

The Stanford and Crisp Family of Badsey

There have been Stanford and Crisp families living in Badsey since the 19th century. When John Stanford Crisp of Sands Lane, Badsey, died on 3rd June 2008, aged 80, a large number of documents relating to the family were found in the house. John never married and had no children. John's neighbour, Valerie Magan, has put together this history of the family, assisted by Pat Goldstraw, David Caswell, Michael Barnard, Don Hartwell, Terry Sparrow, Terry Sinclair, Rachel Smith (Saunders Roberts), Edna Jelfs and Maureen Spinks, as well as contributions from the Badsey Website.

Samuel Stanford (c1848-1886) and his wife, Jane Sophia Rogers (1849-c1934)

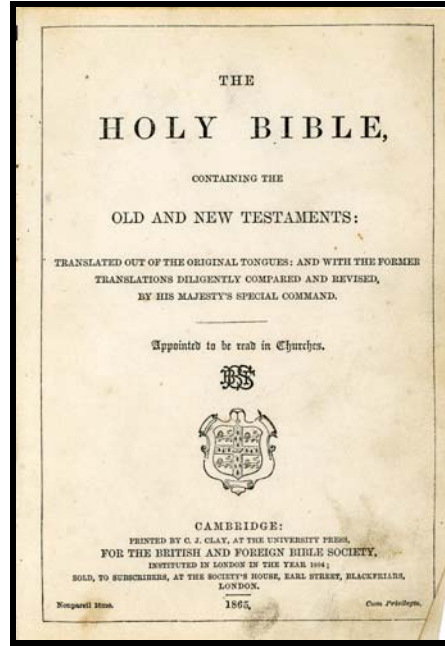
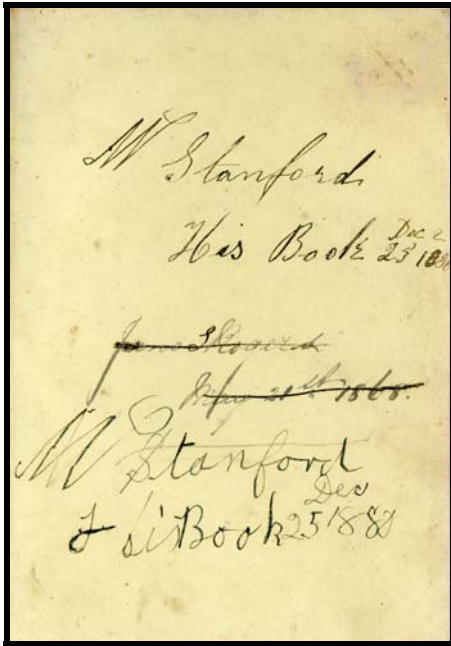
The first person by the name of Stanford to move to the Badsey region was Samuel Stanford on the occasion of his marriage to Jane Sophia Rogers on 21st November 1868 in St James Church, Badsey. Samuel Stanford was born about 1848 at Laverton, Gloucestershire, the son of David Stanford. David had been born about 1818 at Laverton and married Ann from Broadway. Samuel had a younger brother and sister, David (c1852) and Emma (c1858). The family lived in Buckland. Jane Rogers was born at Wickhamford in 1849, the daughter of Thomas and Eliza Rogers.



Jane Sophia Rogers, who married Samuel Stanford. This photo was probably taken in about 1890 when the family were living in Kidderminster; the photographer was R Hudson of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Samuel and Jane's first child, William Thomas, was born at Wickhamford in March 1871 but baptised at Badsey on 14th May 1871. The cottage where the Stanfords lived in Wickhamford was situated somewhere between the Sandys Arms and Elm Farm. At the time of the 1871 census, which was taken on 2nd April, William was just three weeks old. Also in the household was two-year-old Julia Dyer. Julia was actually the first cousin of Jane Stanford (née Rogers); Jane's mother had been born Eliza Dyer at Ashton-under-Hill in about 1828 and had a younger brother, George (c1832). In 1871, George Dyer, a widower, was to be found living in Kidderminster with his seven-year-old son, John. More than likely, the baby, Julia, had been sent to stay with her relatives after her mother's death.

Samuel and Jane Stanford moved to Kidderminster when William was a small boy. Possibly they were encouraged to move there by the fact that young Julia's father still lived in Kidderminster and had remarried (although Julia was working as a servant in Evesham in 1881 and in Chipping Campden in 1891).



On Christmas Day 1880, Jane Stanford gave her copy of the Bible (which she had been given on 21st May 1868, six months before her wedding) to her eldest son, William

At the time of the 1881 census, Samuel and Jane and family were living at 112 Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster. By now, as well as William, they had three other children all born at Kidderminster: Ada Millicent (1875), Eliza Ann (1878) and George Rogers (1880). Samuel was working as a railway carter. Samuel's younger brother, David, also lived at Kidderminster, at 24 New Wood Street with his family.

Samuel Stanford died at Kidderminster in 1886 when his eldest son, William, was only 15 years old. By 1891, Jane and her children were living at 8 South Street, Kidderminster. Jane was a Charwoman, William a General Labourer and Ada a Spinner. In 1901, Jane, Ada, Eliza and George lived at 54 Coventry Street, Kidderminster, whilst William had moved to Badsey to take up market gardening. Jane remained living in Kidderminster until her death in the 1930s. As this postcard of 1920 shows, her son, William, sent her vegetables from time to time.



On 8th April 1920, William Stanford sent his mother a postcard notifying her of a parcel she would be receiving shortly. The postcard is a 1912 photo of Badsey Rangers Football Club; William Stanford is standing, second from right.



"I am sending you a bag of potatoes etc on Friday so look for same. WS." There is a postscript in the top left-hand corner saying, "Thank you for card, Eva." Eva was William's daughter who had probably gone to stay with her grandmother.

William Thomas Stanford (1871-1933) and his wife, Mary Emily Bennett (1876-9152)

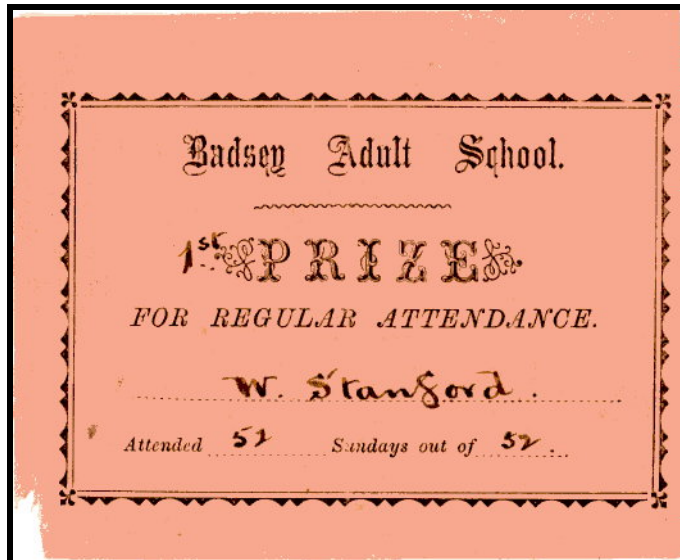
William Thomas Stanford, born at Wickhamford in 1871 and baptised at Badsey, spent most of his childhood years in Kidderminster. William attended St George's Boys' School in Kidderminster. In 1880 he won a book prize for proficiency in Standard III and in 1883 he won a book prize for good conduct and success in Standard VI. He also attended St George's Boys' Sunday School where he won several prizes for regular attendance and good conduct.

On first leaving school, William was employed in the carpet industry in Kidderminster. William returned to Badsey in his early twenties to take up market gardening. He still had many connections with the village as his maternal grandmother, Julia Knight (who had married John Knight following the death of Jane's father), still lived in Badsey. Whilst William had been living in Kidderminster on census night 1891, on 9th November 1891, he was present in Badsey when he was a witness at the wedding of Julia Dyer, his first-cousin-once-removed.

On moving to Badsey, William Stanford became a regular attendee at Badsey Adult School. The Adult School was held in Chapel Street (opposite the Blacksmith's premises, and where the Dance Studio now is).

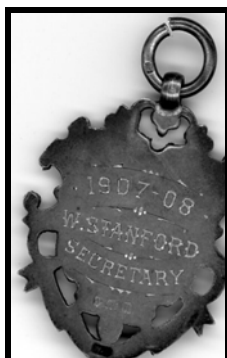


In 1903, William Stanford was awarded 2nd prize for 41 attendances at Badsey Adult School.



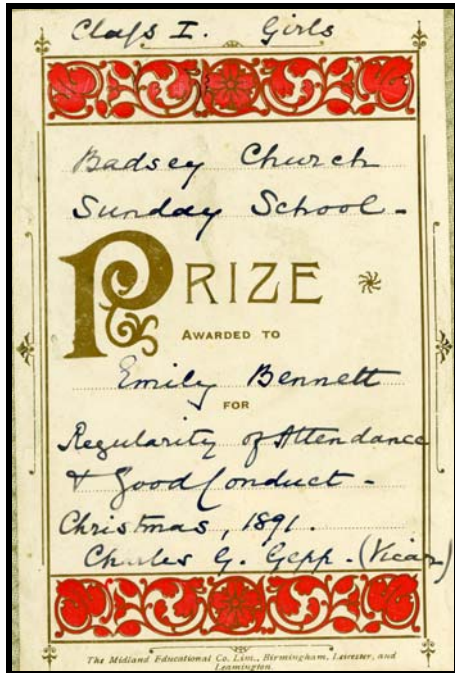
One undated year, William Stanford attended all 52 Sundays, receiving a first prize book.

William Stanford was a founder member of Badsey Rangers Football Club. At an inaugural meeting held in the Badsey Reading Room on 9th September 1892, he was elected captain. By 1895, he was Secretary of the Club, a position he was to hold for many years. He attended the Annual General Meeting of the Worcestershire Football Association at Droitwich on 27th September 1895 and, soon afterwards, Badsey Rangers became affiliated to the Association. On June 4th 1908 the Club presented him with a black slate clock, in recognition of valuable services rendered. He also received club medals.



Badsey Ranger Football Club Medals received for the year 1907-1908.

On 29th June 1897 William Thomas Stanford married Mary Emily Bennett (known as Emily) at St James Church, Badsey. William Thomas was aged 26, Emily was aged 21. Emily Bennett was born at Badsey in 1876 and baptised on 21st May 1876. Emily would have attended Badsey National School and was a regular attender at the church Sunday School.



In 1891, Emily won a prize for regularity of attendance and good conduct at Badsey Church Sunday School, Class I, girls.



In one of Emily Bennett's books she had as a child, there were some pressed flowers: a flower with dark orange petals and two separate leaves.



William Thomas Stanford



Mary Emily Stanford (née Bennett)

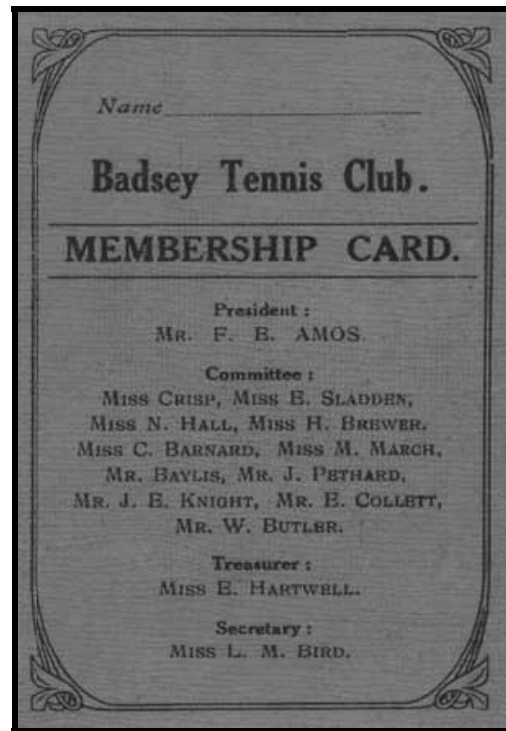
William and Emily's only child, Eva, was born in 1897. In 1901, the Stanford family were living at Cotswold View, Badsey (present-day No 19 Sands Lane, the end house in a terrace of four built in the late 1880s). By 1924, the Electoral register shows William and Emily living at Hopyard Villas, a house on Bretforton Road.

William was an active member of the community. As well as his involvement with Badsey Rangers Football Club, from 1910-1928, William was a member of the Badsey Parish

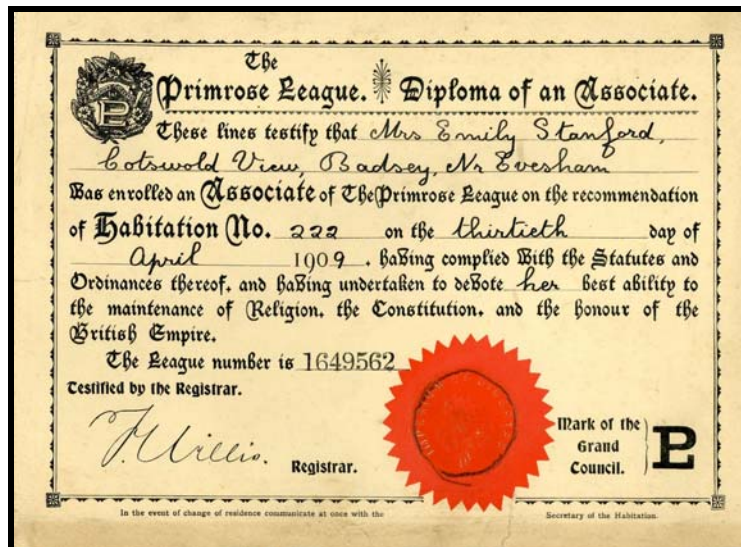
Council, he was a special constable during the First World War and was a member of Badsey Tennis Club.



During the First World War, William served his country as a special constable for the County of Worcestershire.



William was a member of Badsey Tennis Club.



Emily Stanford was also active in the community. On 30th April 1909, Emily joined The Primrose League and was issued with a diploma. (The Primrose League was an organisation for spreading Conservative principles in Great Britain. It was founded in 1883 by Lord Randolph Churchill and was active until the mid 1990s. The League was finally wound up in December 2004.)

According to auction details of the land sold in 1912 belonging to the estate of Percy Byrd, William Stanford occupied 1a 1r 22p of land at Rye Furlong. Edna Jelfs, his niece, remembers his land was “farther up Sands Lane past the last houses where Barnard & Goldstraw live. One piece on the left hand side with shed where I tied onions. I wonder if the shed is still there (over 80 yrs ago). Also a piece of land on the other side of the road where he grew asparagus & wallflowers.”

On 15th February 1924, William Stanford bought a plot of land called Yew Tree Close from the Trustees of Captain John Pickup Lord. The land was on Sands Lane, almost opposite where the Stanfords had lived at Cotswold View. William paid £62 14s 0d for the land. He borrowed £400 to build No 10 Sands Lane from the Evesham Rural District Council. The house comprised a living room, parlour, scullery, larder, WC, three bedrooms and bathroom, built on a concrete foundation and brick walls and a tiled roof. It was completed by 2nd September 1924 and the property was valued at £675. It is believed that the next-door house, Seymour House, was built at the same time.



No 10 Sands Lane, built in 1924 and in continuous occupation by the same family until 2008

William Thomas Stanford died at Sands Lane on 13th July 1933. The cause of death was given as (a) Asthenia and (b) Progressive muscular atrophy. His son-in-law, George Crisp, then living at Bretforton Road, was in attendance at the death.

There is no doubt that William Stanford was a very religious man, dedicated, disciplined and above all a man who worked very hard for his family and the community. The following obituary appeared in The Evesham Journal:

The death took place at his home at Sands Lane, Badsey, on Thursday morning last week of Mr William T Stanford, a very well-known and highly respected market gardener, at the age of 62 years. Deceased had been in failing health for upwards of eighteen months, but his cheerful disposition remained with him until his death. He was the eldest son of Mrs and the late Mr Samuel Stanford, both natives of the district, and was born at Wickhamford in 1871. In his young days he moved with his parents to Kidderminster, where he was employed in the carpet industry, but when about twenty years of age he returned to Badsey and took up market gardening, and lived in the village until his death. Besides taking a great interest in his business, he took an active part in all the public, social and sporting activities of the village. For several years he was a sidesman at St. James' Church, Badsey, while from 1910 to 1928 he was a member of the Badsey Parish council. During the Great War he was a Special Constable and he was one of the oldest members of the Badsey branch of the Cirencester Benefit Society, of which he was a former secretary. He was also one of the oldest members of the Badsey Medical Aid club, which club he helped to form, while he was a hard-working member for several years of the Badsey Flower Show Committee, being a former secretary to the committee. He was an ardent supporter of the Badsey Rangers Football Club, being one of the founders of the club in 1892, and serving on the committee for several years. He also showed a great interest in all charity football competitions, which he was also an ardent supporter of the Badsey Cricket Club. Deceased was an original member of the Badsey Recreational Ground committee, and took a great interest in all functions in the village. Of quiet and amiable disposition he had a cheery word for all whom he met, and he will be sadly missed by a large circle of friends in the village and district. He leaves a widow and daughter.

The funeral took place at St. James' Church, Badsey on Monday afternoon, the Vicar (Canon W C Allsebrook, RD) officiating. The family mourners were Mrs. W T Stanford (widow), Mr & Mrs George Crisp (son-in-law and daughter), Mr and Mrs B Bowdler (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs T Knight (sister-in-law), Mrs T Bennett (sister-in-law), Mr & Mrs W Bennett (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr J Bennett (brother-in-law), Mr & Mrs H J Cave (cousins), Mrs W Walton (cousin), Mr Frances Collett (cousin), and Mrs C Barnett (cousin), while among numerous friends present were Mr & Mrs P Hall, Mrs E Crisp, Mr H Geden, Mr J Barnard, Mr A C Sparrow, Mr F Jones, Mrs G Moisey and Mr L Mustoe, the latter representing his father, Mr E Mustoe.

Those representing public bodies were Miss E Sladden and Mr W W Blake (Badsey Recreation Ground Committee), Messrs G Crane and E Crisp (Badsey branch of the Cirencester Benefit

Society). Mr T Keen (Badsey Rangers Football Club), Messrs. C A Binyon and J J Pethard (Badsey St James' Church Council, and Mr F Hill (Badsey Cricket Club). The bearers were Messrs J Dones, J Keyte, D Agg, G H Knight, W D Sparrow and G Cole, all old friends of deceased.

After the interment the widow and daughter cast sprays of sweet peas (deceased's favourite flower) on the coffin. Deceased's mother, who is 85 years of age, was prevented from attending owing to the illness of deceased's brother.

Following the interment, numerous beautiful floral tributes were placed on the grave, including one from the "Badsey Rangers Football Club" and one from "His fellow officers and members of the Cirencester Benefit Society".

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Lewis G Stribblehill, High Street, Badsey.

AN APPRECIATION

Will Stanford has gone and Badsey has lost a stalwart villager of the old type. The man who led the first Badsey Rangers team on to the football field (in 1890); a market gardener who had worked as industriously in all weathers as any man could, for something approaching half a century, yet was but 62 years of age, was overtaken 15 months ago by illness which his hardy health could not resist. To the end he bore that illness with fortitude; he never lost interest in everyday affairs and last Thursday he passed peacefully away.

Will Stanford was pioneer and a founder of the oldest amateur football club in Worcestershire and as player and official he was always keen on the game and on "playing the game." None was more pleased than he to follow the success (albeit from a sick bed) in the English Amateur Cup competition last season of the team now playing in the colours he himself once wore with such distinction.

But sport was not all. There was service too – service that was practical and quietly rendered. It was rendered, too, in a humble way for Mr. Stanford appreciated the yield springing from unity in a common cause and in an encouraging way, for he realised the collective value of the "nimble sixpence" (as he called it) of the working-classes when needy organisations appealed for funds.

Such things as Badsey's fine recreation ground and its flower show are with us as something of a monument to residents who loved and served our village. Will Stanford was one of them and those who served with him – mostly under the leadership of the late Sir Julius Sladden or Mr C A Binyon, each of whom he greatly admired – will always testify to his concern for the welfare of the village.

Shrewd, sympathetic, thrifty and thorough, he tried to keep a broad outlook when circumstances tended to parochialism. He worked hard and asked little from life in pleasure. He went to Church; saw others come and go as the churchgoing "fashion" declined, and still worshipped regularly. His was the humblest and yet perhaps philosophically the greatest calling for the garden brings man close to nature and through nature to God. He was as methodical in living his life as in cultivating the land on which he had sown and reaped for so many seasons.

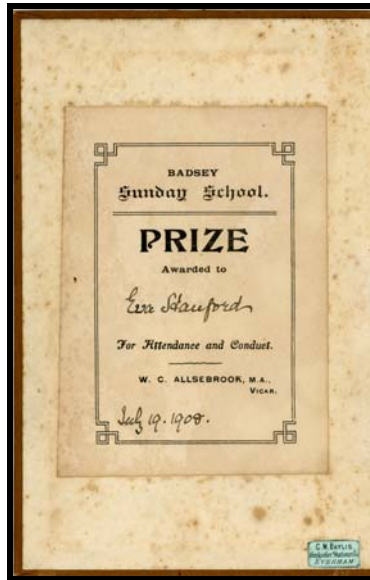
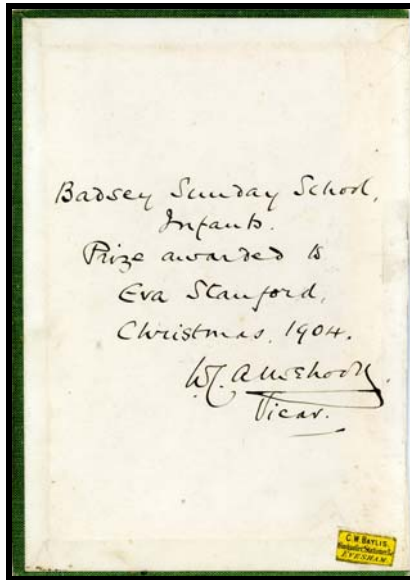
Will Stanford has gone but there are those of his generation left who will always remember him, for he served his village well in the days of his strength. JHB

No 10 Sands Lane passed to William's widow, Emily. On 27th March 1947, Emily paid off the remaining balance of the mortgage, namely £54 19s 6d, to Evesham Rural District Council. Emily died on 22nd July 1952 at 5 Avonside, Evesham, of cerebral haemorrhage and hypertension). Emily left the house to her daughter Eva (by now Mrs Crisp). William and Emily Stanford are buried together in Badsey Churchyard (Badsey High Street end); an oblong grave curb marks the area.

Eva Helen Stanford (1897-1992) and her husband, Arthur George Crisp (1897-1971)

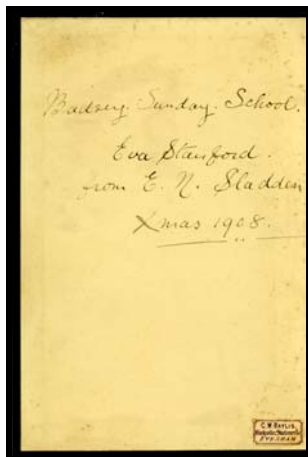
Eva Helen Stanford was the only child of William and Emily Stanford. She was born at Badsey on 23rd October 1897 and baptised on 19th December 1897.

Eva was awarded a number of prizes, both at Sunday School and at Badsey Council School where she attended from 1900-1911. On leaving school, she attended Badsey Evening School, winning a prize in 1915.



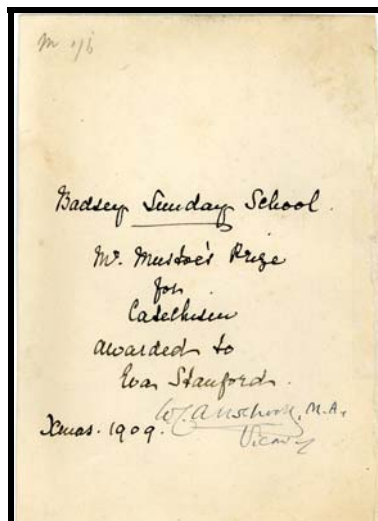
Far left: Christmas 1904, Eva Stanford, aged 7, won a book called *A Handful of Stories* at Badsey Sunday School. She also won a book prize in March 1907.

Left: 19th July 1908, Eva Stanford, aged 10, won a book called *Marigold* by L T Meade, for attendance and conduct at Badsey Sunday School



Christmas 1908, Eva Stanford won a book prize from E N Sladden at Badsey Sunday School. The Evesham Journal reported on the prize-giving at the time as follows:

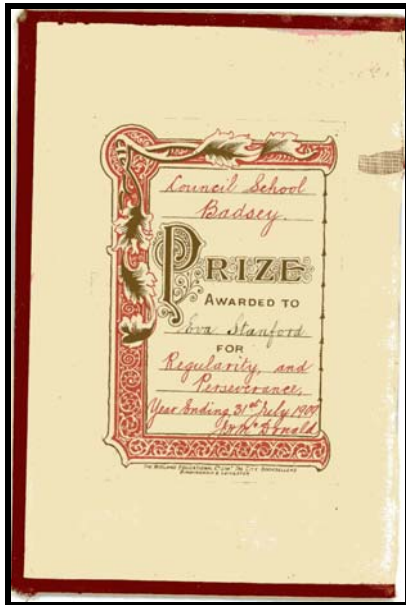
The annual prize distribution took place at Badsey on Sunday afternoon, the vicar (Rev W C Allsebrook) presiding. The prizes were distributed by Mrs Mustoe. In thanking Mrs Mustoe, the vicar said there were few villages where they were as well off in the matter of Sunday School prizes as at Badsey. There was in fact no reason why any scholar should fail to receive a prize at least once a year inasmuch as monthly reward cards were given to all those who were neither absent nor late during the month and 12 of these monthly reward cards ensured a prize. And then there were the class prizes awarded at Christmas on the total number of marks gained during the year and, for the past two years extra prizes had been given by Mrs Mustoe for specially good records of attendance.



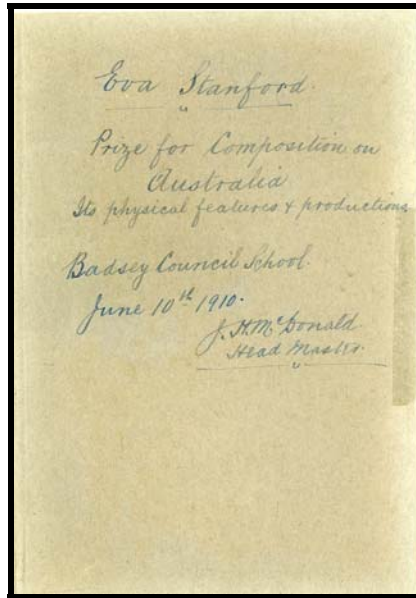
Christmas 1909, Eva Stanford won Mr Mustoe's prize for Catechism.



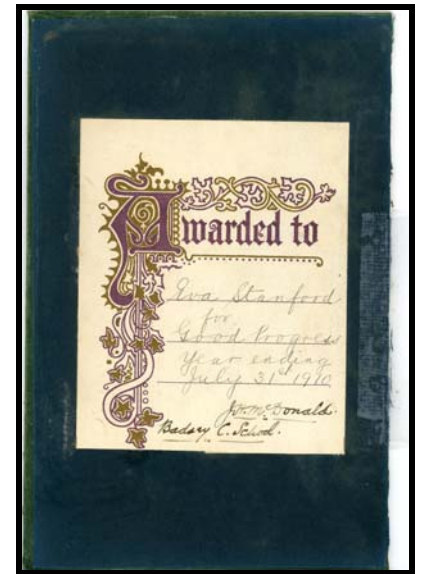
Christmas 1910, Eva Stanford won a prize for attendance and conduct at Sunday school.



31st July 1909, Eva Stanford, aged 11, won a prize of a red leather-bound copy of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* and *Good Wives*; this was awarded for Regularity and Perseverance at Badsey Council School.



10th June 1910, Eva Stanford, aged 12, won a prize at Badsey Council School for Composition on Australia, its physical features and productions.



31st July 1910 – Eva Stanford, aged 13, won a prize for good progress at Badsey Council School.

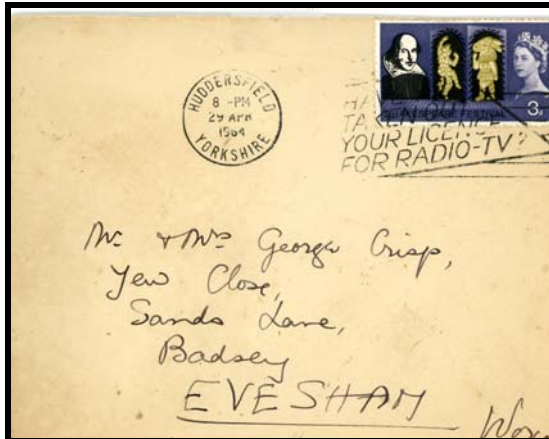
The Flower Show began in 1888. Eva Stanford entered exhibits in 1908 and 1909, 1910, and 1954. The certificate template for 1908, 1909 and 1910 was of wonderful floral design, typical of Victorian artistry. Eva won prizes in several years, either for "Collection of Wild Flowers and Grasses" or "Ribbed Stocking".



In 1925, Eva Helen Stanford married Arthur George Crisp (known as George). George had been born at Badsey on 11th July 1897; his parents kept the Post Office which had newly opened on the High Street in the year of his birth. George was just three and a half months older than Eva, so they would have been contemporaries at Badsey Council School. During the First World War, George Crisp won the Military medal for gallant service to his country. He had been only 17 when he enlisted. The following appeared in the Parish Magazine of June 1918: "Very hearty congratulations to Private G Crisp on winning the Military Medal 'for bravery in the field between the dates of Mar 13th and 21st'. Private Crisp was one of the earliest and youngest recruits from Badsey and one of the heroes of the landing from the *Clyde*, the fame of which will live as long as the name of England lives, and his many friends will rejoice in this official recognition of his valour and patriotism."

Eva Crisp inherited No 10 Sands Lane from her mother and the Crisp family moved into the house after Emily Stanford's death in 1952.

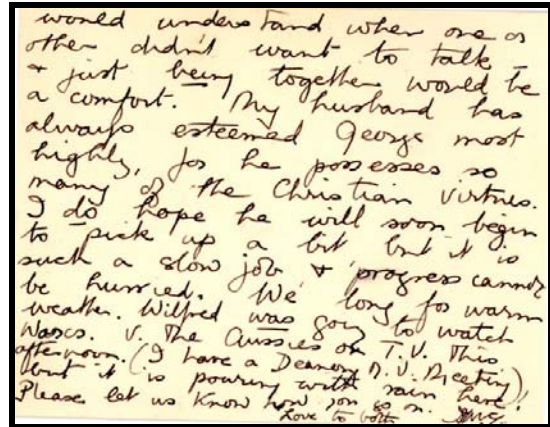
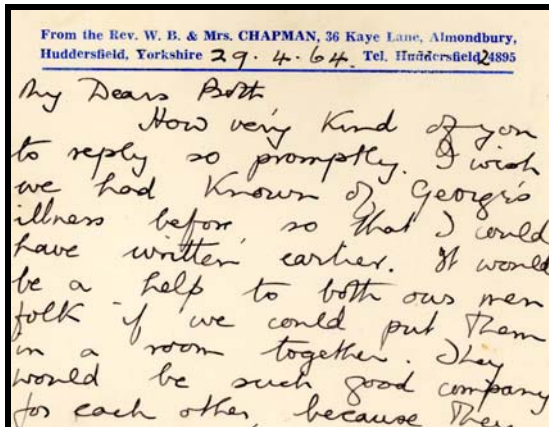
George Crisp was a member of Badsey Church choir and organised the choir outings. For Christmas 1944 he was given a copy of the Oxford Book of Carols. George made various notes in his book, relevant to singing in the choir at the Carol Services held every year in St James Church, Badsey. He was a founder member of Badsey British Legion, as well as joining in with many other social occasions. In 1964, Mrs Alice Chapman, wife of the Reverend W B Chapman (who had been Vicar of Badsey from 1947-1958 and had now retired to Huddersfield), wrote to Eva and George as follows:



My dears both, How very kind of you to reply so promptly. I wish we had known of George's illness before, so that I could have written earlier. It would be a help to both our men folk if we could put them in a room together. They would be such good company for each other, because they would understand when one or other didn't want to talk and just being together would be a comfort. My husband has always esteemed George most highly, for he possesses so many of the Christian virtues. I do hope he will soon begin to pick up a bit, but it is such a slow job and progress cannot be hurried. We long for warm weather.

Wilfred was going to watch Worcs v the Aussies on T.V. this afternoon (I have a Deanery MV Meeting) but it is pouring with rain here! Please let us know how you go on. Love to both (signature)

Then, on the back of the envelope is a note: 20 to 1. I've just switched on and they are playing!



George Crisp died in 1971 in Powick Hospital. His cause of death was: 1a) Broncho-pneumonia, 1b) old cerebral infarct (Rt), 1c) old carotid artery thrombosis (Rt), 2) Peripheral arteriosclerosis. The Parish Magazine of November 1971 contained the following tribute:

George Crisp, a modest, courteous and unassuming man, was a much-loved member of our community. He was born in Badsey, son of the village postmaster, and descended from a long line of village stonemasons. He rendered gallant service to his country in the Great War, and was awarded the Military Medal. He served very faithfully the British Legion, being a founder member of our Branch. From boyhood till the breakdown in his health a few years ago, he sang in Badsey Church choir, and was for many years its secretary. He arranged many enjoyable choir outings. He also served on Badsey PCC and was a most reliable, efficient and conscientious servant of the Church and of many social and sporting organisations in the village. We all miss him very much, though we could not have wished him to linger any further in the physical and mental stress he underwent at the end.

Eva Helen Crisp died on 11th May 1992, having survived her husband by 21 years. Eva died in Seward House Nursing Home, Badsey. Ironically, Seward House was the former home of the Sladden family and in his hey-day, Sir Julius Sladden was like the "Squire" of the village. Eva would surely have visited Seward House as a young girl, in much happier times. Eva's cause of death was: 1a) Carcinomatosis, 1b) Carcinoma of breast.

George and Eva Crisp are buried together in Badsey Churchyard (Chapel Street end). Their son John had planted some of his special snowdrops out of his garden on the grave and they come up each year in January.

John Stanford Crisp (1927-2008)

John Stanford Crisp was born at Badsey on 15th June 1927, the eldest child of George and Eva Crisp. He attended Badsey Council School.

John inherited No 10 Sands Lane, Badsey, from his mother, and lived there until his death in June 2008.

John went missing on 3rd June 2008. A police helicopter and tracker dog search was organised by the Brook where his bicycle and some articles of clothing were found. Nothing was found and the search continued all the next day with the helicopter. On 9th June, divers recovered John's body from Badsey Brook, near to the bridge at the turning to Aldington. In August 2008 the Coroner returned an open verdict of death and a death certificate was issued. The following article appeared in the August 2008 issue of Community News:

John Crisp of Badsey was born in June 1927 to Arthur and Eva Crisp, and at the time of his death, was nearing his 81st birthday. John's descendants are described in the archives as coming from a long line of village stonemasons. His father, Arthur George Crisp won a Military Medal for bravery in the Boer War [should say Great War]. His Grandfather, William Thomas Stanford was the founder member of the Badsey Rangers Football Club and also served as a special constable in Worcestershire. John is survived by his niece, Penny Bannister from Cheshire, and his cousin Pat Goldstraw, who lives in Badsey.

One could describe John as having led a very reclusive life and it would be fair to mention that sometimes his attitude during various stages of his life was questionable. He did though have a love for plants and over the years developed a wealth of knowledge on many species. He won many prizes at Badsey Flower Show for his exhibits. His plants were only referred to by their botanical names and John knew just how to care for them, so that they would flourish and flower into beautiful colours. John visited many public gardens in England, particularly those owned by the National Trust and during his life, developed friendships with fellow plant lovers as far away as Cornwall.

His Grandmother Crisp ran the Badsey Post Office during the war years, his Grandfather having died in 1939. One day whilst delivering a telegram to Wickhamford Manor, John rescued some mauve gladioli from a rubbish heap. The flower beds there had been dug up to grow vegetables. The gladioli still grow every year in his back garden.

In the late 60s, John went on a Banana boat to the Canary Islands with around 40 other passengers. He took the train to Paddington, then the underground to near the Wharf where he boarded the boat. It was a 4-week trip, and John enjoyed the experience.

John seemed happy living in a kind of time warp, unable to feel comfortable with the modern world. His life style was simple and undemanding in terms of extravagance. He was regularly seen cycling around the village, collecting wood for his fire.

Until recently, John always wore his best clothes on Sundays. His evenings were spent listening to classical music on the radio, he didn't possess a television, or a telephone. This year John's health gradually began to fail which caused him occasionally to feel sombre. On 3rd June he was reported missing and his bike, coat, cap and scarf were found beside Badsey Brook. On 9th June John's body was recovered from the Brook. He has now been laid to rest in Badsey Churchyard. We will never know exactly what happened.

John was a keen horticulturalist and had many rare species in his garden at Sands Lane. On his death, he bequeathed the house to The National Trust, who preferred to sell the property and receive the net proceeds thereof. In November 2008 the house was put up for sale by Gusterson & Palmer and has recently been sold.

Valerie Magan
February 2009