



December 2024

Hi everyone,

Merry Christmas!

I'm writing this mid-November, but it must be time to start getting things ready for Christmas! While out walking with the dog earlier today I saw the first Christmas tree on display in a nearby garden, the lights shining so brightly in the gathering dusk – it looked really lovely and very cheering to anyone walking past.

Christmas “to do” lists! Do you have one? When I was a child, “getting ready for Christmas” was all about opening the numbered door on our Advent calendar (which I often had to share with my little sister), and looking forward to the Christmas party on the last day of term after the carol service and Nativity the day before. Years ago, Advent calendars were all pretty similar, with little variation between them. Glitter or not, chocolates behind the doors or not, and some fairly trad pictures of a suspiciously clean stable with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and a couple of animals looking on, plus a few blue-eyed and fair-haired angels up on the stable roof.

But these days there is so much more variety! Pop-up or slot-together calendars, calendars with anything from varieties of gin or make-up to Lego and coffee pods. There are calendars covered in snowmen, or dogs wearing tartan scarves, calendars with Christmas gongs or trains, or calendars decorated with superheroes or snowflakes. You can go full Mary-and-Joseph-and-the-wee-donkey or avoid absolutely any mention of “the reason for the season”, if that’s the way you want to do things. I think it’s great that there is so much more choice, allowing everyone who wants to find some way of counting down the days in a style that puts a smile on your face when you open that little door.

An Advent calendar is designed to give you a moment of happiness and feel that positive sense of anticipation – completely opposite to that stress which can gather when grown-up you looks at the “to do” list! And yet, whatever age we are, Advent is about getting ready for Christmas. It’s about clearing space (physical or spiritual) so you can look forward with joy and excitement to the birth of a baby who was - and still is - the sign that God is with us, that He loves us, cares about us, and wants to be with us where we are.

This is such good news that the Church goes right on telling that story in any way we can – because it is a story that we believe is still worth telling, and one which the world still needs to hear. This year we are telling it with candle-lit carol services and Nativities in the traditional way – but you can also open our doors at various places and times in the Advent season to cheer the arrival of Mary and Joseph. Join a posse of “Celebrating Santas” (Sunday 8th December), dress up at a “DIY Nativity” (Sunday 22nd December), or help tell the story of the Nosy Mouse on Christmas Day itself.

If you want to find out more, have a look at our website for details of all our events across the six churches (<https://eastvaleavon.com/>). Whichever of our doors you open, whatever reason you have for coming in, you will be warmly welcomed.

On behalf of all our congregations across the Vale, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jo Fielding

Priest in Charge

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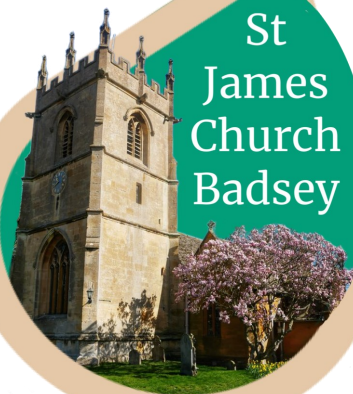
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St James Church Badsey



Churchwardens:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bolland MBE

Mr. Chris Smith

Readers:

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Administrator

Tel. 830638 Email: bollandelizabeth22@gmail.com

Tel. 830217 Email: smithvce@msn.com

Mrs. Margaret Pye Tel. 833537

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.

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

Please contact the Benefice Administrator Faith Quinn (details above) for all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

	9:30am	11:00am	Other
1st December Advent		South Littleton Benefice Advent Eucharist	Badsey 4pm Advent Carol Service
8th December Advent 2	Bretforton	Cleeve Prior Morning Praise Offenham Eucharist	N & M Littleton Celebrating Santa! 3pm Family Service
15th December Advent 3	South Littleton	Badsey Eucharist	Offenham 4pm Christingle Service Cleeve Prior 6pm Carols by Candlelight
22nd December Advent 4		Offenham All age Communion service	Badsey 4pm Carols with Nativity Crib Service Bretforton 7pm Carol Service
24th December Christmas Eve	3.30pm South Littleton All age "Carols & Crib" service 4pm Bretforton 4pm Offenham 9pm Christmas Night Communion Service, Badsey 9pm Eucharist by Extension, Bretforton		
24th December Christmas Day	9.30am Eucharist, South Littleton 10.30am Christmas Morning Service with Band, Bretforton 11am Eucharist, Cleeve Prior 11am All age Service, Badsey		
29th December Christmas		11am Badsey Benefice Eucharist	

Entries into the Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals registers

	Badsey	Bretforton	Offenham	South Littleton	North and Middle Littleton	Cleeve Prior
Baptisms				Sophie Hible		
Weddings						
Funerals	Jean Peet Peter Addis Shirley Owen	William Smith	Thomas Cresswell	Michael Marshall		

Regular Benefice Events

Mondays in term time 8.45am to 11.00 am Drop In at St. James Church Badsey

Primarily for adults with pre-school children. Free cuppa toys music and a chance to chat

Tuesdays in term time Bretforton Toddler Tunes Bretforton

Community Club 10am to 11.15am

Music time for mothers, babies and toddlers, a time to sing, play and chat with refreshments

Badsey Wednesday Work Group

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.

First Thursday of each month Coffee Morning St. James Church Badsey

Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat!

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8:45am - 11am

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Badsey Society: Upcoming events

Christmas Choir

After the Badsey and Aldington Parish Council Christmas celebrations outside the Wheatsheaf on **Friday 13th December**, come and join us for festive music old and new in the company of Musyck Anon, an acapella choir from Evesham who specialise in early music and dress in 17th century costume! When the church bells ring at 7:30pm, come along to the church for a hot drink and a mince pie before the concert begins at 8pm. There will be a Christmas raffle and a retiring collection for Musyck Anon's chosen charity.

Tour of The Hive

We start the New Year with two events in January. On **Thursday 16th January**, we are visiting the Hive in Worcester for an 'Explore the Past' tour. This is a chance to see behind the scenes and meet some of the staff, as well as seeing some documents and items not usually on display to the public, as well as the Historic Environment Record. The cost is £5 per person, and spaces are limited to 20 people. Please contact Shirley Tutton at shirleytutton@talktalk.net or on 07740286941 if you would like to go.

Participants will meet at 10:30am on the ground floor of the Hive, prior to the tour at 11am, which lasts approximately 1 hour 45 minutes. Afterwards, lunch is available in the Hive café, and there is the opportunity to return to the archive for personal research.

Talk with Dr Stephen Roberts

On **Friday 17th January at 7:30pm**, Dr Stephen Roberts will be giving a talk at Badsey Community & Sports Club entitled "Evesham Quakers and the Seventeenth Century English Revolution". Dr Roberts is a well-respected authority on 17th century history, both locally and nationally, and this promises to be a really interesting evening. The talk is free to members, and £2.50 to non-members.

Membership of The Badsey Society costs £5. Please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions>, or contact the Treasurer, Will Dallimore, on 01386 831012.

Share your thought about The Badsey Flower Show

The Badsey Flower Show Committee have begun their monthly meetings to plan the 2025 Flower Show! The committee have received plenty of feedback, but are always looking for ideas and suggestions about how to make future Shows a success!

With the AGM on the horizon, we could really benefit from **your voice!**

To share your thoughts, email the committee at:
info@badseyflowershow.co.uk

Or send a direct message to <https://www.facebook.com/Badseyflowershow>. To speak to the committee in person, you are welcome to attend the annual AGM at the end of January 2025. Details to follow.

Don't forget! Tune in to 'Melodies of Success' broadcast live every Monday from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Hosted by Badsey's own Luke Briffett!



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Successful relaunch of the Badsey Belles

Following our successful relaunch in October, the Badsey Belles WI had a fantastic meeting at the start of November with crafting, chat, and cake! We spent time learning the skill of decoupage to decorate boxes, jars, and coasters. We all had a fabulous time and it's lovely to already see new friendships forming.

This month, we will be making foliage table decorations for Christmas, but you are of course welcome to pop along to enjoy the chat and mince pies without making a decoration.

We always meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Remembrance Hall (save for the January meeting which will be on 8th January). So our **next meeting will be on 4th December** - we hope to see you there! All women over 18 are welcome.

Plus, coming soon, we will be launching a new Facebook page! So keep an eye out for that!

If you would like to know more, please feel free to pop along to the meeting or contact Lucy at badseybellessec@wfedwi.org.uk - we look forward to seeing you soon!

Round of Gras Delivers Christmas Cheer!

This Christmas, The Round of Gras pub is offering a Christmas Day carvery delivery service to bring festive cheer straight to your door.

Available from 12pm to 2pm, the carvery includes all your favourite trimmings, perfect for a cosy celebration at home.

Call The Round of Gras directly on **01386 830206** for pricing and how to order, letting them take care of Christmas dinner for you!

Looking for somewhere to celebrate the festive season and beyond?



Badsey Community & Sports Club is an establishment for everyone young and old to enjoy. Complete with a large function room for hire and a fully-stocked bar, the club can accommodate any event from weddings to bingo nights.

Its large outdoor space features multiple football pitches, an archery field, and a children's play area, and inside you have not only a fully-equipped kitchen for all your catering needs, but also a skittle alley, pool table, juke box, and multiple TVs for a proper atmosphere during live sporting events!

Badsey Community & Sports Club is a family-friendly club open to anyone and everyone. Want to find out more about what it has to offer?

Contact Bar Manager Sue Brooks on 01386 830867.

Stallholder enquiries still open for the Badsey Christmas event!

Calling all stallholders! Whether you have a creative craft or a charitable cause, we have space for a stand at our ever popular Christmas event!

The stall space is free, but you must provide your own equipment such as any tables or gazebo/shelter that you may require. The event will be on **Friday 13th December, outside the Wheatsheaf from 6pm.**

Please contact the Parish Council directly for details, badseypc@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07591 533557 (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm). Spaces are limited.



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Badsey Film Club



The next film will take place on
Saturday 14th December

We will be showing:

Wonka (PG)

Wonka tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician, and chocolate maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

The film will start at 8pm in the backroom of the Wheat-sheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval.

The following month's film is still being voted on by our members and will be announced soon. The first film in 2025 will be on Saturday 7th January.

Everyone is welcome and entry is free, but we ask for an annual donation of £5.00 to cover our running costs.

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.

When you can see (and hear) the Badsey Bellringers!

The sound of bells ringing is deeply rooted in British culture. Almost everyone in Britain lives within hearing range of bells! They provide the grand soundtrack to our historic moments, call out for our celebrations, and toll in empathy with our grief.

That said, we, the Badsey Bellringers, will now publish our forthcoming ringings monthly in the Community News!

We have a wonderful band of ringers at Badsey, and have many visitors from all over the world that turn up on our practice night (which is every Monday 7:30 - 9pm), then afterwards to the Wheatsheaf for chats, laughs, and drinks.

December is a busy month for the Tower! Here's what we have coming up:

- 1st December: Advent Carol Service
- 13th December: Badsey Christmas Event (7 - 7.30pm)
- 15th December: Ringing prior to 11am Service
- 21st December: Fourshires Christmas Party (7 - 9pm)
- 24th December: Christmas Eve Ringing prior to 9pm Service
- 25th December: Christmas Day Ringing prior to 9am Service
- 29th December: Ringing prior to Service
- 31st December: New Years Eve

We are a very sociable lot and would love anyone who is interested to see what it's all about to attend on a Monday evening. For more details, please contact Tom Sandham, our Tower Captain, on 01386 834070.

Wishing you all a Very Happy and Joyful Christmas period and a prosperous New Year.

St James Badsey Bellringers

New Sea Shanties & Fisherman's songs group!

Fancy taking up a new hobby in 2025? Why not join the brand-new singing group forming in Badsey next year!

Everyone is welcome to be a part of the Sea Shanties & Fisherman's Songs Group, who will meet weekly at **Badsey Remembrance Hall at 8:15pm starting from Tuesday 7th January**.

The group is not a choir, and a lack of singing ability is encouraged! **Sessions are £3pp, and will include tea and coffee.**

To voice your interest, please contact Bob on either 07972 671622 or robnelson1805@gmail.com.

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Venus sparkles bright in the winter night

By Stargazer

This autumn and winter is a season for planets. In the last two months, Stargazer has looked at Saturn and Jupiter. This month, we look at the brightest and most easy to spot of the planets: Venus.

If you look towards the southwest just before sunset, and for a couple of hours after, you will see a very bright object that can easily be mistaken for an aircraft. The planet Venus will be with us for the next couple of months, and there should be plenty of opportunity to spot it despite the winter weather.

Venus was called “Earth’s twin” as it is nearly the same size, but much closer to the sun. This was until Russia sent their Venera probes there between the late 1960s and the 1980s; they discovered that the temperature at the surface is 475 degrees Centigrade, which is hot enough to melt lead. Also, the atmospheric pressure at the surface is 92 times higher than that on Earth, and air resistance would make movement quite difficult. The atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide, but it is also raining sulphuric acid, and it has always been assumed that the climate on Venus is so extreme that there is no chance of life existing on the planet whatsoever.

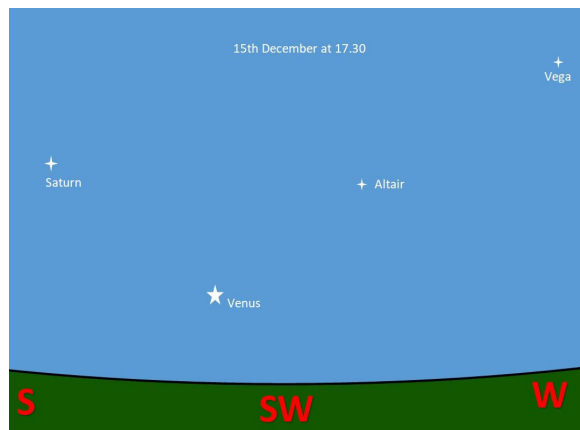
In 1982, the Venera 13 probe sent back some wonderful panoramic images from the surface of the planet for a few brief minutes, before it was destroyed by the atmosphere. When these images were examined in detail, a Russian scientist noted that some small objects appeared to move between successive images. From this, he claimed that there could be “insect-like” life on the surface of the planet. These claims were largely ignored by the scientific community, and it was suggested that they could be fragments of the lens cap, or even the camera shifting at the probe heated up and expanded.

Despite the seemingly inhospitable surface of the planet, scientists are still intrigued by the possibility of life on Venus. Some scientists have speculated that microbial life could exist in the more temperate upper atmosphere, where temperatures and pressures are less severe. This suggestion has been periodically revised and was given a boost when, in September 2020, researchers reported the detection of phosphine gas in Venus’s atmosphere, a potential biomarker.

Phosphine is typically associated with the biological decay processes here on Earth, leading to new excitement about the possibility of microbial life. However, this interpretation has been met with scepticism, and further studies are needed to determine its source. Critics argue that non-biological processes could also produce phosphine, underscoring the complexities of understanding Venus’s atmosphere.

The search for life on Venus serves as a compelling reminder of the diverse conditions under which life might exist. While current missions and technology focus mainly on Mars as a primary target for astrobiology, Venus remains an important subject of research. Future missions, potentially including the proposed “Draper” and “Venus Life Finder” missions, could provide more insights into the planet’s atmosphere and further evaluate the viability of life. Ultimately, understanding Venus may not only reshape our knowledge of where life can thrive but also illuminate the conditions that gave rise to life on Earth.

So, during early evenings in December and January, take a look to the southwest on a clear evening and wonder not just at the magnificent sight of another planet in our solar system, but also the tantalising slim possibility of life, no matter how primitive, on another world. Also keep an eye on the apparent motions of both Venus and Saturn, as they appear to move very close to each other in the middle of January.



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A huge thank you for supporting Badsey Rangers FC Bingo Fundraiser!

We were blown away when we heard the total raised by the fundraiser for the ‘Mini Kickers’ branch of Badsey Rangers FC. The programme gives children under the age of 7 a chance to participate without any financial barriers.

The grand total raised amounted to almost £5800!

If you would like to learn more about the Badsey Rangers FC, perhaps how to support the club either personally or through your business, please reach out to them directly via their Facebook page.

We are always proud of our Badsey community, but it is events like these that really show how great it is. Keep an eye out for upcoming charity fundraising events in 2025.



If you feel that you wouldn't know how to start with a computer or are afraid to use it in case you break it, why not come along to one of our computer group sessions?

The Badsey Computer Group aims to give a helping hand to anyone who seeks to gain confidence in using their computer. Sessions are very informal, usually with a short discussion of a chosen topic and then plenty of time to answer individual issues. Sessions take place on alternate Mondays in the back room of **The Wheatsheaf starting at 10:30am and lasting about an hour and a half**. This month we shall be revisiting photo editing and in the New Year starting again with basics.

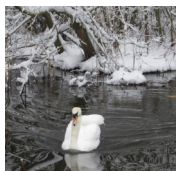
During December the sessions are on the following days: **Monday 9th December**

We will then take a short break before starting again in January on:

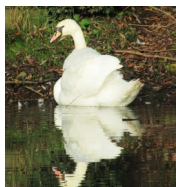
Monday 6th January

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

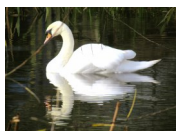
Jane Neill's Nature Notes...



December brings the shortest days and longest nights. Nature is tucking in for the winter, and the mallard ducks have arrived to take shelter on the pond.



The swan that has graced our pond for several years is no more. There are three kinds of swans in Britain: the mute, hooper, and bewick. The male is called a cob, the female a pen and the young, cygnets. Swans are reputed to be able to break our arms but it is a myth, as they have a light skeleton. They have the most vertebrae in their necks, having 24-25, with a wing span of 2.5 metres.



Swans can live up to 30 years, breeding after three years and mating for life. Swans are the symbol of wisdom for they are intelligent birds with a memory of an elephant. The beauty of swans has long inspired music, ballet, and stories, such as the "Ugly Duckling" by Hans Christian Anderson.

Cygnus (swan) is one of only three birds identified as a classical star constellation by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy. It is believed from ancient times that the mute swan sang sweetly as it was about to die. This is my "swan song", in memory of that special swan.

That's a wrap for 2024!

As this is our last issue before the New Year, we'd like to thank everyone for their readership and contributions to the Community News this year! Throughout 2024, we have:

- Made progress in restoring the church and grounds, as a result of generous donations received by the community (more information will be shared on this soon)
- Found new volunteers to deliver copies of the Community News to both Synehurst and Banks Road
- Organised two successful quiz nights, with funds going towards the Community News and the church
- Began a new Facebook page to be able to distribute village news on a wider scale
- Welcomed new advertisers for local businesses

This only scratches the surface of what we've been able to achieve this year, and it wouldn't have been possible without you, our readers. So, on behalf of us at the Community News, thank you! We can't wait to see you again in 2025.

Jo & Louise



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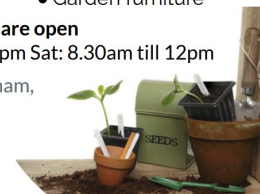
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Badsey & Aldington Parish Council

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.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 16th October

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

Useful Contacts

Badsey Remembrance Hall	Marcelle Wilks	01386 833 256
Badsey Community & Sports Club	Sue Brooks	01386 830 867
Badsey Church Bell Ringers	Tom Sandham	01386 834 070
Badsey Church Flower Guild	Julie Gardner	01386 832 007

Organisations, Institutes and Societies

The Badsey Society	Shirley Tutton	01386 831 539
Women's Institute	Sally Grainger	sgrainger@wfedwi.org.uk
1st Badsey Scout Group	Adam Johnson	07510 042 307
1st Badsey Guides	Siobhan Guyll	siobhan.guyll@gmail.com
Cafe Freedom	Tracy Hemming	01386 830 043
Messy Church	Penny Christison	01386 830 367
Slimming World	Bridget	07534 133 228

Sports and Entertainment

Badsey Film Club	Alan Tutton	01386 831 539
Badsey Flower Show	Gordon Boon	info@badseyflowershow.co.uk
Badsey Rangers FC		07776 423 584
Evesham & District Air Gun League	Ian Davies	01386 450 86
Evesham Archery Club	Ian Trout	01386 831 509
Model Engineering Club	Roger Cull	01386 831 933
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club	Mark Watts-Jones	07973 963 539
Wickhamford Gardening Club	Barbara Bennett	bennett.barbara@sky.com

Would you like your organisation's contact information in our Community News? Just get in touch! Email us at badseycn@gmail.com, or send a direct message to our Facebook page.

On behalf of the editorial team, we'd like to thank you for your contributions and making last month's issue a success!

If you'd like to contribute to future issues of the Community News, please either leave handwritten entries at 32 Seward Road, Badsey, or email badseycn@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the Community News fundraiser, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ian-devine>



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