

EMBRACING PARTNERSHIPS & LOVING THY NEIGHBOUR

Dear Friends,

Did you know that our churches here in the Vale have a special connection with a group of churches in the Halberstadt-Ost (near Magdeburg) area of Germany? I was so pleased to meet Pastor Susanne, who came over especially for my licensing service when I first arrived in November 2024, but the partnership between the two communities stretches back over the last 25 years. The original partnership, between Worcester Diocese and the Area Bishop of Magdeburg, was renewed only a couple of weeks ago when Bishop Bettina from the Evangelical Church of Central Germany was a co-signatory with our Bishop Martin during a recent ordination service at Worcester Cathedral. The local links have been built up and treasured with new and old friendships with each visit.

Last year we hosted a large group of teenagers, meeting for a BBQ and games, and later this month I will go over with a group to get to know our German friends a little better. I learned French at school, but my German is almost non-existent - something I need to remedy before getting on the plane! I am excited about the possibilities and making some new connections, but the trip has really got me thinking about who our neighbours are, and why it matters that we care about them.

How do you feel about your neighbours? What are you like as a neighbour? Sometimes our neighbour is the person next door - you've known them forever, and their kids are as much part of your lives as your grandkids are of theirs. Or you aren't too sure of their names, but they have a really yappy dog that always gets set off by passing horses or the postman. Neighbours come in all shapes, sizes, colours, and distance/nearness - people we know well, and also people we have never met and never will.

All the major world religions have something to say about the importance of caring for our neighbours, either explicitly as in Judaism and Christianity, or more generally, practising loving-kindness and compassion for people. Loving your neighbour sometimes feels really easy, and sometimes feels like one of the hardest things we can ever do.

But whether you have any faith or none at all, the practice of loving your neighbour is one of the things that can make our world a much better and kinder place. Why? Firstly, because it reminds me that we are all connected; the things that we do and the choices that we make about how we live not only affect our neighbours living next door or downriver from us, but also our neighbours on a Pacific island thousands of miles from here.

Secondly, when I try flexing that love and kindness muscle, it seems to have a dual effect - it turns my focus out from myself (hopefully enabling me to become a better, kinder, more loving person) - always a good thing - and it should also make it a bit easier for my neighbour to love me.

I think we forget sometimes how easy it is to lose those connections with each other, or how much we can gain from making and keeping up neighbourly relationships in the first place. There are lots of things that we do as individuals and as communities that offer the chance to build those connections: through our schools or sports clubs, special events, and volunteering. But if all that is too hard, even simply being aware of what is going on locally or further afield and caring about the people involved, is all part of that work of neighbourliness.

Including when you read the inside pages of this community magazine!

Gott segne dich...

Rev. Jo Fielding

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com | 07561823135

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Mr. Chris Smith

Readers:

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Administrator

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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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Partnership Agreement Signed!

Dear All,

As you may be aware at during the Ordination Service at the Cathedral on 28th June, a new Partnership Agreement was signed to run for the next ten years. The new agreement was signed by Regionalbischöfin Bettina and Bishop Mark; this is a legal requirement for the EKM.

The document contains the framework of the agreement between our two churches and the Meissen Declaration to within our ecumenical rules, "we will take all possible steps to closer fellowship in as many areas of Christian life and witness as possible, so that all our members together may advance on the way to full, visible unity." (Meissen 17B).



Within the action plan is the recognition of sharing our responses to the current challenges of our Church today. It also reaffirms the participation of Roman Catholics in joint partnership activities, such as The Three Confessions.

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SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2025

Please note that during the holiday season we will be holding just **one Sunday service in the Benefice, all at 10am.**

[Entries into the register: June 2025](#)

BAPTISMS

Luna Stanley *Badsey*

WEDDINGS

Shannon Allcock & Daneil Taylor *Badsey*
 Nicola Kingdon & Luke Cunningham *Bretforton*
 Stacey Smith & Jonathan Bannister *Cleeve Prior*

FUNERALS

Norman Young *Badsey*
 Christine Parkinson *Offenham*

	10.00am
3rd August 7 th after Trinity	Benefice Eucharist Offenham
10th August 8 th after Trinity	Benefice Eucharist South Littleton
17th August 9 th after Trinity	Benefice Eucharist Badsey
24th August 10 th after Trinity	Benefice Eucharist Bretforton
31st August 11 th after Trinity	Benefice Eucharist Cleeve Prior



SUNDOWN SUMMER BASH SET TO LIGHT UP BADSEY

**SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST | 6PM TIL LATE
@ BADSEY COMMUNITY & SPORTS CLUB**

Wave goodbye to summer in style at the Sundown End-Of-Summer Beach Party, taking place from 6pm til late on Saturday 30th August at Badsey Community & Sports Club!

This vibrant, family-friendly evening promises a packed programme of entertainment for all ages - including a disco, fire performers, games for children and adults, a beach-style BBQ, and even a fancy dress competition with fantastic prizes for both adults and kids!

There'll also be a hula dance and a magical Children's Sundown Story session, and much more to keep the fun going into the night. The event also features a raffle in support of Alzheimer's charities, with some truly incredible prizes up for grabs generously donated by local businesses and supporters.

This year's party also gives a special nod to L-K Aerial, a local business celebrating 15 years of running pole dance, aerial arts, fitness, and community connection.

Whether you're coming for the music, the entertainment, or just to soak up the atmosphere, grab your best beach-themed fancy dress, bring your friends and family, and join us for an unforgettable evening!

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 10:30 am and lasting about an hour and a half.

Badsey Computer Group is taking a summer break this month. We will meet again on **Monday 8th September** and then every two weeks at 10:30 in the back room of the Wheatsheaf.

Everyone is welcome, and the coffee is free!

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

BADSEY BELLRINGERS

Well, we are in the middle of wedding season, and we do hope you have enjoyed the bells announcing the wonderful news of a newly married couple!

We are aware that, due to the heatwave, you will all have your windows open and can hear us loud and clear! St James is such a wonderful church, and the ringing chamber is high inside the tower and has the sun streaming through the glass until sunset. In the winter, this is very welcome as churches can be cool places, but please spare a thought for your bellringing team as with only one tiny window that opens, we get very hot and it can be quite tough in a heatwave!

This August, we have a visiting group of ringers from Kensington, London that will be doing a full peal at St James on Tuesday 12th August at 9.30 am.

We will be ringing before each Sunday service, and we have a wedding on Saturday, 16th August at 2 pm. We're looking forward to seeing what the bride, groom, and guests are all wearing!

SUBMIT A STORY TO YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Whether it's a news update, funny photo or something happening in the Parish... We want to hear about it!

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Badseychn@gmail.com

OR SEND A MESSAGE
TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

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

TRIP TO HARTLEBURY CASTLE

With The Badsey Society

Join us on **Thursday 4th September!** The cost for this Hartlebury Castle visit is £33, and will include:

- Coach travel
- Refreshments on arrival
- State Room Tour
- Tour of the Hurd Library
- Free time in the County Museum and Grounds



We will be leaving Badsey at 9:30 am and returning at 5:30 pm. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch or purchase something at Hayley's Kitchen, located at the castle.

Everyone is welcome! If you would like to come along, please contact Shirley Tutton on 07740 286941 or shirleytutton@talktalk.net by Friday 8th August.

BADSEY FILM CLUB

Our next film will be on

Saturday 9th August, starting at 8 o'clock in the back room of the Wheatsheaf.

We will be showing:

The Salt Path (12A)

You know what they say – life's a journey. And in some cases, this can be a physical one that reveals hidden strengths and levels of resilience you never imagined possible. In this film, Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs play a married couple who experience exactly that when shocking life shifts send them on an epic coastal voyage on foot.



Date for Your Diary: The following month's film will be The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare and will be shown on Saturday 6th September 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.



GIRLGUIDING IN BADSEY: A FUN-FILLED SUMMER TERM

It's been another exciting term for Girlguiding in Badsey, with our Rainbows, Guides, and Rangers all enjoying a wide range of activities during the summer term.

Across all groups, we've enjoyed the lighter evenings and warmer weather by taking as many activities outdoors as possible. We've done a variety of activities, including pottery painting, tie-dye, chip shop hike, outdoor fires and played cricket and rounders in the sunshine.

We are now thinking ahead to the adventures that await us in the autumn.

If you'd like to join us for a taster session or have any questions, **please contact us via email:** badseygirlguides@gmail.com. You can also see what we get up to each week on Instagram! @badseygirlguides



JOIN THE SS SUEVIC AND THE NIGHT THE RNLI SAVED 611 PEOPLE!

With The Badsey Society

Friday 19 September at 7.30 at the Recreation Club

Speaker: Galen Bartholomew

The SS Suevic ran aground in a storm off the Lizard Point in Cornwall in March 1907. The RNLI rescued 456 people in appalling weather conditions. This is still the largest number of people rescued by the RNLI in a single operation. Another ship, the SS Jebba, ran aground off the South Devon coast the same night and the RNLI saved a further 155 lives. Not a single life was lost in either rescue. In those days, lifeboats were open rowing boats and the crews were untrained local volunteers! This illustrated talk describes how Galen Bartholomew pieced together an extraordinary story: how the Suevic ran aground; how she was salvaged and rebuilt; her service in two wars; and her final years as a whaling factory ship in the Antarctic, before being scuttled off the coast of Sweden to avoid capture by German warships. As well as the number of people rescued, both the salvage and rebuilding of the Suevic set records in 1907. A focus throughout is on the brave crews of the RNLI, which celebrated its bi-centenary in March 2024. Galen Bartholomew has been a keen family historian for 50 years. When he discovered that his great-grandmother and great-aunt were amongst those rescued from the Suevic, he was keen to find out more about this. Little did he imagine that his relatives had been involved in one of the most famous of RNLI rescues! The traumatic events explain why Galen's family had virtually 'forgotten' that terrible night – 1907 was well before people were encouraged to talk about difficult experiences! This is a remarkable account of shipwreck and survival.



SS Suevic aground on the Lizard Point, March 1907

For more information on this talk, please contact Shirley Tutton on 07740 286941 or shirleytutton@talktalk.net.

Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24th, is traditionally the start of Autumnal dews.

The woods and meadows are still full of summer insects. We are fortunate to have dragonflies, one of the most beautiful insects, in abundance along the brook. They have been around for 300million years as fossil remains show. There are 27 species in Britain. The largest dragonflies reach speeds of up to 60mph! The most impressive is the blue emperor dragonfly found in our meadows along with broad-bodied chasers, southern hawkers, black-tailed skimmers and ruddy darters. Beautiful and banded demoiselles grace our brooks, and in the long grass, the smallest, blue-tailed, blue and red damselflies float like will-o'-the-wisps as you pass. They all have eyes that cover the top & side of the head, making their insect prey hunting easier.

Dragonflies start life in the pond where the female lays her eggs on plants in the water or on open water. The nymphs hatch and live underwater for two years. Being carnivorous, they live on insects, tadpoles and even small fish. The mature nymph climbs onto a stem where its skin splits, allowing the thorax and wings to emerge. They live for just two months, so our fleeting encounter is all the more special.



WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

In both June and July, our meetings were garden visits, while in June we enjoyed a Strawberries and Cream Tea at a Member's house.

Our June visit was to Tower Close, a large, part-16th-century house in Snowhill. The south-facing, steeply sloped garden features a large pond and was developed over 13 years ago from an uninteresting grassed area. The hosts extended a most generous welcome, and proceeds from our visit were donated to a charity of their choice.

In July, we visited Russell House, a very large property in High Street, Broadway, which was a focal point for notably influential artists in the late 19th century through to the 1930s.

Schedule for our Membership Year

All held at Wickhamford Village Hall, WR11 7SA at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome!

- 27th August: Our Summer Show!
- 24th September: Lucy Hartley: Climate Change and Gardening (Flower of the Month Competition)
- 22nd October: Mary Felton: The Wonder of Trees (Flower of the Month Competition)
- 26th November: AGM & Christmas Celebration
- December: Winter Break
- 28th January: Will Scott: Tool Sharpening for the Terrified + Subscriptions for New Membership Year

Lesley Dingley (Hon. Sec.)

ladingley@gmail.com

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THE PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

By Stargazer

The weather in August is notoriously unreliable, but there is always the hope of long hot days and clear evenings. The nights are drawing in a little, and the astronomical twilight that we have had for the past three months has now passed. This should be a perfect time of the year for sitting in the garden and just enjoying the night sky.

Meteor spotting is a fun activity for an evening, and the Perseid meteor shower, which appears in August, is one of the most anticipated celestial events of the year. The Perseids are known for their bright meteors and high frequency, making them a favourite among stargazers. This year, the Perseid meteor shower will peak around the 12th to 13th of the month. This period will offer the best viewing opportunities, with the highest number of meteors visible per hour.

Unfortunately, the moon will not be in a favourable phase during the peak of the Perseids this year, with a full moon on 9th August, and it will be a bright waning moon on the night of peak activity of 12th and 13th. The bright moonlight may bleach out part of the night sky, making viewing difficult. Fortunately, the Perseids last for a long time and are visible from as early as mid-July until late August, so it is worth watching out for them for the whole month.

Meteors are fragments of rock or metal that are burning up in the Earth's atmosphere. They originate from asteroids, comets, or other celestial bodies and can vary greatly in size from as small as a grain of sand up to several meters in diameter. When these objects enter the atmosphere, they burn up due to friction with the atmosphere, and they create a bright streak of light known as a meteor or 'shooting star'. If any part of the meteoroid survives the journey and lands on Earth, it is called a meteorite.

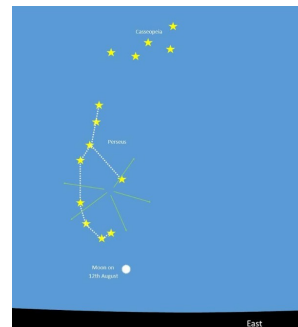
The Perseid shower originates from the debris left behind by the comet Swift-Tuttle, which Earth passes through annually. As the comet orbits the Sun, it sheds tiny particles of dust and rock. When Earth crosses this trail of debris, these particles enter our atmosphere at high speeds, creating bright streaks of light as they burn up. Comet Swift-Tuttle is a large periodic comet that orbits the sun every 133 years. It spends most of its time far out in the colder regions of the solar system beyond the planet Neptune. As it moves in towards the sun, it can become visible as it passes just inside the orbit of the Earth. It was last seen in September 1992 and will not be seen again until July 2126.

Strangely, Swift-Tuttle is in a 1:11 orbital resonance with Jupiter, meaning it completes one orbit around the Sun for every 11 orbits of Jupiter. Its nucleus is about 26 kilometres (16 miles) in diameter, making it one of the largest known periodic comets. The comet was last seen in April 1992 when it could be seen through binoculars. It will make a return appearance in 2126, when it is expected to be a bright naked-eye comet. I am afraid none of us will be around to see that magnificent sight.

To observe the Perseids, it's best to find a location where the sky is dark and clear. The meteors can be seen all over the sky, but they will appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus. No special equipment is needed; just a comfortable spot to sit or lie down and watch the sky. The Perseids are named after the constellation Perseus, from which they appear to radiate. During the peak, stargazers can see a high number of meteors per hour, making it one of the most popular and spectacular meteor showers of the year.

Whether you're an experienced astronomer or a casual observer, the Perseid meteor shower is a must-see event that offers a chance to connect with the wonders of the universe.

Are you looking for some new reading material? Stargazer has you covered! The Sky at Night Magazine is a great way to keep in touch month by month with the latest rapid developments in astronomy and cosmology. Over the past 10 years, I have amassed a collection of these magazines, but I now need the space. It seems a shame to just throw them away when they contain so much, when someone else could gain pleasure from reading them. If anyone would like to take possession of some or all of these interesting reads, then please contact Alan on 01386 831539.



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ASK THE HISTORY MAN...

Parish Welfare, 1601-1834

Everyone is familiar with the modern Welfare State with its many benefits, all with the object of supporting the less fortunate members of society. But possibly what is not so well known is that, more than 400 years ago, there was already in place a system of parish welfare which, as far as Badsey goes, seems to have been well organised.

In 1601, it was enacted that every parish must appoint Overseers of the Poor. These overseers, who were elected annually at a parish meeting, acted under the authority of the Justices of the Peace and were empowered to raise money by means of a levy or rate on property owners in the parish.

After defraying their expenses, they applied the balance for the relief of poverty by either regular or one-off payments as they saw fit. A few examples during the period from 1821 to 1828 will illustrate the type of one-off payments made:

Paid James Morris when ill	10 s, 0 d
Gave a traveller	6 d
Paid the midwife for Mary Harrison	5 s, 0 d
Paid for thatching - Watkins' cottage	15 s, 0 d
Paid for sinking a well at the Parish houses	15 s, 9 d

The last entry refers to five cottages owned by the parish, which were used to house poor and destitute families.

In 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act recognised that a parish was too small a unit to efficiently administer the work of relieving poverty, so it was enacted that the job would in future be done by a 'union' of parishes. Badsey and Aldington became part of the Evesham union.

The unions were empowered to build workhouses, each controlled by a Board of Guardians, which were elected by the constituent parishes. One such workhouse was built in Evesham shortly after the passing of the new Act, and continued to house the poor for almost 100 years.

The Badsey parish houses were obviously no longer required, and they were sold in 1837, realising a mere £47 for the lot. From 1834, the local overseers became only assessors and collectors of money; they had no say in how it was spent. The Office of Overseers was finally abolished in 1925, and that of Guardians in 1929.

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.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

We'd like to **thank everyone** who helped make this year's Flower Show a resounding success! From the stallholders and entertainment groups to the volunteers and attendees, we can't thank you enough for the worthy contributions you make to our Show, allowing it to be just one of two events like this left in the country. **If you liked what you saw at this year's Flower Show and are interested in being a part of it going forward, we want to hear from you!**

Whether you're a local business looking to pitch a stall, a volunteer wanting to chip in or part of an entertainment group who would like to perform, please let us know via emailing us at:

info@badseyflowershow.co.uk


Or send a message to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Badseyflowershow/.

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Email badseypc@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 07591 533557 (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm)
Website www.badseypc.uk

Date of next meeting:

Please check with the Parish Council

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 07776 300959
Sue Brooks 01386 830 867
Tom Sandham 01386 834 070
Julie Gardner 01386 832 007

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Shirley Tutton 01386 831 539
Lucy Close
badseybellessec@wfedwi.org.uk
Adam Johnson 07510 042 307
Siobhan Gyll
badseygirlguides@gmail.com
Tracy Hemming 01386 830 043
Penny Christison 01386 830 367
Bridget 07534 133 228

Sports and Entertainment

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Badsey Flower Show

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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
Lesley Dingley ladingley@gmail.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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