



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Dear Friends: at the time of writing this, we have just celebrated VE Day, and the election of Pope Leo XIV has been announced. Did you notice the traditional ways in which these events are signalled -the multicoloured bunting wrapped around lamp posts and pillars, church bells being rung, and the white smoke rising from the chimney of the Sistine chapel in Rome, all sights and sounds that have been used to mark these extraordinary times reaching way back over the years – centuries even. Of course there are innovations, new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking that bring fresh insights and interest – but it can also be good to have a sense of continuity, to know what is worth holding on to. This is true for us as individuals, for the friendships and relationships we build with each other, and it is true for our communities, organisations and businesses.

I've also been spending quite a few evenings recently talking with couples who are getting married in one of our churches this summer. Each year we hold a “Wedding Information” event on the Saturday nearest to St Valentine's Day, when we get all this year's wedding couples together so they can meet me, (and each other), hear from Church wardens, bell ringers, get some info about banns etc. It's always lovely to chat with them and get the ball rolling on arrangements for dates etc – and each time it is great to see the variety of people and the stories that lie behind their decision to get married, and married in church.

Fast forward to about now, and the wedding prep conversations are in full swing. Before we meet, I email each couple a set of questions, asking them to have a go at answering the questions separately before comparing their answers. When we meet, they have the opportunity to tell me how they got on, as well as planning the actual wedding service during our meeting. The conversations are always really interesting -and generally bring up all sorts of insights and stories that help me get to know them better, so that each service will be unique and special - and exactly right for each couple. Some want to hold on to tradition (“Yes to an organist playing a classical wedding march - and we want the hymn that Mum had at her wedding”), others go for a Spotify playlist on our Bluetooth system, and a poem written by the Best Woman about how the bride never remembers to turn the office light off.

But each couple will use an almost identical set of things to tell me about their relationship. They tell me how they trust each other, how they often know what their partner is thinking, or feeling. They tell me how they have learned to give each other space when it is needed, how they know when to listen and when to speak, how they have grown to appreciate each other's skillsets and qualities, fitting together. I hear all this and think about the way that healthy loving relationships have worked like this over the centuries, for every generation. Times change, and bring new ideas, new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking, (and many of those are long overdue!) – but it's always good to be able to keep hold of the things that hold us together, that enable us to know that we belong, that remind us of who we are and why we are here. In the words of the most popular Bible reading at a church wedding “Now faith hope and love abide, and the greatest of these is love.”

We face change in our villages all the time, and some changes we worry about or protest against, some we look forward to and celebrate. The old and the new rub up against each other, and we are always in the middle, picking our way through carefully, hopefully, with love.

God bless you Rev. Jo Fielding

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com Tel 07561823135

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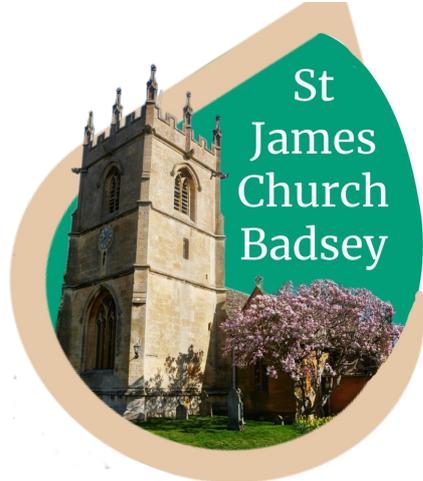
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 Tel. 830217 Email: smithvce@msn.com
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 Faith Quinn: eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

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

St James Church has stood at the heart of Badsey for generations - not just as a place of worship, but as a welcoming space for the whole community. It's more than just Sunday services; it's a hub for connection, support, reflection, and shared experiences.

From coffee mornings and community events to volunteering, and seasonal celebrations, there's always something happening at St James. Everyone is welcome, whether you have a few hours to spare, a talent to share, or just want to meet new people, your presence and involvement can make a real difference.

Keep an eye on the noticeboard, the church newsletter, and social media for upcoming activities. There is also a resident organist and choir, flower guild, and a band of bell ringers, If you'd like to get involved or find out more, just pop in or speak to a member of the church team. We'd love to see you!

Here's a reminder of regular activities you may wish to get involved with:

- Monday morning Drop In from 08.45 to 11.00 during term time
- Wednesday Work group meets at 10.00
- Knit and Nat For times and venue, Nina Ward 01386 830399
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SERVICES FOR JUNE 2025

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

Entries in the register - April 25

- Baptisms Lex-Mai Smith (Offenham)
- Funerals Jean Atkinson (Badsey)
 Mavis Keye (Badsey)
 Valerie Magan (Badsey)
 Julie Vernall (Offenham)
 Thomas Metcalfe (S.Littleton)

	9.30am Service	11.00am Service	Other Services
1st June 7th of Easter	Badsey Morning Praise	Offenham Eucharist Cleeve Prior Eucharist	5.30pm Bretforton Asparagus service The Fleece
8th June Pentecost		South Littleton Benefice Pentecost Eucharist	7pm Cleeve Prior Taizé
15th June Holy Trinity (Fathers' Day)	Offenham Morning Praise	Badsey Eucharist Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	3pm Cleeve Prior Churches Count on Nature
22nd June 1st After Trinity	South Littleton Morning Praise	Bretforton Eucharist	
29th June Peter and Paul		Offenham Benefice Eucharist	

FROM BLOOMS TO BEST IN SHOW - GET READY!

Badsey Flower Show Updates

Thank you for attending our Quiz Night!

We'd like to extend a huge thank-you to all those who organised and attended our quiz night to make it a great success!

We were able to raise £259, which will go towards the Badsey Flower Show's entertainment fund to help provide quality arena entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Thank you again to everyone who took part!

Pick Up Your Flower Show Schedule!

The 2025 Schedule for this year's Badsey Flower Show is officially printed!

They contain Show information and all the classes available for you to enter this year! All schedules and entry forms are available in the Spar shop to collect, so if you are thinking of creating something special to enter in the Show this year, now is your chance!

Enter our Charity Dog Show!

From waggiest tail to who the judge would most like to take home, find out if your furry friend has what it takes to take home a rosette in our dog show! Join us on Saturday 26th July and show us what your four-legged pal can do! All proceeds will be split between Dogs Trust and Evesham Greyhound & Lurcher Rescue.



BADSEY BELLRINGERS

We had a very well-attended Bell Tower on the May bank holiday due to St James' Bunting, Bells and Biscuits afternoon for VE Day! We had lots of volunteers having a go at ringing the bells! In this image, we have Paton being shown the ropes by Richard.

This month we are ringing before each Sunday service, plus we have the absolute pleasure of ringing for a wonderful couple who are getting married on 28th June!

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.

Over the last couple of months, we have looked at what you can do to make your computer run faster and virus protection. The aim is to answer questions as they arise from the group and help solve difficulties.

During June, we shall meet on the following dates:

Monday 9th June

Monday 23rd June

Monday 7th July

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

SCHEDULE
FOR THE 122ND ANNUAL
BADSEY FLOWER SHOW
TO BE HELD ON:
Saturday 26th July 2025
Badsey Recreation Ground, Sands Lane
*Admission (from 1pm):
Adults: £5 | Children: £1
*GATE ENTRY: CASH ONLY
CAR PARKING IS FREE

CHARITY FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 26 July
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1. Prettiest Bitch
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3. Golden Oldie (7+)
4. Waggiest Tail
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8. Dog Nothing Like Its Owner
9. Dog Judge Would Most Like To Take Home
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PLEASE NOTE: Entry to the Badsey Flower show is not included - please see main schedule for entry costs.

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BADSEY SOCIETY - UPCOMING EVENTS

Roots in Time: The Excavations at New Farm, Norton

Friday 13th June
2025 at 7.30 p.m.

@ Badsey Community
& Sports Club

Roots in Time: The Excavations at New Farm, Norton

Friday 13 June 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at Badsey Community & Sports Club

During the summer of 2022, a community excavation investigated millennia of stories buried within this landscape. A geophysical survey of the site had revealed an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement, track ways and possibly earlier prehistoric activity too. Thanks to the excavation, we now have a window into what went on, who lived there and when.

Nina O'Hare from Worcestershire Archaeology and Archives will talk about the project.

Follow the Skylark Trail Around New Farm Nature Reserve

Sunday 15th June 2025
at 2:00pm

Follow the Skylark Trail Around New Farm Nature Reserve

Sunday 15 June 2025 at 2.00 p.m

Bring the whole family for an afternoon stroll! Meet Alan and Shirley Tutton at the end of the car park by the Valley Railway, and take the waymarked path through the gate to the nature reserve. On the way, we will observe the wildlife and see where the prehistoric settlement and Romano-British farmstead lay.

The short trail is one mile, the longer one 1.75 miles, and takes about an hour. The final section is not accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs, but the short route is. After the walk, why not have an ice cream or afternoon tea at one of the cafes in the Valley?

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

The 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@btopenworld.com) or Shirley Tutton (shirleytutton@talktalk.net), or come along to the AGM and talk to any member of the committee.

BADSEY FILM CLUB

Our next film will be on **Saturday 7th June** starting at 8 o'clock in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. We will be showing:

Conclave (Certificate: 12A)

This film follows Cardinal Lawrence, who is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events - selecting a new Pope - and he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.



Date for Your Diary: The following month's film will be Anora which will be shown on at 8.00 pm on **Saturday 5th July**.

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.

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Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

In June, the meadows and hedgerows are bursting with life. Sweet scented honeysuckle winds its way clockwise around the stems in the wood and hedgerows. Old countrymen highly prized a blackthorn stem that had been distorted in a deep spiral pattern, making it into a rare walking stick.

While flying insects are visibly abundant all around us, hidden under stones, dead wood and pots, in the garden is another world. Woodlouse, though not a louse nor does it eat wood, only eats plant matter. It is a crustacean related to crabs, prawns and shrimps. Of 37 species in Britain, seven live in our gardens. The woodlouse spider feeds exclusively on them.

Millipedes and centipedes are night hunters. Millipedes have two pairs of legs on each segment, whereas centipedes have single legs. There are 60 species of each in Britain.

The millipede is harmless, eating only vegetation, although it gives off a foul-smelling secretion to deter predators. The centipede, on the other hand, bites with poisoned fangs curved around its head, preying on soil animals as big as slugs.



88 YEAR OLD TO FEATURE IN UPCOMING EPISODE OF FATHER BROWN TV SERIES!

No, not a person, but a 1937 Armstrong Siddeley car owned by village resident John Waters. The car took part in two days of filming, parked outside the theatre in Chipping Norton. To get there, it had to ascend Fish Hill – no mean feat for an 88-year-old vehicle – but she managed it, never needing to drop below third gear.



This is the second time the car has featured in a Father Brown episode. The previous episode, broadcast on BBC One in March 2025, was filmed in Stratford-upon-Avon, on a street that had been transformed into the London Borough of Ealing as it would have appeared in the late 1940s.

John bought the car in a disassembled state in 2010, and it took him seven years to get it back on the road. Its first trip was to Willersey to fill up with leaded petrol – one of the very few places in the country where this is still possible.

WILL THE VILLAGE MOBILE SIGNAL BE IMPROVING?

Badsey & Aldington Parish Council kindly released a statement in early May, informing residents of a proposed improvement to mobile signal in the area. The planning application submitted involves the erection of a 25m telecommunications tower in Ballards Park (aka Badsey Community & Sports Club). At time of print the opportunity to comment on the application will have lapsed, but anyone wishing to follow progress of the planning status can do so by heading to Wychavon's planning portal and searching for application reference W/25/00871/TC.

L-K's Rodeo

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THE 13 SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

By Stargazer

The month of June is a difficult one for the amateur astronomer. Hopefully, the weather is getting warmer, and it is a more comfortable time of the year to be sitting in the garden late at night without the cold causing your lenses to mist up and the struggle to keep the condensation off your telescope mirrors. However, the days are getting longer and the nights much shorter, and if you look to the north, the glow of the Sun just below the horizon is visible throughout the night. Although there is potentially plenty to see, you must stay up past midnight to catch the best astronomy.

To the south in the late evening, you can find the constellation of Sagittarius just above the horizon. This is not a particularly dramatic-looking constellation, appearing a little like a teapot, but most will recognise this to be one of the signs of the zodiac. The constellations that make up the signs of the zodiac sit on the line across the sky that is taken by the Sun, Moon and planets, which is known to astronomers as the ecliptic.

A few thousand years ago, people looked at the patterns of the stars in the sky and tried to make sense of the movements of the planets and deliberated about their place in the universe. A system of divination was developed that used these seasonal changes to the constellations and the motions of the planets to try to predict future events in the lives of kings and states.

Over the centuries, astronomy has parted company with astrology as our understanding of the heavens has improved through careful observation. We no longer see the stars in the heavens as being specks of light on a solid wall that is a great distance away with the Earth at the centre of its cosmos. We now recognise that the small specks of light in the night sky are, in fact, vast objects just like our Sun. Some are larger and others are smaller, but they are all staggeringly large distances away.

Also, the patterns of stars that we call constellations are, in fact, just an illusion. The stars in Sagittarius, for example, are all at different distances from us. These stars are not even close to each other; the closest is nearly 260 light years away, and the furthest is over 380 light years away. That is, it takes its light 260 years to reach us from the closest star. If a star this far away were to explode, it would be 260 years before we would be able to see the event or detect any gravitational waves caused by the cataclysm. If we were able to fly off in a spacecraft and see any of the constellations from a different point of view, the shape of the constellation would change.

Your astrological sign is said to be set by which constellation the Sun appears to be in at your time of birth and astrology will tell you that there are 12 signs of the zodiac, dividing the year up into 12 convenient parts. Unfortunately, this very basic premise is wrong, as there are 13 constellations sitting on the ecliptic and not 12. The constellation of Ophiuchus that sits between Scorpius and Sagittarius is conveniently forgotten - probably to avoid the number 13!

If you read your daily horoscope and it brings you a little pleasure in the morning, then there is no reason to change your habits. However, with the incredible distances involved between the stars and the understanding that the Earth is not the centre of the universe but an ordinary planet orbiting an ordinary star in an unimaginably large universe, you can see why astronomers are a little sceptical about the claims of astrologers that the motion of planets and stars influence our lives. Also, on a fine summer evening, why not take a little time to look towards the south and try to discern the patterns of the stars that make up the constellations of the zodiac?



Prominent Stars



(Sagittarius A* is a notable feature of the Sagittarius constellation.

However, it is not a star—it's a supermassive black hole at the centre of our Milky Way galaxy)

Images sourced via www.celestron.com

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Send your contributions to:

badseycn@gmail.com or message us directly on our Facebook page. Let's keep our community spirit strong, together!

ASK THE HISTORY MAN...

William Seward: A Badsey Martyr (Part 2)

Last month's article ended with William Seward's conversion to Methodism in 1738 (we apologise for the error in that article, where the date was incorrectly given as 1783). The following spring, he became the travelling companion of George Whitefield, another of the Methodist pioneers. Whitefield wrote in his journal: "Thursday 19th April 1739: About four in the evening, I preached in the middle of Evesham street to a great congregation, and then went to Badsey and preached in Mr Seward's brother's yard. The next day, Good Friday, I preached again at Badsey at 5 pm."

His third and final sermon at Badsey, on Easter Eve, was delivered to "a weeping audience". Not many of our present-day clergy have such power over their congregation!

In August of the same year, Seward demonstrated his great wealth by purchasing a ship, then embarking with Whitefield to North America, to Georgia, on what was in effect a missionary trip. Seward also defrayed the cost of setting up a school there. Some time in 1740, he returned to England and soon began open-air preaching, travelling around on horseback. The diary which he kept at the time tells us: "Friday 8th August 1740: Came to my native place at Badsey...found my honour'd mother was yet alive." (She died about three months later, his father having predeceased her by almost three years).

On Sunday, 24th August, William Seward attended Badsey Church for the last time. The following month, he joined the Welsh evangelist Howell Harris on a preaching tour of South Wales, where they often encountered a hostile reception. They were assaulted at Newport, pelted at Caerleon, and at Monmouth had stones, dirt and even a dead dog thrown at them!

After visits to Bristol and Gloucester, Seward was soon back in Wales, at Hay-on-Wye. There, he met with strong opposition from the minister of the parish and several Justices of the Peace. Whilst attempting to preach, he faced a barrage of stones, and shortly afterwards died of his injuries, thus becoming the first Methodist Martyr. He was buried in the churchyard at Cusop, a small village near Hay. In 1978, 238 years after his death, a memorial plaque was erected in the church there.

Note: Much of the original research on which this article is based was undertaken by the late Reverend Peter Braby (Vicar of Badsey from 1958 to 1973).

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.

Badsey Belles WI held an annual review meeting and quiz night last month. We were thrilled to be able to reflect on all that we have achieved and done in the past seven months since reforming the WI in Badsey. And of course, we celebrated with some delicious cake! The quiz was hotly contested, and it definitely got the grey matter working.



Now we are looking forward to our next meeting, which will be a tea party on 4th June. There will be cake, chat and fun games!

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.

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Website www.badseypc.uk

**Date of next meeting:
Wednesday 18th June**

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
Badsey Community & Sports Club
Badsey Church Bell Ringers
Badsey Church Flower Guild

Marcelle Wilks 01386 833 256
Sue Brooks 01386 830 867
Tom Sandham 01386 834 070
Julie Gardner 01386 832 007

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Siobhan Guyll
badseygirlguides@gmail.com
Tracy Hemming 01386 830 043
Penny Christison 01386 830 367
Bridget 07534 133 228

Sports and Entertainment

Badsey Film Club
Badsey Flower Show

Badsey Rangers FC
Evesham & District Air Gun League
Evesham Archery Club
Model Engineering Club
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club
Wickhamford Gardening Club

Alan Tutton 01386 831 539
Gordon Boon
info@badseyflowershow.co.uk
07776 423 584
Ian Davies 01386 450 86
Ian Trout 01386 831 509
Roger Cull 01386 831 933
Mark Watts-Jones 07973 963 539
Barbara Bennett
bennett.barbara@sky.com

Local West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Officers

Alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk,
ben.trowman@westmercia.police.uk
luke.harris@westmercia.police.uk

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.

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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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