



Acknowledging the 40 days

Do you remember when you were 40? I do - I had a big party for 40 family and friends. We've just had 40 days in Lent, and it was pouring with rain the other day (again) and I got to thinking about Jesus spending 40 days in the desert being tested, and about Noah being tested by the flood and building the Ark. Folklore has it that it rained for 40 days and 40 nights – can you imagine! No wonder it flooded. However, all ended well when God made the waters recede and the Ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat. This was because God made a covenant with Noah who had “found favour in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen 6:8).

When God beheld the corruption of the earth and was determined to destroy it, he gave Noah divine warning of the impending disaster and made a covenant with him that if Noah built the Ark to God's specifications, God would save Noah, his family and all the beasts of the earth and birds of the air. The same covenant God made with Adam.

There is another Ark in the Bible: the Ark of the Covenant. According to the book of Exodus, God instructed Moses to build the Ark during his 40-day stay upon Mt. Sinai. Moses, like Noah, also made a covenant with God and was also given the dimensions of the Ark by God, and in it were placed the two stone tablets containing the 10 Commandments. It is said that the Israelites who were in exile in Egypt carried the Ark for 40 days to the Red Sea, where again God made the waters recede so that God's chosen people could pass to the promised land, just as He saved Noah and his family.

I wonder how many of us have agreed a covenant with God to do as He commands and be saved by His grace? Personally, I am looking forward to having 40 winks in 40 degree heat on 40 sunny days in summer. You never know, miracles do happen!

Alan Bache LLM

April is National Pet Month! We'd love to see photos or stories of your companion!

Please send them to badseycn@gmail.com

PLUS! Keep an eye out in the May edition for our pet features and Community News - and snippets from re'paw'ter Piggy as she heads out on the Badsey & Aldington trail...



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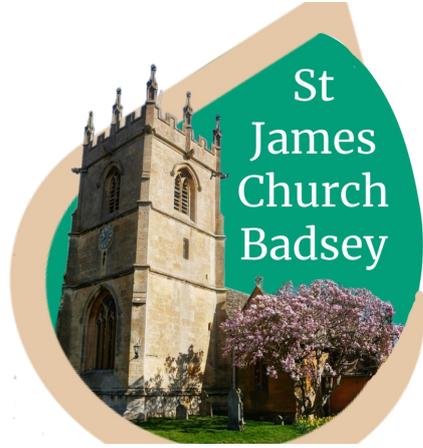
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Readers:

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

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer:
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Lisa Farmer Tel. 40401
Faith Quinn: eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

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

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.

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Date	9.30am Morning Praise/Family Service	11.00am
7 th April Easter 2		Offenham Benefice Eucharist
14 th April Easter 3	Bretforton	South Littleton Eucharist with Baptism Cleeve Prior Morning Praise
21 st April Easter 4	Offenham	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist
28 th April Easter 5	South Littleton	Bretforton Eucharist Cleeve Prior Matins

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

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

Brian Smith Accepts Tony Jerram Award



There was a good turnout for the 22nd AGM of The Badsey Society on 16th February. Maureen Spinks was re-elected Chairman, Shirley Tutton was re-elected Secretary and Will Dallimore was re-elected Treasurer.

After the business part of the meeting, the annual Tony Jerram Award presentation was made. The award is given each year in memory of the late Tony Jerram (1937-2008), the first Chairman of The Badsey Society, and is given to somebody who the members feel has contributed to the good of the local community.

This year, the award was given to Brian Smith, in recognition of his contribution to the Badsey story. His poems (more than a hundred) bring to life many scenes and characters now almost forgotten. Some of his poems may be found on the website, and he has also published three books of poems.

Membership of The Badsey Society costs £5. Please pay via Paypal at

www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions, or contact the Treasurer, Will Dallimore, on 831012.

Did you know...

St James Church isn't just used on a Sunday! Our local church houses plenty of exciting initiatives and activities - not just Sunday services!

Here's a little peek at what took place there during just the first week of March:

Sunday:

Morning Praise at 9:30am

Monday:

Drop In (takes place every Monday during term time, and is popular among those with pre-school aged children)

Tuesday:

Lent Lunch - 42 people enjoyed a choice of homemade soups, and £158 was raised for St Richard's Hospice.

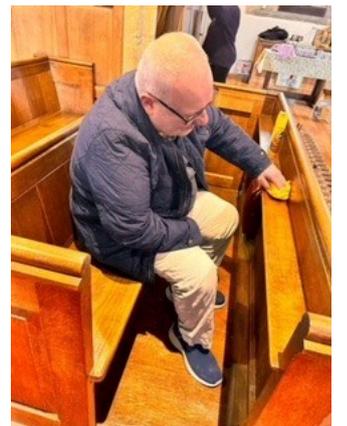
[A big thank you to everyone for their contributions!](#)

Wednesday:

Morning Prayer, followed by the Gardening and Freedom Groups

Thursday:

Coffee Morning (a new venture taking place on the first Thursday of every month)





The Boobage Support Group

Location: The Fleece, Bretforton, WR11 7JE
Date: The first Friday of every month
Time: 11am to 12:30pm
Group Leaders: Victoria & Penny
Email: vickylyndon60@gmail.com
 pennyanne69@gmail.com

Penny and Vicky will be ready to welcome you to an "Boobage Support Group" in the Dug Out, at the Fleece Inn on **April 5th or May 3rd at 11.15am .**

Please Contact
Vickylyndon60@gmail.com
 or pennyanne68@gmail.com
 for more information.

They are both very excited to meet some wonderful people, and for a very worthy cause!

Wickhamford Gardening Club

We are always very happy to welcome new faces and our meeting costs are still very affordable. Yearly memberships have remained the same for many years, at £5.00, with our monthly charge remaining the same for members and visitors at £2.50 & £3.00 respectively.

If you would like to attend one of our sessions or be a part of the Wickhamford Gardening Club, please contact Barbara Bennett at: bennett.barbara@sky.com

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 15th April **Monday 29th April**
Monday 13th May **Monday 27th May**

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 March we looked at Printing and making PDF documents.

In April we will look File Manager and where your files are stored.

Everyone is welcome.

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



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Badsey Film Club



The next film will take place on
Saturday 6th April

We will be showing:

Get Carter (18)

When his brother dies under mysterious circumstances in a car accident, London gangster

Jack Carter travels to Newcastle to investigate. Darkly entertaining and tightly wound, 'Get Carter' is a gritty revenge story done right.

Please note this is an 18 rated film

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

Date for Your Diary: On **Saturday 4th May** at 8pm we will show **At Eternity's Gate**. This film strives to capture the ecstatic immersion in the moment and the blazing, almost athletic certainty with which Van Gogh painted.

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 to get in shape for the summer?

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Hopefully with warmer weather the conditions for the back garden, astronomy will be improving. However, the sun sets about two minutes later each evening and with the clocks changing at the end of March the evenings are noticeably drawing out. April is therefore the ideal time to search out this month's Stargazing objects.

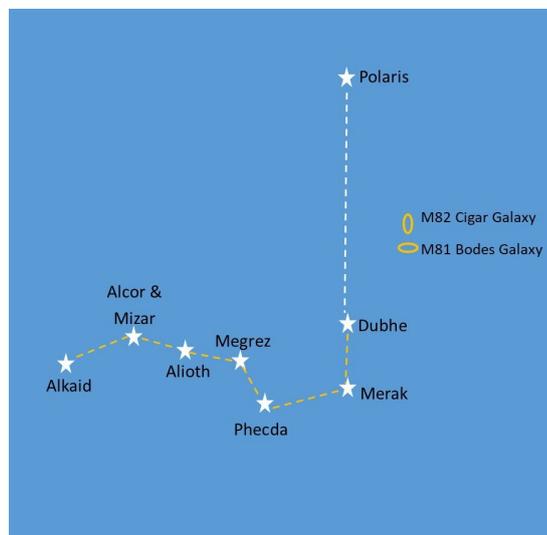
There are two fascinating objects to look out for this month - they are a little difficult to locate, but are well worth the effort. First, find The Plough which is known to astronomers as Ursa Major. The end two stars in The Plough, Merak and Dubhe, are also known as the Pointers as they point towards the Pole Star. If you follow this line towards the Pole Star, about halfway along and 10 degrees to the right, you will find two grey fuzzy patches. Unfortunately, they are just a little too faint to be seen with the naked eye, but you should be able to find them with a good pair of binoculars or a small telescope.

The first of our two objects is known by its catalogue number of M81, and is named Bode's Galaxy after its discoverer - the German Astronomer Johann Elert Bode. Bode first discovered this wonderful spiral galaxy on 31st December 1774. Close by in the sky is our second object for this month, another galaxy known as M82 or the Cigar Galaxy, because of its strange shape. What we are seeing in this second galaxy is one that is edge on to us, but its shape has also been distorted and there are regions of new star formation. These two galaxies are about 12 million light years away, and as such are relatively close to the Milky Way galaxy. For reference our closest neighbouring galaxy is Andromeda, which is about 2.5 million light years from Earth.

The reason the Cigar Galaxy is distorted is that these two galaxies are gravitationally bound together and are orbiting each other every 100 million years. Current measurements suggest that the two galaxies passed close to each other about 600 million years ago when they had a near collision. Since then, they have been orbiting each other and are stripping dust and hydrogen gas from each other into intergalactic space and causing new stars to form in the outer regions of both galaxies. This is especially visible in the shape of the Cigar Galaxy, and the red coloured filaments that can be seen in photographs.

It is expected that these two galaxies will orbit each other for a while and then finally merge in a few billion years. There is an enormous amount of space between the stars that make up a galaxy, and it is not expected that stars will actually collide, but the merger will be a blend of the two systems. At first, the shape of the combined galaxy will appear chaotic. The supermassive black holes at the centres of each galaxy will eventually orbit each other before merging themselves, and after a few more billion years the shape of the combined galaxy will settle down to form a new, much large spiral galaxy.

April is the best time of year to see these two wonderful objects, so why not take a little time on a clear evening to hunt them out with a pair of binoculars or telescope and enjoy the spectacle of these two fantastic objects in our night sky.



Wanted! Deliverer for new part of Banks Road from telephone exchange.

Could you spare half an hour to deliver the 45 Community News to this area?

If so contact Alex Christison 830367 or xtison13@gmail.com



Jane Neill's Nature Notes...



April is a time of renewal with lambs gamboling in the fields and trees bursting with fresh green leaves.

One of our prettiest wild flowers, the white dead nettle, appear along footpaths and roadsides. Once known as Adam-and-Eve-in-the-bower for when the flower is held upside down, the black and golden stamens lie side by side like two figures on a satin bed. Bees, butterflies and insects become more active as the sun climbs higher. Watch the skies for the first swallows, martins and swifts, and check hedges before you cut them as birds are busy nesting.



Birds like the greenfinch that declined due to trichomonosis, a parasite induced disease that prevents feeding, are thankfully recovering their numbers with helpful advice about keeping our feeders regularly cleaned. This olive green bird with yellow patches on the wings is often spotted at the top of tall trees announcing its presence with a drawn out "dzweee".



The stonechat, related to the robin and named by its call sounding like two stones hitting together, was my unexpected encounter in the meadow! In the brook, I was thrilled to see a pair of goosanders, the largest of the sawbill ducks. Their serrated bills make catching slippery fish easier. **Keep watching. You never know!**



Want to see the Badsey Flower Show continue?

It needs your help!

After decades of dedication, Badsey Flower Show Chairman Gordon Boon has decided to step down after the 2024 Show. As a result, the Flower Show Committee is on the lookout for his successor.

The hunt for helpers and volunteers to aid the Flower Show is always a difficult one, and **we regret to inform you all that if urgent help is not received this year, the Badsey Flower Show will not be able to continue past 2024.**

After more than 120 years in operation, we would hate for such a historic legacy to end so abruptly. So if you would like to take on the role of Chairman, join the Committee in another capacity, volunteer on Show Day or simply lend a hand here and there, they want to hear from you!

For more information, please contact the Flower Show Committee at info@badseyflowershow.co.uk.



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Badsey & Aldington Parish Council

The Parish Council can be contacted by:

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

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17th April /15th May

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



This month, we chat to

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

About seven years now.

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

I represent the Badsey Ward.

3. What sub-committees are you on?

I am on the Events committee; I think it is so important in a community that people have the opportunity to come out and join together in village events. I am also on the Land committee and had a small part in the Pear Tree Fields project which I still find exciting.

Currently, I am trying to raise funds for an observatory at Pear Tree Fields which will provide a meeting place for local

astronomers and a resource to introduce local young people to the wonders of the sky.

Not a subcommittee as such, but I also help with the Computer Group that meets on alternate Mondays to encourage people to become more computer savvy."

4. What's your favourite village event?

I think my favourite event has got to be the Christmas event. It has changed over the years and evolved into something that is quite magical. With the link to the carols organised by the Badsey Society that followed this year's event, it made for a particularly wonderful start to Christmas."

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

I moved with my job to Badsey in 1983 and expected to only stay for a few years. However, when children arrived we settled into village life. As my job became more interesting we decided to stay. Now, after 41 years, I can't see us moving anywhere.

6. Where were you born?

I was born and brought up in Southampton, and I moved away at the age of 18 when I went to university. My first job then took me to Cardiff where I lived for five years, before moving to the Vale of Evesham.

7. What's your favourite meal?

I find this an especially difficult question, as I like French and Italian food as well as Indian and Chinese. I think that the one ingredient that really makes a good meal is the company you are with. If there is nothing on a menu that I fancy, I can always fall back on the standard medium-rare steak with homemade, once-cooked chips and definitely no green vegetables!"

8. What's your favourite holiday destination?

Since Covid we have been taking our holidays in and around the UK. This has taken us to so many fabulous places over the past few years, such as the Northumberland coast, Hadrian's Wall, Suffolk and Norfolk. This year we are off to Canterbury and Kent."

9. How would you describe your music taste?

I think my tastes in music are quite broad; we try to go to the Upton Folk and Blues festivals each year. At home I will listen to Folk, Blues, Rock, Metal, Modern Jazz and especially the broad genre that is known as Prog Rock. The last concert I went to was Peter Gabriel on hi I/O tour and I hope that we will see Yes on their current tour in June.

10. What's your claim to fame?

During the 1980s and 90s, when they were household names, we used to have Radio 1 DJs come out to talk to students attending the training courses I was running. As part of this afternoon, we would take them out to lunch at the Chequers in Fladbury. Some very entertaining and memorable times.

I also nearly ended up in an episode of Holby City when I got out of a lift at the wrong floor and found myself on the set of an operating theatre instead of a training room.

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