

DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

# BENTLEY & BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE



Janette Palliser - Selfie with the Planets

## **Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle: Yann Dubreuil**

Holy Cross Vicarage, Binsted, Alton, GU34 4NX

Tel: 07777 684533 email: [yann@benbinfro.org](mailto:yann@benbinfro.org)

**Website: [www.benbinfro.co.uk](http://www.benbinfro.co.uk)**

**Assistant Priest** – Christopher Ogilvie Thompson Tel: 07776 178690  
email: [christopherot@me.com](mailto:christopherot@me.com)

**Benefice Administrators** – Hannah Dubreuil ([admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org)) and  
Gemma Ball ([admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org))  
01420 23339

**Honorary Assistant Minister** – David Perryman, Treetops, Upper Froyle  
Tel. 520647 [david.perrypeople@gmail.com](mailto:david.perrypeople@gmail.com)

**Parishes Prayer Chain** – Nick Carter  
01420 489122 or [nick.carter1945@outlook.com](mailto:nick.carter1945@outlook.com)

**Pastoral Care Team** – Nick Carter  
01420 489122 or [nick.carter1945@outlook.com](mailto:nick.carter1945@outlook.com)

**Readers** – Harold Fish, 6 Bonners Field, Bentley. 22947

### **Bentley: St Mary's Churchwardens:**

Jill Kiely, 11 Broadlands Close, Bentley, GU10 5LE - 22735

Nick Caddick, Tanners, GU10 5NE - 23229

### **Binsted: Holy Cross Churchwardens**

Kathy Ogilvie Thompson, Mill Court, GU34 4JF Tel No. 01420 23125.

Stella Croom-Johnson, 4 Foresters Cottages GU34 4PS – 07740 861256

Liz Carey - Assistant Church Warden

**Youth Leader** - Gemma Ball - [gemma@benbinfro.co.uk](mailto:gemma@benbinfro.co.uk)

**Worship Leader** - Sam Ball - [sam@benbinfro.co.uk](mailto:sam@benbinfro.co.uk)

### **Parish Magazine**

Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to Gemma Ball on the **5th** of the month, by email ([magazine@benbinfro.org](mailto:magazine@benbinfro.org))

**Editor:** Rev Yann Dubreuil

**Designer:** Mike Hammerton

**Treasurer:** Steve Fice, 01420 22197 [steve.fice@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.fice@btinternet.com)

**Distribution:** Bentley – Harold Fish Tel 22947  
Binsted – Alan and Anne Shelley Tel 520960

# Vicar's Letter

Dear All

Writing this letter on the first day of the nation's second lockdown feels more challenging than normal, though obviously not as challenging as hospital staff and carers preparing for a possible surge in cases, retailers mourning the loss of pre-Christmas trade and many people facing job cuts this winter.

Everyone, everywhere is looking for hope and strength to sustain us all during this immediate period of restrictions and possibly through many weeks ahead. And then, while we were thinking what to write, this very simple but absolutely appropriate prayer was posted on the Binsted Facebook page, accompanied by a request to share with everyone:

*"Lord, we need You! Please sweep through this nation and heal this land. Restore our strength, renew our minds, and cast out anything that's not of You. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen."*

And we then felt that strengthened by these words we can face up to lockdown and what may follow and that instead of the usual frantic period of mad shopping that precedes Christmas, we must think of these enforced restrictions as a gift. We can still shop for food, we can write cards, we can bake at home and we can order presents online, but we will also have an opportunity to think about the real Christmas. As John Betjeman wrote in his poem Christmas:

*And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,...  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

Friends around the country have told us that November 4, the day before the restrictions began, felt like Christmas Eve, with shops open till late, pubs and restaurants selling cut-price drinks and all retailers offering discounts. Someone said it was like 'the Last-Chance Saloon' and when lockdown lifts in December there will probably be another mad rush to complete all the shopping and gift-buying. But in the meantime, let us embrace this quiet gift and remember that Christ wasn't born in a shopping mall loud with Christmas hits from the last thirty years, but in a cold stable under a starry sky into the loving arms of his young, frightened mother. We cannot match the gifts that were brought to him, although our local farmers might offer lambs, but we can give kindness, thoughtfulness and help to our neighbours and friends so we all have a special, meaningful Christmas.

*Yann and the team*

## YOUTH UPDATE

Poor mental health is a growing problem with all generations, young and old. In a time like this, loneliness, depression and anxiety, among other mental health problems, are more prevalent and there is less and less support for those who need it. About 20% of young people with mental health problems wait more than 6 months to receive specialist care. And 1 in 4 people (including adults) have mental health problems of some kind each year in England. The story is hard to comprehend, but these two shocking statistics show how important it is to raise awareness of mental health problems, in both young people and adults, and how we are able to support those around us.

In our Sunday night youth group, I felt it was really important to raise these statistics to show the importance of looking after ourselves and others around us. Nearly all of us in that group knew at least one person who struggles with their mental health. A recent report from a charity called Young Minds shows that by the summer of 2020, 80% of those they spoke to said their mental health was much worse as a result of the pandemic. Another shocking statistic proving that young people really are having a tough time, and I can only expect this story to reflect similarly in adults.

So instead of burying our heads in the sand, I felt it was important to tackle this topic head on with our youth group. This term, we will be looking at the story of Elijah in the Bible and how when he was hiding from Ahab and Jezebel with his life being threatened, God provided for him. God provided him with physical strength by bringing him food and water, He provided Elijah with time to rest and regain his energy, and God also provided spiritual strength. Through looking at Elijah, we will be learning wellbeing tips, the importance of eating the right things, resting properly, spending time with God to renew us spiritually and how we can support those around us.

But what else can we do? Be a listening ear, make time for someone who you know is struggling, send someone a gift in the post, fundraise for mental health charities like Mind with their Crafternoon campaign, pray for them and look after yourself. This Christmas is going to be tough for some of us so let's be good neighbours as God commands us to be.

For practical mental health advice, support and information, please visit [www.mind.org.uk/information-support](http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support).

**Gemma Ball**  
*Pastoral Assistant (Youth)*  
*and Administrator*

## An update from our Anna Chaplain

The last 8 months have been tough for many people; but especially for those living and working in nursing homes, and for older people who live alone at home. Please continue to pray for everyone at Pax Hill Care Home, Bentley Lodge Care and Nursing Home, and for older people within our community.

It's great news that our Anna Chaplaincy team has grown this year, and now includes 6 wonderful volunteer Anna Friends. Sadly, due to Covid-19, we haven't been able to commission our new Anna Friends at a service yet, but this hasn't stopped our team from offering love and support to older people within our community.

If you know of any older people within our community who would appreciate a regular phone call (or any other support), please please get in touch via my email address or phone number below.

As we live through our second national lockdown and the uncertainty of the winter months ahead, it's good to remember that Jesus, who is Emmanuel (God with us) was born into the discomfort of a chaotic and mucky stable. He entered the world into uncertainty, and yet He brought us God's gift of peace. And today Jesus lives with us, through our challenges and uncertainties.

I pray that we're able to allow God's love and peace to gently guide us through these difficult and uncertain times.

Wishing you love, peace and comfort this Christmas

*Rev. Nicky Smallwood*  
(Anna Chaplain)  
annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk  
07765 058593

## **BINSTED VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR**

Advent windows are back again this year!

Starting December 1 at Binsted School and ending at Holy Cross Church Binsted on December 24.

Keep watching out for a new design every day.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

MAKING SURE CHRISTMAS HAPPENS IN BINSTED

# Messy Church

ZOOM

You're all invited! Whatever age you are, join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month to get stuck in with crafts, songs and a Bible story.

**13th December 2020 at  
4:30pm**

We're looking forward to seeing you!



This month's  
theme is  
**MESSY  
CHRISTMAS**

Contact Gemma at [gemma@benbinfro.co.uk](mailto:gemma@benbinfro.co.uk) for more details!



# THE REAL NATIVITY

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

PREMIERING AT 18:30 ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

This year we are not able to hold our Real Nativity in person, so instead we are bringing it to you. This project began way back in September and we just can't wait to share this with you. Please join us at 18:30 on Friday 18th December on our YouTube Channel - BenBinfro Churches.

*Merry Christmas!*

# Church Registers

## FROYLE

26th October 2020

Funeral and Burial of Sonia McNabb

## BINSTED CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas cards depicting Binsted Church have proved very popular but there are still some available for those last minute cards, and at the time of writing there are still some packs left of each design. All the cards show pictures of Binsted Church and are £5 for a pack of 5 cards, all proceeds going to general church funds which support the day-to-day running and maintenance of the church. The wording inside each card reads 'With blessings for Christmas and the New Year'.

Also for sale are the note cards produced earlier this year using photographs and line drawings from Binsted residents. They are ideal for those post Christmas 'Thank You' letters giving them some unique local colour.

If you would like to have a look at either the Christmas cards or the note cards, then please contact me on **[binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk](mailto:binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk)** (or PM me on Facebook) to arrange a socially distanced viewing – and maybe even buy some!

*Stella Croom-Johnson*





# BenBinFro Christmas Services

## **Friday 18th December**

6:30PM ONLINE REAL NATIVITY

## **Christmas Eve**

4PM ONLINE CHRISTINGLE

11:30PM ONLINE MIDNIGHT MEDITATION

## **Christmas Day**

9:30AM BENTLEY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30AM BINSTED HOLY COMMUNION

11AM FROYLE HOLY COMMUNION

11AM ONLINE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

## **Sunday 27th December**

11AM ONLINE MORNING WORSHIP

All online services are premiered on our YouTube Channel - BenBinFro Churches. You may have noticed that the majority of our Christmas services this year will be online, apart from on Christmas Day itself. This is due to the fact we need to allow 72 hours in between each use of our church buildings for them to self quarantine. This is so we reduce the risk as much as possible to those using the church buildings and also those who clean.

If you would like to attend a service in person on Christmas Day, please contact the office to leave your name and contact details so we can comply with NHS Track and Trace regulations. This also allows us to know numbers.

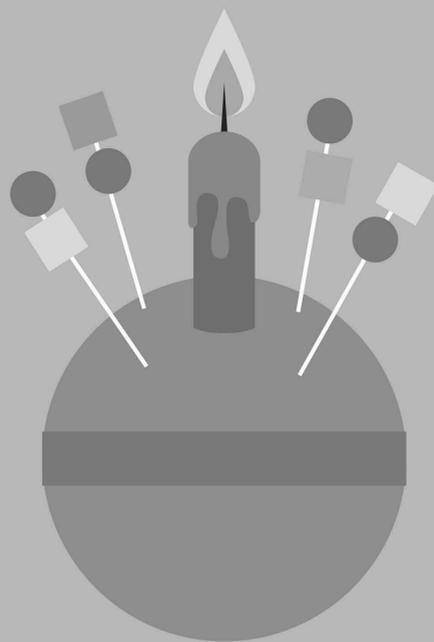
Thank you for your patience and Merry Christmas!



# Christingle

CHRISTMAS EVE

PREMIERING AT 16:00 ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



This year we are not able to hold our Christingle service in person, so instead we are bringing it to you. This year's virtual Christingle features pupils from Bentley school with some familiar voices, a bunch of lively carols, and a whole lot of Christmas cheer! We can't wait to share this with you so please join us at 16:00 on Christmas Eve on our YouTube Channel - BenBinfro Churches.

*Merry Christmas!*



## School News - Binsted CE Primary

At Binsted we believe in the Christian values of Faith, Hope & Love.

### Oak Class 2020-2021



Oak Class are the Reception and Year 1 children at Binsted school. We have 13 children in the class (5 Year 1 and 8 Year R). We have had a wonderful start to the Autumn term. So far the children have learnt about senses and where we live, and the topic for the rest of the term is Toys. The children have settled in brilliantly, especially the children who have just started school as things are a bit different due to Covid. Oak Class is lucky enough to have a large indoor class room and an outdoor class room and we use the playground and field with the rest of the KS1 'bubble' at

play time and lunch time. Mrs Norwood, Mrs Bowden and Mrs Krempel are keeping things as normal as possible for the children. We have already performed in a Harvest Service at Binsted Church, which was led by Yann and we have just started rehearsing for the Nativity. Although it will be a bit different this year as parents can't watch, we will be filming it and the children can enjoy watching themselves at home with their parents. Binsted school is a wonderful caring school full of brilliant pupils who we love teaching! You can find out more about the school by visiting our website: [www.binsted.hants.sch.uk](http://www.binsted.hants.sch.uk)

NB: You are now able to apply for a primary school place at Binsted School if your child is born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. Visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR> for more information.

#### **Are you having a clear-out of old clothes?**

Are you trying to make some space in your wardrobe for winter coats and shoes? If you do have anything that you would like to recycle, please take them to the Clothes bank at Binsted School. You can see the green bin just next to the school gates. All the clothes and shoes donated here help raise a few extra pounds for the school.

Once you've done that, and are looking to replace items, or maybe stock up for Christmas, or even book a holiday for next year, why not use the easyfundraising app / website link to help raise money for Binsted School with almost every online purchase. Just register using <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fobceprim/?invite=A9PYGR&referral-campaign=s2s>

# Bentley CE Primary

## Update from the Headteacher

**“We all need some extra help sometimes” is something I often say to parents coming for showrounds as I talk about the support systems we have in place for children for many reasons. This year our systems have stretched to support many more children with our ‘Recovery Curriculum’ after the six-month lockdown. We have noted our youngest children are less independent and are a little more emotional than we would usually expect. It is not surprising that resilience and attachment have become more apparent areas of need since the lockdown, when families were together for such a long stretch of time. Academic needs have cropped up for some children and it has taken readjustment for everyone to get back into good school habits, as well as to adjust back to sharing and taking turns within a larger class situation.**

I thought you might be interested to know a little more about some of our excellent programmes used to help children in school and the super staff who deliver them.

### ELSA

We are very fortunate in Hampshire to have ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) who are trained adults who help children deal with all sorts of issues. Children have time to talk with a kind member of the staff team. They can work on anger management, friendship issues, bereavement work or just have some time to talk through feelings. This service is highly regarded by many other services we work with, from CAMHS (Child

and Adolescent Mental Health) to doctors, Educational Psychologists to Social Services. In an ideal world, I think we would all benefit from an ELSA session!



### Academic Support

At Bentley we know being in class with your own teacher is the key factor to progressing, but sometimes children need some extra help to practise or catch up with a specific area of learning. Some children struggle to retain information or others may have specific learning needs. We have several programmes designed to support children with rapid catch-up learning, predominantly in mathematics and reading. Children are identified for support by teacher assessment and whole school screening. They will take part in catch-up programmes, usually in a small group but sometimes on a one to one, with our brilliant team of Learning Support Assistants, who are led by our SEND Leader.

## Bentley CE Primary

This year the vast majority of children in Years 3-6 were out of school from March until September. For all year groups we have noted some gaps and teachers have planned this year's lessons with rapid review of the skills and curriculum that were missed during lockdown. Pupils at Bentley were really lucky to have had a lot of great support in lockdown from their teachers online and from parents and grandparents at home. We have noticed less gaps than we have heard reported nationally. Where individual pupils have gaps teachers are giving them 'Keep up, Catch up' type support as well as specific programmes to support their learning.

### **Resilience and emotional well-being**

These are areas which we prioritise for all of our pupils through our Personal, Social and Emotional development curriculum (PSHE). We use two great programmes called '1Decision' and 'Heartsmart' to help the children learn. All children take part in PSHE lessons and, if there are particular issues, teachers have a lot of expertise in supporting children as a class and as individuals.

Sometimes children may need some extra support for a particular issue. New babies, moving house, or changes in our family situation affect us all as adults, and children are the same. The class team of adults are often the first port of call for children and sometimes a chat at playtime or a regular catch up make all the difference. We also use programmes led by our ELSA.



This year we have been fortunate to come across a brilliant centre called Huckleberries, which has been set up to support children develop tools for self-esteem. It is in a beautiful rural setting and is described by the children as 'A place to be me'. Yoga, breathing techniques and mindfulness are taught by experienced practitioners and several Bentley pupils have been lucky enough to attend this term. They are making some great progress in their personal development and getting a lot out their visits to the centre.

With these support systems in place, we work hard to make sure children thrive at Bentley, both academically and in their personal, social development. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more about our teaching at Bentley CE Primary School.

From the school we wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year ahead!

**Katy Pinchess, Headteacher**

# BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



At the time of writing (5th November 2020) as we enter our second lock-down due to Covid-19, it is impossible to know when restrictions are likely to be removed enough for us to restart our monthly get togethers. Hopefully we will be able to meet again early in 2021. As soon as this is possible, and speakers are booked, we will let you know.

We know that you have paid your subscription for 2020 and have only been able to attend two lectures. We have therefore decided that you will all have a free year's membership for 2021.

We hope you all have a happy Christmas.

Stay safe.

*From all the Committee*

## OCTOBER WEATHER STATISTICS



### Temperature



Daytime maximum	17.4°C (8 <sup>th</sup> ) to 10.5°C (4 <sup>th</sup> ) 19 days below 15°C
Nighttime minimum	-0.2°C (26 <sup>th</sup> ) to 13.4°C (30 <sup>th</sup> ) 4 nights above 10°C, 1 night below 0°C



### Rainfall



Total for month	5.42 inches (137.6 mm) over 27 days
Wettest days	1.22 inches (31.0 mm) (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) More than for the whole of September (1.00 inch/25.4 mm)



### Wind



Dominant wind direction	South West
Maximum gust	22 mph (24 <sup>th</sup> )

*Parish Weatherman*

Wickham Institute, Binsted - Registered Charity No. 1090864



## THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

[www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk](http://www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk)



### *The Wickham Institute 100+ Club*

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the November 2020 draws:

#### November 2020

1<sup>st</sup> prize Keith Mentzel

2<sup>nd</sup> prize Anne Shelley

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Hilary Spicer

Details of the December 2020 & January 2021 draw will appear in the February 2021 magazine

Each number only costs £12 (£1 per month) and you have three chances to win each month!

50% of the monthly purchase price of each number goes in prizes and 50% to the running costs of The Wickham Institute. The more people that participate in the 100+ club, the more money that is paid out in monthly prizes.

If you would like to participate an application form can be obtained from Andrew Croom-Johnson on 01420 23157 or email a request to Andrew at [treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk)

# WAYMARKS...

## *Spot the Binsted footpath*

Here are some more locations for you to try and identify

Photos 1 and 3 are in the eastern part of Binsted parish and photo 2 is in the west.



**Photo 1** Looking north. The right of way goes through the gate and soon runs downhill



**Photo 2** Looking south. The right of way runs along the top of the hanger



**Photo 3** Looking southwest; this is a junction of two rights of way

A few people have told me that they like this photo feature and enjoy trying to identify the paths, so I'll bring it back again in the spring!

## Alton Walking Week

Alton Town Council took the bold step in October of offering an autumn Walking Week (from Oct 12th to Oct 18th) and I had the pleasure of leading five of the nine walks, ranging in length from 3 to 17 miles. One was a 6 mile walk from Binsted Recreation Ground via Bentley station to Green Bridge, returning via White Bridge and the Arboretum. A group of 15 walkers enjoyed fine sunny weather and lovely views. As so often happens when people are new to the area, there were plenty of appreciative comments about the landscapes and points of interest.

Some of you might wonder how this could have happened at a time when the Rule of Six was in force....but recognised/accredited organisations wishing to offer guided walks have been able to take groups of up to 30, provided that risk assessments are carried out and that there is appropriate distancing between walkers. Walkers taking part in the Walking Week events carried sanitiser for use after they had touched stiles or kissing gates and everyone seemed to revel in the simple pleasure (which we had got so used to just taking for granted) of walking in the countryside with a group of like-minded people.

Needless to say, the Rule of Six still very much applies in the case of individuals wanting to walk with friends, so, if you plan to take a walk with friends or neighbours, please remember not to involve too many!

Looking ahead, Alton Town Council is planning to offer its full month long Walking Festival in May 2021, so let's hope that that will be possible!

## Some books about walks and walking

It is that time of year again when we might be looking for ideas for presents for friends and family (or even for ourselves!) Here are just a few suggestions of books featuring walking...if you like them, I've got plenty more!

Simon Armitage is, of course, best known for his poetry, but he has also written a couple of engaging books about walking:

### ***Walking Home: Travels with a Troubadour on the Pennine Way***

### ***Walking Away: Further Travels with a Troubadour on the South West Coast Path***

Robert McFarlane has written several wonderful books about landscape. I particularly love:

### ***The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot***

For something completely different, a harrowing and incredible true story from World War 2:

Slavomir Rawicz

### ***The Long Walk: the True Story of a Trek to Freedom***

Finally, here's a book which I originally picked up in Dublin; it's written by the Professor of Experimental Brain Research at Trinity College, but don't be put off; it's accessible and fascinating!

Shane O'Mara

### ***In Praise of Walking: the new science of how we walk and why it's good for us***

## **The benefits of walking**

Dr Hugh Bethell is a greatly respected former Alton General Practitioner who, in 1976, set up the first community exercise-based cardiac rehabilitation unit in the country, at Alton Sports Centre. Hugh is still involved with cardiac rehab in Alton and he offers a website on exercise and fitness at

<https://exercisefitnessandhealth.info/>

Hugh's website is well worth a look!

Hugh Bethell's comments on exercise are worth recording:

*'Being physically active is the most effective way of ensuring a long, healthy and disease-free life. At the same time it gives a great sense of wellbeing. It is far more effective than anything that the pharmaceutical industry can throw at you, far better than anything your doctor can prescribe.'*

Hugh is a strong advocate of walking as a means of maintaining and developing personal fitness, although he does warn that it's no use (as he puts it) 'pootling about'; if you want to do yourself some good, walk briskly and don't stroll!

### Walk of the month

I did suggest that I'd be offering another local walk in this issue, but have decided instead to continue the series at the start of 2021. Instead, I am suggesting two places not too far from the parish where you can enjoy a lovely winter walk.

#### Shortheath Common

Just south of Kingsley and on the outskirts of Oakhanger, this is a very special and attractive piece of heathland, where, because of the sandy soil, you can usually enjoy a walk without encountering much mud.

#### Binswood

A wonderful piece of unspoiled medieval woodland, safeguarded by the Woodland Trust. However, mud is usually a feature of Binswood in the winter!

You can download information and details of a lovely walk taking in both Shortheath and Binswood at:

[friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/OA-Map-8-Shortheath-2014.pdf](https://friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/OA-Map-8-Shortheath-2014.pdf)

### Binsted and Bentley

During 2021 it is hoped that there will be occasional contributions to this piece in the magazine from Patric Curwen, who keeps an eye on rights of way in Bentley parish. That will be a welcome addition from my point of view and we may also be able to feature some walks in Bentley, a parish with some very beautiful countryside.

### Good wishes for 2021!

I'd just like to pass on my best wishes to all readers for a peaceful festive season and a good New Year; let's all hope that 2021 will see us all turning the corner towards some kind of normality after the dire events of 2020

Ian 07766 174275

### Where are the footpaths?

**Photo 1** shows footpath 55 entering the top of Bentley Station Meadow

**Photo 2** shows footpath 9 heading towards Wyck

**Photo 3** shows the crossing of footpaths 55 (on the left and right) and 43 on the west side of Lodge Inclosure near Bentley Hall



## 2nd Bentley Scouts Autumn Term

I am writing this on Bonfire Night, normally a day of great excitement in our community as fireworks light up our skies. This year we have entered our second lockdown and Scouts, like all other activities, has been put back to our Red category meaning no Face to Face Scouting. We should have been parading in Bentley on Sunday for Remembrance but this year Stuart, our Group Scout Leader, will have represented the group and laid our wreath at the Memorial Hall. The Scouts will have made their own acts of Remembrance with their families at home.

Thankfully, we have made the most of the term since September and all our sections have been out and about with only a few sessions of activities being run in the Pavilion due to some torrential rain! Activities have ranged from athletics nights, cooking, hiking, and orienteering in Alice Holt and Urban treasure hunts in Holybourne and Alton. We have been pleased that most of our Scouts have returned to us and continue to get stuck into the activities and challenges set.

So, Scouting will return to Zoom whilst we remain in the Red category. The leaders have some experience of the Zoom sessions before the summer and will be busy searching new fun ideas to present to all our young people. Cubs have been given packs to make some Christmas crafts too! There may even be a Christmas virtual sleepover! If any of you readers have a particular interest that you think you could talk about or share with the Scouts (any age group) over the next few months please let us know and we can fit you into the program!

Nationally the Scout Association is facing terrific financial pressures and has launched a fundraising program called 'Race Around the World'. Members are being challenged to 'walk' distances and get sponsored to do this. The funds raised will all go to keep Scouting going in some of our poorest communities across the UK. Please support your local scouts and contribute towards this if you can.

Looking forward to Christmas, we hope that we may have a healthy and happy time with our families, whatever challenges we face. We hope that Scouting helps to make our young people more resilient to these unusual times. We wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope we all can look forward to a more settled 2020.

Melissa Salisbury  
Melissa@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

# The Hat Trick

Taken from the February 1983 magazine, this wouldn't happen in our Benefice would it?

“Just as the organ began to play at the crowded morning Communion Service, a man wearing a brown hat was ushered into a front pew. Since he continued to wear the hat, one of the sidesmen came back and suggested kindly that he take it off. ‘No’ he said, ‘I prefer to keep it on’.

There was some consternation at the back of the church and a senior sidesman asked the man to take his hat off during the service but he, too, was rebuffed. Even greater consternation reigned at the back of the church and the Rector's Warden was enlisted to make an appeal, which he did, only to have the man under the hat reply ‘I have every right to keep my hat on and I intend to do so’. The Warden retreated but then had a bright idea, and asked the President of the Women's Guild to endeavour to have the hat removed, thinking that a woman might have success where the men had failed, Alas, she, too, failed.

The service went ahead, and through it all even at the communion rail, the hat still sat glued to the head of the unknown man. The celebrants, the Priest and Curate, were much dismayed at

this breach of decorum. Throughout the service the Curate could not help but have his attention riveted on the brown hat and his sermon suffered accordingly.

After the recessional hymn, while the people were being greeted as they left the preacher begged the hatted man to stay behind for a few minutes. When all hands had been shaken the minister approached the man in the hat, and in a kindly way said ‘It is nice to see you, Sir. It has been a great pleasure to have you worship with us this morning. I hope that you will worship with us every Sunday – indeed, you will be welcome to join our congregation and worship here regularly. However it is the custom in the Anglican Church for men to remove their hats and to keep them off during the service. I hope you might conform to this practice in the future.’

The man under the hat replied ‘Thank you very much, I enjoyed today's service. It is good of you to invite me to join the congregation: in fact, I joined here three years ago and have been coming regularly ever since, but today is the first time that anyone paid any attention to me.’



Image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/sewing-machine-couture-thimble-1369658/>

## THE BINBENFRO **SEWING BEE** SCHEME

**Many of us would like to do our bit towards reducing waste by making do and mending rather than throwing away and buying new! Some of us unfortunately don't have the skills, the time or importantly a sewing machine to enable us to carry out even the most basic repairs and alterations.**

Our scheme aims to give anyone who would like to supplement their income by undertaking a sewing task for someone else, a shop front to offer their services.

Anyone willing to carry out sewing work\* within Bentley, Binsted and Froyle should email [benbinfrosewingbee@gmail.com](mailto:benbinfrosewingbee@gmail.com) summarising the type of work they would be willing to carry out and their contact details (name, phone number and email address).

We will advertise your details in the Parish Magazine under 'The BINBENFRO Sewing Bee Scheme' free of charge for one year starting 1st January 2021 and review how the scheme is working during the course of the year.

\*The following is a list of possible sewing tasks, we realise there are probably many more: Repairing, altering or remodelling: Trousers, Jeans, Skirts, Tea Shirts, Curtains, Duvet Covers/Sheets, Cushion Covers etc.

So, if you would like to be part of the scheme please email your details now to: [benbinfrosewingbee@gmail.com](mailto:benbinfrosewingbee@gmail.com)



## **Bentley, Binsted and Froyle - Dial a Service**

You can listen to the online Sunday Service via our new telephone service. It's an 01420 number so it will cost you the same as a local call and the services typically last for about 30-35 minutes. Just dial 01420 552652.

The service will be available by 11am on a Sunday morning which will enable anyone on the telephone to be joining together with others watching the service on YouTube.

It is with great sadness that I, Nichola, have to announce that my beloved Mother, Charmaine Bessemer, died peacefully on the 6th of November.



<https://pixabay.com/photos/a-couple-of-poppy-flowers-poppy-4986803/>

## The Poppy Collection in Bentley

The collection this year was £701, not bad considering we only had two collection boxes deployed, one at the Shop and one at the School, who won by a whisker with £351 compared to £350 from the Shop! Well done all and many thanks to both Shop and School. Corona Virus prevented the usual house to house visits.

Hew and Jean Pike.

## Christmas Day Services – **IMPORTANT Notice**

Due to the pandemic there is a limit on the number of people we can accommodate in each of our churches and the exact number is dependent on how many and how big each of the family bubbles are that are attending.

So, we will have to have limit attendance on Christmas Day to only those with tickets. Tickets can be obtained via the church office from Monday 14th December. We will need to know not only your name and contact details but also the names of everyone attending with you for NHS Track and Trace, and which Christmas Day service you are wanting to attend.

**Church Office – [admin@benbinfo.org](mailto:admin@benbinfo.org) / 01420 23339**

Thank you for your understanding and Merry Christmas!

# THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY, ALTON

(01420 82802)

[www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](http://www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)

Curtis Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm

Allen Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10.30 – 3.30pm

## CURTIS MUSEUM

The Museum is open from 10 - 4

Thurs Fri Sat and now SUNDAY too.

Please see our website to book your visit

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum)

## CHRISTMAS GOODIES

The Museum has a range of Stocking Filler toys on sale, and Local Charity cards for Treloars and the Cardiac Re-Hab Unit.

In the Gallery you can find Christmas Cards and some charming decorations, as well as ceramic and wooden items for a special present.

## ALLEN GALLERY

Please see our website to book your visit [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

### POTS AND PILGRIMS EXHIBITION

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the journey of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony in 1620. This journey, along with the founding of the earlier English colony of Jamestown, is considered one of the most significant, if controversial, events in the story of modern America.

Archaeological excavations have taken place on these sites for over a 100 years revealing objects typical of those you would expect to find in a 17th century English village. The bulk of the material found is pottery, and a lot of that pottery, called Border Ware, came from the kilns of the Hampshire/Surrey border.

This exhibition uses material from collections in the care of Hampshire Cultural Trust to tell the story of how the early colonists carried a cultural life support system with them on their journey. Objects that reveal as much about their ties to the old world as their struggles in adapting to the new.

In the Main Exhibition Area till

December 19th. FREE

*Plymouth Massachusetts - male interpreter (role-player) at table - with pot*



Please wear a face-covering when visiting our venues and use the hand sanitiser we have installed. Thank you.

# Report for the Bentley Community Association for year ending March 2020

This is an update from the Bentley Community Association, the charity which runs the Bentley Memorial Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of Bentley and the neighbourhood.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to hold the Annual General Meeting in the usual way. At the meeting we present a report on the past financial year, which runs from 1st April to 31st March, and summarise the finances for the charity. This article is in place of the meeting to provide a brief summary of the last year and the situation going forward. The full accounts are available under the News tab on the hall website at <https://www.bentleymemorialhall.org> and any comments or questions can be raised by emailing the committee at [bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com).

In our last financial year to the end of March, the hall continued to be heavily used resulting in income of over £31,000. Dottie Tots nursery school continues to flourish with over 30 children from the village and surrounding area in their care. They also extended their usage of the hall to each weekday during the course of the financial year.

On a Friday, the Bentley Toddler and Baby Group in the morning and Lucy's Dance Classes provided activities for children but the Friday Art Group, which had used the hall on a Friday morning

for many years, sadly disbanded in the summer of 2019.

The Pilates classes on a Thursday morning were as popular as ever. Evening activities included table tennis, FLexercise, badminton, yoga and aikido.

In addition to the popular film nights, we continued to host various private parties at the weekends and also several of the cycling events held on they run their time trial race events between Farnham and Alton on the A31.

The expenditure on the hall in the financial year was almost £24,000.

In addition to the usual expenditure on utilities, insurance, cleaning (for which we are hugely grateful to Nicola Beck for all her hard work) we also undertook some maintenance activities on the roof, the dovecote, the guttering and we continued with the upgrade of the lighting to LED fittings.

Thank you to all those who continue to support the 100+ Club for the Hall, which generated a net surplus of almost £1,000, which is great help in maintaining the hall for village community activities.

The charity was in a surplus position of £7,124 for the financial year to 31st March 2019.

Peter Clark resigned from the committee at the end of the financial year and we'd like to express our gratitude to Peter for his many years of service. We're always looking for new committee members, so please do contact the chair, Steve Fice, if you would be interested in joining us.

Of course, just as the year ended the Corona Virus pandemic hit us and as the report is written the hall is once again closed to all activities except for the Dottie Tots nursery school. We have made the hall a COVID secure environment and we look forward to welcoming back all our regular users as soon as possible.

The BCA Committee



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Please come and help shape your village

### **BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Are you interested in the life of your village, your parish, your local environment, recreational facilities, local transport, planning and housing issues, just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a difference to our community.

We have a vacancy - will YOU come and join us?

If yes, or you would like more details, please contact the

Parish Clerk - contact details below.

**Emma Wadey, Parish Clerk**

Email: [clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Telephone: 07930 330308



*Farmers Viewpoint*

# Where there's a winch there's a way

<https://pixabay.com/photos/turkey-bird-beak-leathers-plumage-5473768/>

Turkey poults were arriving on farms back in June as day old chicks and will have been reared from then in order that they are ready for Christmas. Who knows what Covid controls will be in place for Christmas? We did think that smaller birds would be the order of the day if we're being limited to six people gatherings over Christmas but try telling a turkey to stop growing especially when you ordered fourteen different strains of turkey breed back in Spring specifically to get that range of bird weights to suit everyone's orders!

If you've driven down the A31 in the direction of Alton at any point in the summer you may well have noticed a strange scaffold construction appear to the side of each carriageway and in the central reservation, you may also have seen on two occasions what is to all intents and purposes a

scramble net stretched across the dual carriageway. This apparatus and many similar structures over our smaller roads, lanes and railways etc were accompanied by a proliferation of signage all in preparation for the replacement of the overhead cables between Fleet and Lovedean.

The farmers in the parishes will have known what was going on long before any visible signs appeared in the countryside. But the planning has been years in the making. Access arrangements were negotiated in the last year and would have been complicated because the work on the cables was being done at the same time as harvest. The reason the line replacement takes place in the summer is because the lines are switched off and the power has to be found from other networks hence it helps to do this when there is reduced demand on the network.

The temporary trackway companies will have done very well out of this multi-million pound infrastructure project! To be fair the miles of temporary trackway prevented compaction of the field underneath and prevents a quagmire in wet weather - remedying damage to the soil structure is a very expensive exercise and to be avoided.

The pylons were put up in the fifties and the wire was last replaced some thirty years ago (1980's). Over 500kms of wire at height had to be replaced. National grid and its contractors split the route into 'sections' of approximately 15 pylons. Two large machines are then placed at each end of the section, a machine at one end winches the old line (conductor) off and pulls up the new line from a machine at the other end, 3 to 4 miles away. You may have seen the large pulling wheels installed on the arms of the pylons to enable the winching process and once the new line is completely up, it is permanently attached to the pylon. Joints (where two sections of line are joined together) are found at one end of the 15 pylon section, often at the opposite

end to the winching machine. However, in some cases joints can be within a section span. All joint positions are determined by the specific design required and the team know the location of all the joints before starting works. On this project, this process has been carried out 16 times by a team numbering approximately 115 people. Covid-19 was one of the biggest challenges to the project and it meant that all the working practices had to be completely re-evaluated to ensure safety throughout the works.

The wires used on this project were manufactured in Belgium. The old cable (conductor) is usually made of aluminium or a combination of steel and aluminium which affects how it is disposed of. To reduce waste and reduce the carbon footprint of the project, the conductor is recycled as are other materials that have been replaced on the project such as insulators and fittings.

The project will probably have just completed by the time this magazine hits your letterbox/inbox. It has been delivered bang on time and is on track to have all equipment removed and land reinstated by the end of December.

The sharper eyed among you will have noticed excavators in some of the fields adjacent to the A31. They've been digging trial pits that are connected with the eventual replacement of the Esso fuel pipeline that runs across our parishes. We do seem to be attracting a lot of infrastructure attention at the moment! Happy Christmas to you all.

# BOOK REVIEWS

**Themes for December & January:** At the time of writing, it seems that Christmas and New Year may well be rather different from what we are all used to. It therefore seems important for us to remind ourselves of some of the best things we traditionally think about at these times of the year.

## **Two books for Christmas and New Year:**

**Rembrandt, “The Birth of Christ: With The Text From The Gospels”, published by Eagle, Guildford, Surrey, 1998, 72 pages, hardcover.**

The Dutch painter Rembrandt is one of the greatest artists in the history of art. His illustrations of scenes from the Bible are amongst his greatest creative triumphs. The book contains over 30 paintings, prints and sketches, depicting the events surrounding the birth of Our Lord.

Some, like the adoration of the shepherds and the wise men, are well known; others less so. The book contains Rembrandt’s remarkable images alongside the Gospel text that moved and inspired him. They illustrate what many describe as the greatest story ever told.

**Nicholas Holtam, “The Art of Worship: Paintings, Prayers, and Readings for Meditation”, The National Gallery, 2011, 111 pages, hardcover.**

Nicholas Holtam assembled these 40+ pictures from the National Gallery when he was Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. He is now Bishop of Salisbury. His favourite paintings are presented alongside selected prayers, poems and quotations. His thoughtful personal observations encourage private prayer, contemplation and meditation.

Many of the paintings illustrate Christian themes and biblical stories, but some choices are unexpected. The book is a rich resource for anyone seeking stillness, and shows how art can be a powerful starting point for worship.

**At the time of writing**, very good hardcover copies of these books (including postage) were available from [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) from £15.68 (Rembrandt) and £3.06 (Nicholas Holtam).

# HCC HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS

Hampshire County Council has issued a Regulation 25 notice requiring Veolia to submit further evidence on the Environmental Statement in their application.

HCC says the information is required under **Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017** - *'to enable the full and proper consideration of the likely environmental effects of the proposed development'*. Veolia was asked respond to this request no later than November 13. We understand that HCC will also be issuing a further Regulation 25 notice on landscape, visual effects and air quality.

While we would have liked a swift and successful result to our campaign, we consider it is encouraging

# NO WEY INCINERATOR

that HCC are thoroughly examining this complex issue. The application cannot be considered any further until the applicant responds.

The Regulation 25 (Request for Further Information) can be read at <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/ApplicationDetails.aspx?RecNo=21197> under Application Documents, 2<sup>nd</sup> document.

The No Wey action group will continue to keep a close eye on developments and will update their website and Facebook page with further news.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT**

## BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 100+CLUB

The winners for **November** draws of the Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are below



Contact Steve Fice, Chairman Bentley Memorial Hall 01420 22197  
steve.fice@btinternet.com

## Congratulations to the Winners

**November 2020**

1st Prize	Chris Holmes
2nd Prize	Adrian & Linda Job
3rd Prize	Catherine Bonner

# The next generation

We are blessed in this parish with loads of lovely trees. They nearly all started life as either seeds or nuts. But they won't live forever. If they can they will produce their own seeds or nuts and employ their preferred strategies for getting their offspring into the ground. If there weren't so many of us, so willing to shape our environment, we could just stand back and watch this all happen. We could safely assume that subsequent generations of us would have as many trees to enjoy as we do.

However we are not always content with where the next generation of trees sets up home, and we do tend to cover a lot of ground with surfaces that make it difficult for trees to get started. So we have a responsibility to help the next generation find a home.

Here are two ways you can help:

If you have healthy trees near you they will be dropping their seeds or nuts in your garden. If necessary, they will be using their allies, squirrels, jays, and others, to bury them just below the surface. Within a year of this happening you see young trees springing up in all sorts of places. In my own garden this year I found holly, hazel, hornbeam, oak and yew. It's OK to object to where these seedlings sprang up. It's not OK to dig them up and toss them on the compost heap (or worse). The Parish Council has granted me a plot in the Recreation Ground allotments (to the left as you drive/

walk into the car park) and I have already started using it as a young tree rescue centre. If you have seedlings you want rid of, please pot them up, or even just put them in a carrier bag, and leave them by the allotment fence. I will plant them up.

In a year or two I will be looking for homes for these orphans, somewhere where they can grow and give joy.

The second way we can help comes late as a suggestion for this year but is still worth mentioning. As I said, we have a tendency to put a lot of ground out of reach to seeds and nuts by covering it in concrete and tarmac. So we have a moral obligation to gather as many potential trees as we can and give them a fair start. This year there has been a bumper crop of all varieties.

For acorns and chestnuts, separate the nuts from their cups or outer casings and drop them into a bucket or bowl of water. Discard the ones that float and collect those that sink for sowing. Beech, walnut and hazel nuts should be stratified and then sown when they have germinated. If you don't know how to stratify, then google it.

Winged seeds, such as sycamore, can be planted with the wings left on. Separate the seeds from each other and from their twigs, then stratify.

Ben Hamlin  
*Tree Warden*

## BENTLEY VILLAGE SURGERY

Dr M Way & Dr A Evers

Hole Lane, Bentley, GU10 5LP Tel: 01420 22106

**The surgery is open from 8am - 6.30pm Monday - Friday**

**The Dispensary is open from 8.30am - 2.30pm Monday - Friday**

**When the surgery is closed please call 111**

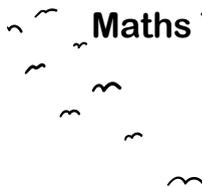
You can now register for online appointment booking, please ask at Reception for further details.  
Repeat Prescriptions can now be ordered via the surgery website: [www.bentleysurgery.org.uk](http://www.bentleysurgery.org.uk)

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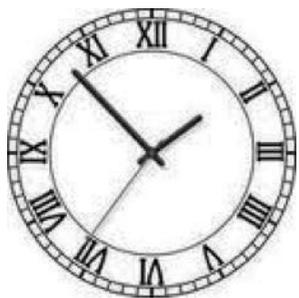
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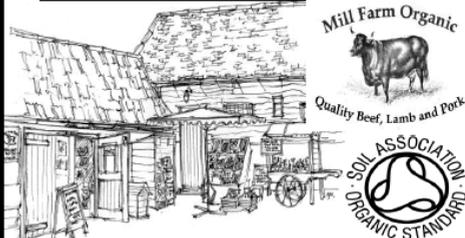
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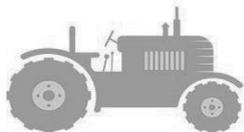
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For more information and to book the hall, please go to the website [www.bentleymemorialhall.org](http://www.bentleymemorialhall.org)

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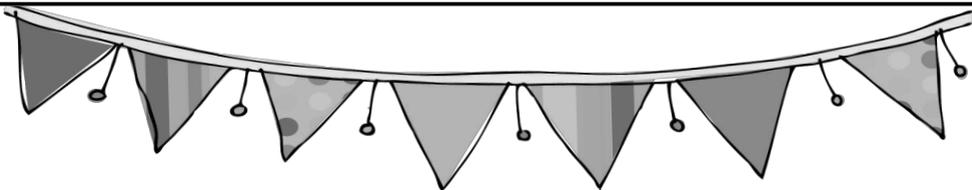
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## Froyle Baby and Toddler Group

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(during term times)

Froyle Village Hall

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### **Binsted Football Club**

Secretary: Tim Winkworth

[binstedfootball@gmail.com](mailto:binstedfootball@gmail.com)

### **Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)**

@FOBSBinsted 01420 23200 or

[fobs.binsted@gmail.com](mailto:fobs.binsted@gmail.com)

Chairman: Alice Cowie

### **2nd Bentley Scout Group**

#### **General Enquiries:**

[admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk) 07974377736

[www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk)



# December/January Services

WORSHIP  
PRAYER  
WORD

This service pattern is correct at the time of printing. Please keep an eye on our website for any changes to service times and dates, especially due to Covid-19 restrictions. There are no 'live' midnight services on Christmas Eve because we are not able to clean the churches before Christmas Day. There are also no 'live' services on Sunday 27th December because we need to allow 72 hours between services for the churches to self quarantine after Christmas Day.

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- 6TH DECEMBER
  - 11AM BENTLEY MORNING WORSHIP
  - 11AM ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION
- 13TH DECEMBER
  - 9:30AM FROYLE HOLY COMMUNION
  - 11AM BINSTED MORNING WORSHIP
- 18TH DECEMBER
  - 6:30PM ONLINE REAL NATIVITY
- 20TH DECEMBER
  - 11AM BENTLEY HOLY COMMUNION
- CHRISTMAS EVE
  - 4PM ONLINE CHRISTINGLE
  - 11:30PM ONLINE MIDNIGHT MEDITATION
- CHRISTMAS DAY
  - 9:30AM BENTLEY MORNING WORSHIP
  - 9:30AM BINSTED HOLY COMMUNION
  - 11AM FROYLE HOLY COMMUNION
  - 11AM ONLINE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
- 27TH DECEMBER
  - 11AM ONLINE MORNING WORSHIP

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- 3RD JANUARY
    - 11AM BENTLEY MORNING WORSHIP
    - 11AM ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION
  - 10TH JANUARY
    - 9:30AM FROYLE HOLY COMMUNION
    - 11AM BINSTED MORNING WORSHIP
  - 17TH JANUARY
    - 11AM BENTLEY HOLY COMMUNION
  - 24TH JANUARY
    - 11AM BINSTED HOLY COMMUNION
    - 6:30PM FROYLE EVENSONG
  - 31ST JANUARY
    - 11AM BINSTED BENEFICE SERVICE

