



BADSEY *and* ALDINGTON

COMMUNITY NEWS

Part of the Benefice of East Vale & Avon Villages

APRIL 2025

HAPPY EASTER!

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months, we have welcomed a Ukrainian family to come and share our home. The war in Ukraine has forced Alla and two of her children from their home in Irpin - first to Poland, and then two years later to us here in Badsey, where they have had to make huge adjustments: getting used to rural English life, learning yet another language, tasting different foods ("What is this cauliflower cheese?"), making new friends in school - and all whilst mourning the loss of their lovely home and garden and the continued relentless advance of the Russians into Ukraine.

One of the ways in which Alla, the mum, has coped with creating this new (hopefully temporary) life in England, is through something she knows and loves deeply - gardening and growing things - and she takes special satisfaction in rescuing vegetable seeds or roots left over from preparing our meals, putting them into water or soil where I would have thrown them onto the compost heap. It is as if she is so aware of the fragility of life, the way that life - any life - is precarious and uncertain, and can be snuffed out and destroyed before it has barely begun, and wants to do whatever she can to save it and give it new life and hope. Pumpkin seeds, tomato seeds, the ends of celery, squash seeds, the top cut from a pineapple - all have been carefully set aside, given pots of earth or water and a chance to thrive.

One thing she especially loves to grow is avocado stones. Our kitchen windowsill is now filled with little yoghurt pots from the children, each with an avocado stone set in some water. At first, I regarded this as a complete waste of time (and precious windowsill space). For weeks the stones just SAT there, apparently unresponsive at best, or turning black. I thought about throwing some of them out when Alla wasn't looking - but she loves them all and kept them so carefully, so I didn't. Then, long after I had given up on them and was about to suggest they went on the compost heap, first one and then another sent up a slender shoot - first yellow and then sprouting little leaves. It's alive!

I thought about the way I had felt - as so many of us did - in those weeks of gloom in February, with thick clouds with absolutely no sun visible day after day. Cold winds, relentless grey overhead and, in my head and heart, with no obvious feeling of spring. Would it ever end? But it did; the clouds finally parted and, as the sun shone, I noticed all the primroses flowering in the grass and the faint mist of green in the hawthorn hedges and on our neighbour's beautiful weeping willow tree.

Just when we feel like giving up, we are given a sign, something that makes us realise that there is hope, that change IS possible, and life can begin again. Just when Jesus' friends had thought that he was gone forever, that they would never see their beloved teacher and friend ever again, he appeared among them, to bless them and encourage them, filling them with wild joy, excitement and hope for the future. So now, every Easter the church celebrates this message and proclaims it for all who need to hear it and see it: the grave is empty because love is stronger than death.

May the life and peace of the risen Lord be always with you. God bless you this Easter.

Rev. Jo Fielding

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com / 01386 339669

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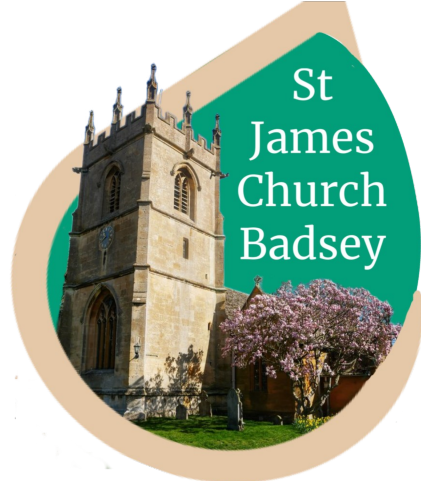
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Churchwardens:

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.

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

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

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
6th April 5 th Sunday of Lent	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
13th April Palm Sunday		Cleeve Prior Benefice Palm Sunday Eucharist	7pm Bretforton Taizé
14th April Monday of Holy Week			7pm Cleeve Prior Stations of the Cross and Compline
15th April Tuesday of Holy Week			7pm Badsey Compline
16th April Wednesday of Holy Week			7pm South Littleton Tenebrae
17th April Maundy Thursday			7pm Bretforton Stations of the Cross followed by parish Eucharist
18th April Good Friday			12 noon Offenham Benefice Good Friday Eucharist
19th April Easter Eve	No services in the benefice. An Easter Vigil is being held in the cathedral, with confirmation.		
20th April Easter Day	South Littleton Easter Eucharist	Badsey Bretforton Cleeve Prior Offenham Easter Eucharist	Sunrise Offenham Easter Sunrise Service
27th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter		Badsey Benefice Eucharist	

ASK THE HISTORY MAN...

In this issue, Terry Sparrow writes the last excerpt of his *Absentee Vicars of Badsey with Aldington* series...

The third and last of our non-resident vicars was the Reverend Charles Phillott, who was born in 1774 at Bath, where his father was a magistrate in the city. Like his predecessor, Drummond, Phillott married into a naval family; his wife, Charlotte, was a daughter of Vice Admiral Francis Pender. His early ministry appears to have been as assistant curate at St Michael's Church in Bath, before his presentment to Badsey, and to Wickhamford, in 1808.

Within a few weeks, Phillott also became rector of the Wiltshire village of Kingston Deverill, remaining there until 1813 when he became nonresident vicar of Frome Selwood in Somerset. By that time, he was living with his family at Dawlish in Devon, where records show the baptisms of five of his children during the period 1811-22, as well as the burial of his eldest daughter in 1829 and the marriage of another daughter in 1843.

In 1816, Phillott was instituted as minister of East Teignmouth, just a couple of miles from his home, remaining in office there until 1845. But still, he continued as vicar of Badsey and Aldington, of Wickhamford, and of Frome, until his death in 1851. He was buried at Frome.

In spite of the distance involved and the difficult travelling conditions at the time, Charles Phillott did come to Badsey on several occasions, as evidenced in his signature on the registers of baptisms, burials, and marriages. He was also present at a meeting held on 25th June 1839 to re-establish a Sunday School.

If you have a question you would like Badsey's History Man to answer or a topic you would like him to write about, please let us know by emailing us at badseycn@gmail.com, and we will pass your request on.

EVESHAM ARCHERY CLUB EVENTS

Evesham Archery Club, a historic club producing some of Britain's best archers since 1963, is hosting some exciting events in May. Archery is a sport suitable for everyone and is very accessible for people of all ages and abilities. In fact, archery was one of the first sports in the Paralympic Games – featured in the tournaments since 1960! As well as being an inclusive sport that provides physical exercise, improved strength, focus, and coordination, archery is also sociable. The club offers opportunities to make friends and, above all, have fun!



On May 10th, the Badsey-based club will welcome two exciting new courses:

Junior Intro to Archery: A junior-only course designed to teach the fundamentals of archery. On passing this course, juniors will be permitted to shoot in the presence of another AGB-recognised member and a parent/guardian. This course is suitable for children aged up to 12. Prices start from £40, but please see the website for further details.

Beginner's Course: This course is suitable for anyone wishing to learn the ropes and start to develop basic archery skills. The course runs for two and a half hours every Saturday for four weeks and is priced at £65.00 for the whole course.

(Having done the beginner's course myself, I can thoroughly recommend it if you are considering trying a new activity. The team were very friendly, knowledgeable, and patient – my dear father is pictured having finally achieved a 'custard'!)

Places book very quickly, so head on over to www.eveshamarcheryclub.com, or alternatively, [send them a message via their Facebook page](#) or email eveshamarchery@gmail.com.

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COMPUTER CLUB

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?



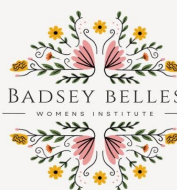
The Badsey Computer Group aims to give a helping hand to anyone who seeks to gain confidence in using their computer. Sessions are very informal, usually with a short discussion of a chosen topic and then plenty of time to answer individual issues.

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 will continue with the basics of how to use your computer and improve your confidence. During April, the sessions will take place on: **Monday 14th, Monday 28th**

Everyone is welcome! For further information, contact Alan Tutton on [01386 831539](tel:01386831539) or email alantutton@talktalk.net.

BADSEY BELLES WI

The Badsey Belles WI has welcomed the spring with a bang! At our monthly meeting, one of our lovely members, Julie, delivered a brilliant and informative workshop on Makaton. She taught us a little of the history and some important signs (tea, cake...!) Check out our Facebook page to see a video of some of our new skills!



Then on Saturday 8th March, we set out for our Women's Walk around Badsey to celebrate International Women's Day. We were joined by our families and four-legged friends and earned a well-deserved drink in the pub afterwards.

Now we are looking forward to our **next meeting on 2nd April**, where we will be learning how to paint glass and creating some lovely pieces for Easter.

If you would like to attend a meeting or find out more about our WI, please contact our secretary, Lucy, at badseybellessec@wfedwi.org.uk or visit us on Facebook or Instagram.

UPCOMING EVENT WITH THE BADSEY SOCIETY

Following on from his talk to the Badsey Society in May 2024, in which he recalled the history of Badsey up until the heyday of market gardening in the 1920s, Terry Sparrow, now in his 91st year, will bring the story up to date with the Society's annual Richard Phillips Memorial Lecture entitled "Badsey 1934 – 2025: The Changing Scene".

Terry's knowledge about his home village is encyclopaedic, and his stories and anecdotes really bring bygone days to life. This is an evening not to be missed!

Come along to **Badsey Community & Sports Club** on **Friday 11th April at 7:30pm**. Entrance for members is free, and the cost to non-members is £2.50.

Membership of The Badsey Society costs £5. Please pay via Paypal at <http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions>.

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BADSEY BELLRINGERS

With the clocks going forward this month it means our evenings will be much longer. During the winter months, our Monday nights are in the dark, wrapped up in our winter woollies (churches aren't the warmest of places). But now we can start to see longer evenings and slightly fewer clothes worn to our ringing practices.

This month we will be ringing before the Sunday services, and we also have some visitors from our southern branch ringing on 5th April from 1pm. It is very much encouraged for bellringers to tour and visit other towers as bells, believe it or not, are all very different!

For anyone that wants to come and see what it's all about, let Tom Sandham know via 01386 834070 and we will welcome you.

NEW TREASURER WANTED

The Badsey Society is looking for someone who would like to take on this role. We would also welcome anyone else who would like to come and help organise the wide range of activities that we have to offer.

If you would like to know more, please contact Maureen Spinks (maureen.spinks@bopenworld.com) or Shirley Tutton (shirleytutton@talktalk.net), or come along to the AGM and talk to any member of the committee.




A poster for a poppy cascade event. It features a large red poppy on the left and a black line drawing of a poppy on the right. The text is centered and reads: "COMMEMORATE 80 YEARS OF PEACE", "HELP US CREATE A STUNNING POPPY CASCADE AT ST JAMES CHURCH BADSEY TO HONOUR THE 80TH YEAR SINCE THE END OF THE WAR.", "WE NEED OVER 4000 KNITTED, CROCHETED OR SEWN POPPIES TO BRING THIS TRIBUTE TO LIFE. CAN YOU HELP?", "CALLING ALL KNITTERS, CROCHETERS AND CRAFTERS!", "WE NEED POPPIES BETWEEN 4 AND 12" IN DIAMETER SO THAT THEY CAN BE SECURELY SEWN ON TO A NET.", "FOR A KNITTING OR CROCHET PATTERN OR TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT US VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR EMAIL BADSEYBELLESSEC@WFEDWI.ORG.UK", "EVERY POPPY TELLS A STORY. LET'S REMEMBER TOGETHER".

BUNTING, BELLS & BISCUITS

Come and join us at St James Church on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May between 2pm and 4pm to celebrate VE Day. The church will be decorated with bunting and flowers, and the bell tower will be open for anyone to visit the bells and chat with the bell ringers.

We will also be showing several short films made over the last few years by Will and John Dallimore from Badsey. They are funny, suitable for all ages, and have several other local people involved. Will died in December 2024 after a short illness and this is our tribute to him, as he was a strong supporter of St James and the gardening group.

There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits throughout.



A poster for line dance classes. It features a cowboy hat and a star. The text reads: "Line dance", "LINE DANCE CLASSES 6.30PM - 7.30PM MONDAY'S AT BADSEY COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CLUB £5.00 CASH ON THE DOOR YEE HAW".



A poster for a quiz night. It features a hand holding a pencil. The text reads: "JOIN US FOR OUR Quiz Night!", "FRI 9TH MAY 2025", "7PM FOR A 7.30PM START", "BADSEY COMMUNITY & SPORTS CLUB", "£3 PER PERSON", "MAX. 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM", "PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS ENTERTAINMENT AT BADSEY FLOWER SHOW", "Reserve your table via: facebook.com/Badseyflowershow or knightlouse97@gmail.com".



A poster for Mini Kickers football. It features a soccer ball and a logo. The text reads: "MINI KICKERS FOOTBALL", "Badsey Rangers Mini Kickers provides age appropriate football coaching for children. It is child-centred and caters for all ability levels.", "Sunday Mornings: 10.00am - 11.00am (Age 4-6)", "For more details about Mini Kickers please contact Andrew on: 07792162577".



A poster for a quiz night. It features a lightbulb and a logo. The text reads: "Friends of Honeybourne School QUIZ Night", "Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate quiz champion?", "SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 6.00PM", "Honeybourne Village Hall WR11 7RH", "TEAMS OF 4-6 £3 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE A PULLED PORK ROLL", "Register your team today! friends@hbs.co.uk or Steph - 07414218681".



A poster for a bunting, bells, and biscuits event. It features a string of Union Jack bunting and a cookie. The text reads: "Bunting, Bells & Biscuits", "JOIN US AT ST. JAMES CHURCH, BADSEY ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY TO CELEBRATE VE DAY", "Climb the bell tower and meet the bell ringers", "Watch the short films made by John and Will Dallimore from Badsey", "Free tea, coffee and biscuits!", "MONDAY 5TH MAY 2pm - 4pm".

BADSEY FILM CLUB



Our next film will be on

Saturday 5th April

starting at 8 o'clock in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. We will be showing:

Paddington in Peru

(Certificate: PG)

This is a live-action animated comedy adventure with a fantastic cast list. Paddington returns to Peru to visit his Aunt Lucy, who now resides in a retirement home. With the Brown family in tow, a thrilling adventure or misadventure ensues.

Date for Your Diary: The following six-month schedule is still being devised, but the following film will be on **Saturday 3rd May at 8 o'clock.**

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.

WHO WILL BE CROWNED WINNER OF THE SCARECROW COMPETITION IN 2025?

We are excited to reveal the theme for this year's Scarecrow Competition! Every summer we see the village filled with scarecrows and we've had a variety of different themes over the years - sports, sci-fi, and book characters, to name a few!

Now, we are delighted to announce that the theme for the 2025 Scarecrow Competition is: **MUSICALS!**

More information on the competition, as well as a full list of other classes to be entered, will be in the 2025 Flower Show Schedule which will be released soon.



Jane Neill's Nature Notes...



Cowslip



Hazel



Bluebell

April is the month of nature's awakening, with trees bursting into leaf. According to gardening by the 'moon phases', April 13th to April 21st is a good time to sow root crops, bulbs, and perennials.

Earthworms are so valuable to us by maintaining soil fertility and aeration. They bring minerals to the surface and increase humus. An acre of land can contain up to three million worms which can raise eight to ten tons of soil to the surface as casts and take rotting vegetation down to eat. They can live in tunnels up to six feet below the ground. The soil beneath our feet, which we often take for granted, covers about 10% of the Earth's surface. A quarter-teaspoon of soil can contain 10 billion organisms!

In the meadows, small rodents, such as voles, traverse through a series of tunnels feeding on the succulent new grass stems and seeds. The kestrel sits patiently on the wires, watching and waiting to pounce.

Cowslips flower here, too. According to legend, St Peter dropped the keys to heaven and the cowslip sprang from where it fell. The perfumed cowslip makes a good win! Sweet-scented bluebells bloom in the woodland, and swallows and martins have arrived, but my greatest wish is to hear, 'Cuckoo'!



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SPOTTING SPICA

Now that we are into April, the clocks have changed to summertime and the evenings are getting longer, so each day, it feels as though summer can't be too far away. This month is also your last chance to observe the great winter constellations before they disappear from view until next autumn. Orion, Taurus, and the Pleiades can be seen in the west just after sunset, but they set earlier each evening and the sun sets a little later, so by the end of the month they will not be visible.

This month's object is easily found in the southeastern skies during the evening in the constellation of Virgo and, being one of the 20 brightest stars in the night sky, it is bright enough to stand out from the surrounding stars. Spica is a blue giant star and being only 250 light years away is one of our closer neighbours. It is an interesting star because it has a close partner.

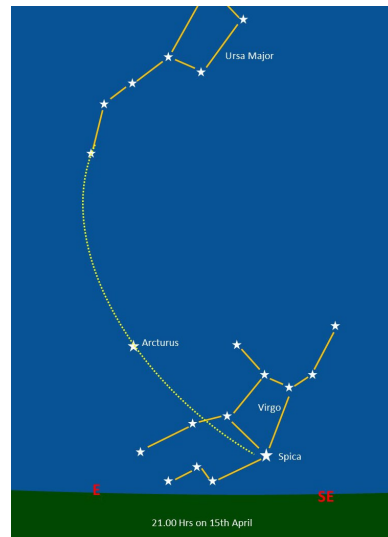
Most stars are binary pairs; our sun as a single star is unusual in not having a partner. What is interesting about Spica is that its partner cannot be resolved with any telescope because it is so bright, and the partner is so close. The partner star has been detected by a technique known as spectroscopy. In 1814, Joseph von Fraunhofer discovered that when light passes through gases, certain wavelengths would be absorbed and not others. It appeared as though there were lines drawn through the spectra of light that had passed through the gas. He studied these lines, mapping out many hundreds of lines in the spectra of the sun alone, and so spectroscopy was born.

In 1868, George Raynet used this technique to look at the spectra of the sun and noticed a strange yellow line. He then realised that he had discovered a new element which was called Helium, after Helios, the Greek name for the sun. We now use spectroscopy to analyse the chemistry of different stars, and while examining the spectra of Spica it was noticed that some lines appeared to move slightly back and forth relative to the main strong spectral lines. It was therefore possible to deduce that these lines are produced by another smaller star orbiting the main star.


The apparent movement in the lines is caused by the Doppler shift as the smaller star moves away from and towards us during its orbit. The main star is about seven times larger than the sun and is about ten times more massive. It is also approaching the end of its relatively short stellar life, as it is beginning to swell up into a super-giant. Without actually seeing this smaller partner star we are able to deduce that it is still quite large, having about four times the mass of our sun and having a radius about four times larger. We also know that the two stars orbit each other every four days which is incredibly fast, and they must be very close to each other.

Finding Spica is relatively easy as it sits very close to the ecliptic (the path the planets and moon follow through the southern night sky). Alternatively, you can follow an arc from the handle of the Plough to Arcturus and then continue on the same distance to Spica.

With the warmer, longer evenings, why not take a few minutes to spy out one of the stranger objects in our night sky?



Heading into spring might inspire you to go out and get some snaps, so here is a reminder
of the 2025 photography categories for the Badsey Flower Show:
View Through a Gate / View Over a Hedge / Cars / Chimneys / Wild Weather / Village Life



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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 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

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	Lucy Close	badseybellessec@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.

Answers from February's puzzler:

1. Eros 2. Mr Darcy 3. Aquarius 4. Beekeepers 5. Chocolates
6. Men 7. Love is All Around (Wet Wet Wet) 8. Texas

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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

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