



BADSEY *and* ALDINGTON

COMMUNITY NEWS

Part of the Benefice of East Vale & Avon Villages

(ACTUAL) DECEMBER 2025

ADVENT, HERITAGE AND CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Our church year starts with the first Sunday of Advent, which is 30th November, and this year we are in year 'A' of our three-year cycle of readings. In 2026, we will focus on the Gospel of Matthew as we go through our daily readings.

Matthew's Gospel begins with the words, 'An Account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.' It continues for 17 verses, setting out who came before and (more importantly) who Jesus' ancestors were. The Christmas story of the baby born in Bethlehem doesn't come in until chapter two, and there is no mention of a stable!

It is important to Matthew and his readers to recognise the lineage of Jesus. I am sure if we did our ancestry line, it wouldn't be as extensive or as noble. But we all have a family line, and at this time of year, we may be thinking about how we will spend our Christmas, and maybe who with.

Some of you come from families that include everyone in your Christmas celebrations, and the house bulges with people from every generation. Some of you take it in turns as to who hosts Christmas this year, and sometimes it is "Whose turn is it to have Great Aunt Maud this year?" It is tricky to get it right on occasion. After all, preparations for this special time probably started weeks ago - we know the adverts started in November!

Some are not so fortunate to belong to a family and will spend Christmas alone, and some will not have the money to provide the masses of gifts that others are fortunate to receive. This year in our Benefice, we have collected for Caring Hands in the Vale and shoeboxes to Ukraine, which will give Christmas gifts to those we may never meet. Thank you to all who have contributed to making someone's Christmas more joyous, and thank you to those who will give up their Christmas Day to provide a meal for someone.

As you sing carols proclaiming this special child whose lineage is undisputed, I do hope you enjoy time with your families (and maybe a Great Aunt Maud) this Christmas time. I wish you all the best of Christmas time.

Margaret Pye LLM

Badsey Christmas Event Friday 12th December 2025 from 6pm.



Come and join us at this annual event outside The Wheatsheaf, High Street Badsey from 6pm on 12th December 2025.

Meet our reindeers guests and sing carols accompanied by Badsey Brass Band.

There will be a guest appearance from Father Christmas, free mince pies and a selection of local craft stalls.

Badsey First School children will be starting off the proceedings with a procession lead by Elemental Border Morris Dancers leaving from Badsey First School, up to Chapel Street and along to Brewers Lane then down towards High Street where they will turn left and walk down the High Street to join the waiting audience. They will be adorned with lanterns to light their way...
Not to be missed!

See you there.

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- Christenings
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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



**East Vale and Avon
Benefice**

Services for December 2025

7th December 2 nd of Advent	9.30am Offenham Eucharist	11am Badsey Eucharist 11am Cleeve Prior Eucharist	
14th December 3 rd of Advent	9.30am Bretforton Morning Praise	11am South Littleton Eucharist	4pm Offenham Christingle Service and lighting of The Tree of Light 6pm Cleeve Prior Carols by Candlelight
21st December 4 th of Advent		11am Offenham Eucharist 11am Cleeve Prior Morning Praise	4pm Badsey Carol Service 7pm Bretforton Carol Service
24th December Christmas Eve		3.30pm South Littleton All Age Carols and Crib Service 4pm Offenham Carols and Crib Service 4pm Bretforton Crib Service 9pm Badsey Christmas Eucharist 9pm Cleeve Prior Christmas Eucharist	
25th December Christmas Day	9.30am Bretforton Eucharist by Extension 9.30am South Littleton All Age Eucharist		
28th December First of Christmas		11am Benefice Eucharist Bretforton	

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8:45am - 11am
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18 January

4.00pm to 6.00pm
Barn at The Fleece
Bretforton

Free Fun for Families
Crafts Activities Fun Games
Free Tea

Please book for catering purposes

Contact pennyanne68@gmail.com 01386830367

Regular Events

- **First Sunday of the Month Time for Tea 2.30pm to 4.00pm St. Mary & Milburgh Offenham.** Come and join for tea and cakes.
- **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
- **Wednesdays 10.00 to 12.00 Gardening Group St. James Badsey.** Join us for churchyard maintenance or just for a chat and a cuppa and a biscuit
- **First and Third Wednesdays of the month 10 to 12 Basement Cleeve Village Hall.** Tea and cakes and time to chat all welcome
- **First Thursday of each month Coffee Morning St. James Church Badsey.** Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES WITH ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE!

Did you know St Richard's Hospice has a Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign?

Each Year, St Richard's must raise over £12 million to provide free care to over 3,100 patients and their loved ones across the county. Last year, their tree recycling campaign raised over £60,000! Can you help them exceed that total this year?

Book to have your Christmas tree collected and recycled, and raise money for St Richard's Hospice at the same time - and, to help you spread the cost of Christmas, they've opened their collection registration early! Register by 10am on Monday, 5th January 2026, and volunteers will collect your trees on Friday, 9th, and Saturday, 10th January 2026.

Book your tree collection online at: www.strichards.org.uk/christmas-tree-collection



Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

December sits in the depths of winter with short, cold days and long, dark nights. Christmas cards fill our home with good wishes. Perhaps one of the most popular pictures is the robin redbreast, our national favourite bird. Its popularity dates back hundreds of years in folklore and is beloved by famous poets such as Spenser, Pope, Keats, and Coleridge, to name a few!



The tamest of birds, it suddenly pops out onto a branch as you pass by, or in the garden when you're hanging out the washing. While digging in the garden, robins will come fearlessly close to pick up any morsels turned up in the soil. To me, its song is the sweetest, most melodious, and entrancing of all the native birds.

The Victorians popularised the Christmas card around 1860. The most popular cards pictured robins. The postmen at that time wore red coats and became affectionately known as "Robins". Also at Christmas, at this time, special meals organised by benevolent groups for the poor and starving street children became known as "Robin dinners".

Robins have become linked to kindness, goodwill, and charity at Christmas. A lovely thought. Merry Christmas!

A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE AND LOVE

Dedicate a Tribute on Camden Home Nursing's Memory Tree

In the peaceful garden at Jecca's House in Chipping Camden stands a beautiful old apple tree - a haven for wildlife and, now, a place of remembrance and love. Camden Home Nursing's incredible support extends to residents of Badsey and Aldington, offering compassionate care for those in need, whether for themselves or their loved ones.

You can dedicate a golden apple, heart, or bird, each carrying a personal message in memory of someone special. Tributes cost £25 for a golden apple or love heart, and £35 for a bird, all placed on the tree for everyone to see. Your donations help fund free nursing, counselling, and well-being support for families in our community.

To dedicate a tribute, visit www.campdenhomenursing.org, or for more information, call 01386 840505 or email info@campdenhomenursing.org.



COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?

I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.

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THE WINTER'S NIGHT SKY

By Stargazer

Throughout the autumn, we have had only a few clear evenings, as for much of the time we have had low clouds and gloom hanging over the region. We have had a few bright milky moons shining through the clouds, but unfortunately, few opportunities to see the splendour of the night sky, especially as the newspapers have been full of stories of comets and other interstellar objects visiting our part of the solar system.

Hopefully, we will see clearer evenings during December, because at this time the southern skies are dominated by some of the most spectacular and easily identifiable objects in the night sky. On a clear, cold evening, soon after sunset, you should be able to see the great constellations of Orion and Taurus the Bull, along with the Pleiades (known as the Seven Sisters) and, of course, the brightest star in our skies, Sirius – The Dog Star.

The constellation of Orion has captivated human imagination for millennia and is one of the most recognisable and prominent constellations in the night sky. Its distinctive pattern can be seen from nearly every inhabited region on Earth, because it is located on the celestial equator, making it visible from both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. In the Northern Hemisphere, Orion is a prominent feature of winter skies, while in the Southern Hemisphere, it graces the summer months.

The 'Orion Arm' of our Milky Way galaxy, in which our Solar System resides, takes its name from this constellation. The study of Orion's stars and nebulae thus provides a window into the broader structure and dynamics of our galaxy. Orion's brilliance is due to its bright stars, many of which are among the most luminous visible from Earth. Betelgeuse (Alpha Orionis) is a red supergiant and one of the largest visible stars.

If we could see into the infrared, Betelgeuse would be the brightest star in our night sky. Located about 642 light-years from Earth, it marks Orion's left shoulder. It is well known for its variability and is expected to go supernova within the next million years, an event that would be visible from Earth even in daylight. Recently, it had been discovered that Betelgeuse has a very faint partner, which has been nicknamed 'Betelbuddy' or more formally as 'Siwarha'.

This companion has only just been discovered because Betelgeuse is so bright and its glare swamps out its smaller partner. This is a young, hot star, approximately 1.5 to 1.6 times the mass of the Sun, that orbits Betelgeuse in about six years. Its orbit takes it close enough to interact with Betelgeuse's extended atmosphere, which helps explain some of Betelgeuse's observed changes in brightness. Continued monitoring of Betelgeuse and other variable stars in Orion helps astronomers refine their understanding of the late stages of stellar evolution.

Other stars in Orion include Rigel (Beta Orionis), a blue-white supergiant, approximately 860 light-years distant, and the brightest star in Orion. It marks Orion's left foot and is among the most luminous stars known, shining with a light thousands of times brighter than our Sun. Bellatrix (Gamma Orionis), a blue giant about 250 light-years from Earth. It marks Orion's right shoulder. Saiph (Kappa Orionis), marking Orion's right foot, is another blue supergiant, about 720 light-years away. While not as bright as Rigel, it is still an impressive star in its own right.

There are three stars that are roughly in a straight line that mark Orion's Belt. There are Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka; they are all hot, massive blue supergiants, each situated hundreds to over a thousand light-years away. Orion's Belt also serves as a guide to other stars and constellations. Following the line of the belt upwards (northwest) leads to Taurus and the Pleiades cluster, while extending it downwards (southeast) points to Canis Major and Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky.

Above Orion, there is a faint star known as Meissa (Lambda Orionis), which represents Orion's head. Although not as bright as Betelgeuse or Rigel, Meissa is still a notable star about 1,100 light-years from Earth.

Orion's prominence in the sky, its vivid mythology, its wealth of astronomical treasures, and its role as a bridge between science and the imagination all contribute to its enduring legacy. On a clear evening in December, take a few minutes to enjoy this wonder of the winter's night sky.

ROUND OF GRAS BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO COMMUNITY

The Round of Gras will once again be offering their much-loved Christmas Day carvery deliveries this year, bringing a hot festive meal straight to the doors of local residents.

The service has become especially popular among older villagers and those living alone, offering a comforting plate of Christmas cheer without the stress of cooking. It is a small but meaningful way to make sure everyone in the community can enjoy a proper Christmas dinner.

To find out more information, call the pub directly on 01386 830 206.



ADVENTURE-FILLED SLEEPOVER FOR BADSEY GUIDES

In October, 1st Badsey Guides and Rangers joined over 150 other Guides and Rangers from across the county at Drayton Manor for a sleepover! The girls spent a crisp day on the various rides, from the more thrilling rides such as Maelstrom, Thor, and the Wave to the slightly calmer Thomas Land rides.

We finished our day in the park on the water ride Stormforce 10, where we got very wet before squelching our way back to the venue for the evening. We had dinner and watched a film with hot chocolate before the girls settled into their sleeping bags for the night. Varying amounts of sleep were had, amongst games and hopping around, before they went home in the morning, having enjoyed their weekend of adventure and thrills.

We are looking forward to another festive sleepover for the Rangers in December, and we have lots of fun festive activities planned throughout December for all four Girlguiding sections in Badsey.

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](https://www.instagram.com/badseygirlguides)



BADSEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

With the Shepherd's Crook

Folk Choir

Friday 12th December 2025,

8.00pm

St James' Church, Badsey




Come and join us for mince pies and a hot drink as the church bells ring, then enjoy an evening of traditional carols and folk songs performed by the Shepherd's Crook Folk Choir.

The closing collection will be in aid of Glostrad.com, a free online resource preserving Gloucestershire's traditional songs and tunes. Glostrad grew out of the Heritage Lottery-funded "Single Gloucester" project, which collected folk songs, carols, and music from across the county to make them available to schools, choirs, musicians, and local communities. The project continues to be maintained by a group of trustees, ensuring that Gloucestershire's musical heritage can be enjoyed by everyone, now and for future generations.


A festive evening of music, community, and local heritage - don't miss it!

SIGNPOST BROADWAY DECEMBER DROP-IN DATES

Signpost Broadway is a help resource centre for those feeling stressed and anxious about personal problems. They're **open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm**, and have regular drop-in dates throughout December!

 Citizens Advice

 **Thursday 4th December**

 1:30 – 3:30 pm


Please call 01386 859029 to book an appointment.

 Bereavement Drop-in Café

 **Monday 8th December**

 CPR & Defibrillator Course

 **Wednesday 17th December**

 2:00 pm

For more information, please call 01386 859029 or email info@signpost.info

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ASK THE HISTORY MAN: A Farm Sale

When Badsey's market gardening industry became established during the last quarter of the 19th century, most, if not all, of the men were tenants of what had previously been Farm Lane. But as the years went by and those early market gardeners became a little more prosperous, thoughts of some of them turned towards actual ownership of the land which they occupied.

One opportunity arose in 1912, when the Badsey Fields Estate was put on the market. This estate of 136 acres (plus three cottages) belonged to the Byrd family for many years, and it seems likely that it was converted from farmland to market garden plots about 1879, when Henry Byrd and his family left the village. Henry died on 23rd May 1908, and it was his son Percy, then living in Liverpool, who inherited the land following the death of his father. He offered the land for sale in 58 individual lots, from which it can be seen that the plots were (on average) less than two and a half acres each. Some, in fact, were less than half an acre.

The sale took place at the King's Head Hotel in Evesham on 16th August 1912, but many of the lots remained unsold, suggesting that a significant proportion of the tenants were still not sufficiently adventurous to move into property ownership. Perhaps they just couldn't find the money.

Prices realised were around £40 to £50 per acre. One man, purchasing three and a quarter acres in a field known as Briarcroft for £147, had to borrow £115 at 4.5% interest to help finance the deal.

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.

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.

In November, we looked at Libre Office, which is a free-to-download alternative to Microsoft Office. During December we shall continue to investigate the various elements available in Libre Office.

During December we shall meet on:

- Monday 1st December
- Monday 15th December

We will then take a break until Monday 12th January in the new year.

The computer group is open to all at no charge. Sessions are very informal, starting with a chat about a single topic and then an opportunity to ask individual questions.

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

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AVONBANK BRASS BAND

ON

**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
7.30.PM**

AT

ST. JAMES CHURCH, BADSEY

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BADSEY FILM CLUB

The date of Badsey's Film Club is changing and moving to the second Saturday of each month. This is because of Peter's highly successful "Small Plates" nights in the restaurant!

Therefore, our next film will be on **Saturday, 13th December**, starting at 8 o'clock in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. We will be showing:



Mr Burton (12a)

A feature drama charting the relationship between a Port Talbot school teacher and a wild young schoolboy called Richie Jenkins, who was the son of a boozy miner. Richie dreamed of becoming an actor and Philip recognized his raw talent, tutored him and became his adoptive father.

This film is the story of how Richie Jenkins was turned into Richard Burton the greatest star Wales has ever produced and who later said of Philip Burton that "I owe him everything".

Date for Your Diary: The following month's film will be Insomnia, a tense psychological drama about a police investigation taking place in Alaska during the days of perpetual daylight. It will be shown on Saturday 10th January at 8pm.

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.

A	G	O	S	P	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	H	Y	B
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SAVE THE DATE!

Mark Your Calendars!

A date has been set for the 2026 Flower Show! We will be welcoming you to Badsey Recreation Ground on:

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026

We can't wait to be back for our 123rd year! If you'd like to be a part of the show this year, as a volunteer, a stallholder or as entertainment, don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

For more information, contact us at info@badseyflowershow.co.uk or send a message to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Badseyflowershow/.



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the festive words below hidden in the wordsearch?

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Angels | Elves | Presents | Sleigh |
| Bells | Jesus | Reindeer | Star |
| Carols | Joseph | Santa | Tree |
| Chimney | Mary | Shepherd | Wise Man |

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER'S QUIZ: 1) Guido 2) Robert Catesby 3) 1605 4) China 5) Parliament 6) True 7) John Johnson 8) James I

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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:

Weds 10th December / Weds 21st January

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 300 959
Sue Brooks 01386 830 867
Tom Sandham 01386 834 070
Julie Gardner 01386 832 007

Organisations, Institutes and Societies

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Women's Institute

1st Badsey Scout Group
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Shirley Tutton 01386 831 539
Lucy Close
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Adam Johnson 07510 042 307
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

Evesham & District Air Gun League
Evesham Archery Club
Model Engineering Club
Evesham & Badsey Hockey Club
Badsey Sea Shanty Group

Alan Tutton 01386 831 539
Rosemary Smith
info@badseyflowershow.co.uk
Ian Davies 01386 450 86
Ian Trout 01386 831 509
Roger Cull 01386 831 933
Mark Watts-Jones 07973 963 539
Bob Smith 01386 830666 or
07972671622
Lesley Dingley ladingley@gmail.com

Wickhamford Gardening Club

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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