins)	
10 <sup>th</sup> March 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	Bretforton Morning Praise	South Littleton (Eucharist) Cleeve Prior (Morning Praise)	
17 <sup>th</sup> March 5th Sunday of Lent Passiontide	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey (Eucharist by Extension) Cleeve Prior (Eucharist)	
24 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday		Bretforton Benefice Eucharist	
MONDAY 25 <sup>th</sup> March			7pm Cleeve Prior Compline
TUESDAY 26 <sup>th</sup> March			7pm South Littleton Compline
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> March			7pm Bretforton Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)
THURSDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> March Maundy Thursday			7pm Offenham Benefice Eucharist
FRIDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> March Good Friday			12pm-1pm Badsey Vigil at the Foot of the Cross 1pm – 2pm Cleeve Prior Solemn Eulogy of the Passion
SATURDAY 30 <sup>th</sup> March Holy Saturday			7pm Badsey Easter Vigil
31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday	Easter Eucharist Bretforton South Littleton (by Extension)	Easter Eucharist Badsey Cleeve Prior Offenham	

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Benefice*

**Messy Church**

**29 MARCH**

9.30 am to 12.30 pm

**Offenham School**

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Crafts Activities Fun Games  
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8:45am - 11am

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## Social coffee mornings for the village to commence!

Do you remember the popular and well-attended Coffee Mornings many years ago, held at the 'Legion Club' as it was fondly called? Well, we bring some good news!

Social Coffee Mornings for the Village will take place once again, on the **1st Thursday of each month at St James Church, Badsey!**

The first gathering will commence on Thursday 7th March from 10:30am to 12pm. No payment required, but monetary donations would be thankfully accepted to cover costs.

Please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat!

If you would like the opportunity to be a helper, please contact either Wendy Such at 01386 832283, or Marianne Beddis at 01386 830018.

**VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING**  
*Join us for a cuppa and a chat!*

1st Thursday of each month  
(Starting 7th March)

At Badsey Church  
From 10:30am to 12noon

**Free to attend**  
Monetary donations thankfully accepted to cover costs.

**Need more info or would like to help?**  
Contact Wendy Such (01386 832 283)  
or Marianne Beddis (01386 830 018)



## When Evesham Rocked London - A Talk by Garry Smout

In 1980 an Evesham band, The Photos, had a Top 5 album in the charts. In the early 80s, a reader begged a London-based music publication, Zig Zag, to stop doing so many articles on bands from Evesham. In 1982, The Daily Mirror published the magazine 'Women in Rock' which featured two Evesham based singers.

### What was going on in Evesham?

This talk will cover the origins of how this unprecedented phenomenon came about, a path that goes back to the 70s, and, of the three bands of the period in question, the early 80s will focus on one particular band, The Dancing Did, as they used Evesham and the surrounding area as their muse. One of the songs even has the town's name in the subtitle: A Fruit Picking Fantasy (The Time Bo Diddley Nearly Came to Evesham)!

Come along and see and hear what it was all about! After all, history started yesterday!

**This talk will take place at 7:30pm on Friday 15th March 2024 at Badsey Community & Sports Club.**

### Need some extra support?

If you or someone you know could benefit from a little extra support please feel encouraged to utilise one of these contacts listed below:

#### **Home support**

Carelines / Pendant Alarms: **0345 130 1469**  
Age UK: **01905 740 950**  
Bluebird Care Agency: **01386 764 830**  
My Care Select: **01905 382 283**  
Onside Advocacy (for social prescribers): **01905 275 25**

#### **Mental Health Support**

CRISIS Team(24/7): **0808 196 9127**  
NHS Older Adult Mental Health **01905 681 477**  
Evesham Mental Health: **01386 429 454**  
Talking Therapies: **0300 302 13 13**  
Samaritans: **116 123**  
Bereavement support: **01386 840 505** (Camden Home Nursing)  
*Please also feel free to pop into St James church where you will be offered a safe space to talk.*

#### **Healthcare Services**

NHS Audiology: **01386 502 578**  
Camden Home Nurses: **01386 840 505**  
Ear Syringing: **0808 239 059** [www.outsideclinic.com](http://www.outsideclinic.com)  
NHS Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy: **0300 123 7593**  
**option 2 for South Worcs and option 4 for Evesham**  
NHS Podiatry: **01905 681 001 / 01386 502 300**

#### **Financial Support**

Money Helpers: **0800 138 7777** (Gov scheme for fee advice re pensioner benefits)  
Trussell Trust Help through Hardship: **0808 208 2138**  
Citizens Advice: **01386 712 100**

If you know of any services that may benefit others - get in touch! Email [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com)

The ladies of Badsey WI had a great time at the January meeting with some games that the committee had brought. Formed into three groups we played three different board/table games, and there was also the opportunity to play skittles and shoot golf balls through numbered openings. It has to be said, the ladies were enthusiastic in their play but not very accurate!

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our February meeting involved a talk about 'Lundy Island, a place on its own' by popular local speaker, Adrian James. Given our experience of his previous talks, we looked forward to a lively description and beautiful slide photos of this enigmatic island.

The next meeting will be on **13th March at Badsey**

**Remembrance Hall at 7:15 pm.** We will be having a talk about BBC local radio by Mike Hemmings, former Head of Hereford & Worcester. After the closure of the 'pirate' radio stations, it was felt that part of their popularity was the broadcast of local news. An experiment for local news broadcast from the BBC was launched, and the first one was from Radio Leicester in 1967.

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

## Another successful fundraiser for the Round of Gras!

The Round of Gras pub in Badsey has held a lot of successful charity fundraisers recently, and the latest one was no different!

On Friday 2nd Feb, the Gras held a charity bingo event with lots of spectacular prizes, all in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance service - and we are honoured to report that they raised a **whopping £3120!**

This isn't the first time they've fundraised for the Air Ambulance, though, and over the past few years they have raised an incredible £10,000!

All the proceeds will go to the Air Ambulance service, who help provide critical medical care to those who need it most.

**We can't wait to hear about what the Round of Gras has in store next - keep your eyes peeled!**



## Badsey Flower Show updates

The arrival of spring means one thing: **flowers!**

In the countryside, we have the great pleasure of having some of the most beautiful flowers and plants grow right on our doorsteps - and they play a huge part in Badsey's annual Flower Show which is only a few short months away!

The Flower Show has a large number of horticultural categories available for you to enter this year - so, if you have green fingers, here's just a sneak peak at some of the categories you can partake in:

Most Scented Rose

- **One Orchid, pot-grown, pot diameter not to exceed 10½ inches (27cm)**
- **Highest Number of Flower Varieties (in a bowl/vase)**
- **A foliage-only arrangement table centre using no floral foam**
- **A hand-tied posy of flowers (no more than 20cm wide)**

More information on the full category list for the 2024 Flower Show will be available soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

Did you know...

### Puzzler: Did you know edition



The organ in St James Church was installed in the early 1960's. It was built by the organ builders James Walker, who hold a Royal Warrant. It replaced an organ built by Nicholsons of Malvern that came out of St Helen's Church Worcester – reputedly the oldest church in Worcester – in 1947.

It was not a great success, as it was very dirty due to cooking fumes as the church had been used as a YMCA canteen during and after the Second World War!

Fortunately, the current organ has been well looked after and is in good condition despite its 60 years of age! All it needs now is an organist to continue the tradition of live music at services at St James.

**Could it be you?**

**If you or someone you know would be interested in the organist vacancy at St James Church, please contact Alex Christison on [alex@alexchristison.f9.co.uk](mailto:alex@alexchristison.f9.co.uk).**



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## Badsey Film Club



The next film will take place on  
**Saturday 2nd March**

We will be showing:

### MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Dead Reckoning (PG-13)

*The latest in this long-running franchise, Dead Reckoning is full of the usual thrills and special effects that you would expect from the earlier movies. It may not have the strongest storyline of the lot, but it serves it well enough, giving all the thrills we've come to expect from the series.*

**NEW START TIME!** Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7:30pm in the backroom of the Wheatsheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval.

**Date for Your Diary:** On **Saturday 6th April** have a change to our programme, and we will be showing Get Carter from 1971 starring Michael Caine.

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.

Looking for a top-notch handyman that's local and trustworthy?  
**Andy's your man!**

Andy Tyrrell is an experienced handyman who can quote for just about anything from a stuck door to a kitchen refit - so if something goes wrong in your home, why not call the person who puts the 'andy' in 'handyman'!

**For further enquiries about your home maintenance needs, call Andy on either 01386 642945 or 07971086487.**

## 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 4th March**  
**Monday 1st April**  
**Monday 29th April**

**Monday 18th March**  
**Monday 15th April**

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 February we looked at how to connect to improve your Wi-Fi networks and Microsoft Defender. In March we will look at Printing and making PDF documents. Everyone is welcome.

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



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**SAT 07:00 - 20:00**  
**SUN 08:00 - 16:00**

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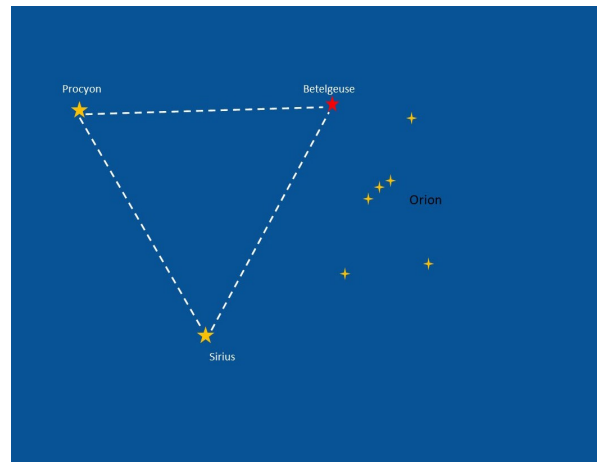
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## The Final Sightings of the Winter Triangle

By Stargazer

Passing the 1st of March always brings the hope of warmer weather and the springtime that lies ahead. March generally brings warmer evenings, and offers a last chance to get out to see the winter constellations before they disappear from the evening sky until next autumn.

There is so much to see in the winter sky, with the magnificent constellation of Orion acting as a guide to the many wonders of star clusters, and nebulae. Orion, Taurus and The Pleiades lay in a line and are wonders to behold in their own rights. During March, they all set below the western horizon at around midnight; when the clocks change at the end of the month and we get into April, they will set just after sunset before disappearing completely. So, this month is your last chance for six to eight months to observe these wonderful objects!



Also setting at about the same time is a group of bright stars or asterism known as the Winter Triangle. This is made up of Betelgeuse (the red giant on the left-hand shoulder of Orion), Sirius (the bright star also known as the dog star) and Procyon. I have featured Betelgeuse and Sirius in several articles over the past few years, but I have made little mention of Procyon. Together, they form a noticeably almost-perfect equilateral triangle in the night sky.

Betelgeuse is a large red giant of a star that is reaching the end of its life having expanded and cooled. Its distance from Earth is quite difficult to measure, and it is thought to be between 400 and 600 light years away. If our eyes could see into the near infra-red, Betelgeuse would be the brightest star in the night sky by a long way! It is expected that it will reach the end of its life as a star in the next 100,000 years when it will explode as a supernova, and it will be seen as bright as the moon for about three months or so.

Sirius is the brightest star in our night sky because it is one of our closest neighbours, being only eight and a half light years away. It is about twice the size of our sun (and about twenty-five times the brightness!) and can be seen as a blue-white star. Sirius is a double star and has a smaller white dwarf partner, and they orbit each other every fifty years.

Procyon, the third member of this triangle, is about one and a half times as massive as our sun and also has a much smaller white dwarf star partner. It is about eleven and a half light years away, making it also a close neighbour to our own sun. The two components of Procyon orbit each other every 41 years at a distance of 15 astronomical units - that is about as far as Uranus is from our sun!

The smaller Procyon B star is a white dwarf star that has reached the end of its life, and is now cooling down incredibly slowly. About a billion years ago, this star expanded into a red giant and finally blew off its outer layers, leaving only its dense core of carbon. Gravity is pulling this core together, but there isn't enough mass to produce any further nuclear reactions. The collapsed core, with its dense gravity, is in a state known as electron-degenerated matter where the electrons around the core of the atoms in the star are squeezed as close as possible.

In the vacuum of space, this small stellar remnant with its small surface area has nowhere to lose its heat, and it is not known how many billions of years it will take for it to cool further. So, it remains in space faintly glowing as an Earth-sized speck adjacent to its younger, brighter and larger neighbour.

If it is not too cold over the next month, why not step out into the garden and look out for the winter triangle in the southwestern skies in the early evening? It is very easy to spot as a large equilateral triangle, and you will be able to marvel at three stars that are quite different to our own sun.



Waxwings (*Bombcilla garrulus*) only visit the UK in the winter, the numbers that reach us depend on the availability of berries on the Continent. The UK can receive anything from a few dozen individuals to as many as 12,000 each year. Most years we attract at least a few birds and they usually arrive from October and can be seen up until April.

### SPOTTED WILDLIFE AROUND THE EVESHAM AREA?

Email us your photos! [badseyncn@gmail.com](mailto:badseyncn@gmail.com)

*Psst.. Even if you are not sure what it is, send it and we will identify it for you!*

**WILDLIFE  
WATCH**

## Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

"If March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. If it comes in like a lamb it will go out like a lion", as the saying goes.

I was envious to hear that waxwings have been seen in Badsey - a bird I have never spotted! They are heading back to Scandinavia to breed while the chiffchaff is returning. The melodious sound of the skylark fills the air, the white blackthorn flowers are sweetly scented and ground ivy and daisies spring into life.



Ground ivy



Spot the deer browsing in our fields and woodlands; ruminants and herbivores, like cows and sheep, they feed mainly at dawn and dusk. We have seven species in Britain, with the red and roe being our native deer. Fallow deer were introduced by the Romans; William the Conqueror, a great hunter himself, protected the deer from being over hunted by imposing harsh laws on his subjects.



Sika deer came from Japan in the 17th century, and Chinese muntjacs escaped from 'Stately Home' parks in more recent times.

Reindeer, a Scottish native until the 12th century, were hunted to extinction until a Lapland farmer reintroduced them. A Christmas treat in Badsey!



### Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre

### Open day event 2024

2024 is the 40th Anniversary year for Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre. Their annual Open Day teases to be the **biggest** and **best** yet so make sure you put the date in your diary, bring along all your friends and family and ENJOY

**SUNDAY 7th JULY 2024**

**11am – 4pm**

**At Vale Wildlife Hospital, Station Road, Beckford, GL20 7AN**

Early Bird Entrance tickets available now for £4 per person (£5 on the day, under 10's go free!!). The day will include music, drinks, craft stalls, trade stalls, charity stalls, Fun Dog Show and games for everyone, it's sure to be a great day out.

**PLUS, your only chance to see inside one of the UK's busiest wildlife hospitals**

*Dogs are welcome to the event on lead, but unfortunately will not be allowed in the hospital or hospital compound. As it is a summer event, the team will also be patrolling the car park to ensure dogs are not left in cars unattended.*

Come and celebrate 40 years of Vale helping Britain's wildlife, have a fab day out, and help to raise funds to treat over 7,500 wildlife casualties every year!

Contact the team to get your early bird tickets or if you would any further information about the event on 01386 882 288 or [info@valewildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@valewildlife.org.uk)



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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 Wednesday 20th March / 17th April  
**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 have been on the Parish Council for eight years.

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

I'm the Parish Councillor for Badsey Central.

### 3. What sub-committees are you on?

I currently sit on the Planning subcommittee.

### 4. What's your favourite village event?

The Soapbox Derby! I also used to love the village carnival, which sadly doesn't run anymore."

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

With the exception of the first ten years of my married life, I am Badsey born and bred - not saying how long though! I'm also the fourth generation in my family to come from the village.

### 6. Where were you born?

Avonside Hospital, Evesham.

### 7. What's your favourite meal?

My favourite meal has to be a good old fashioned roast dinner, closely followed by Italian!

### 8. What's your favourite holiday destination?

Either Turkey or Egypt.

### 9. How would you describe your music taste?

Anyone who knows me knows I LOVE Bon Jovi, and have been lucky enough to see them live on numerous occasions!

### 10. What's your claim to fame?

I met Geoff Hurst and actually asked him what he was famous for!

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