

MARCH 2021

BENTLEY & BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE



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Parish Magazine

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Vicar's Letter

Dear All

We all know how comforting it is to follow habits and rituals in our lives. Some of us have to start the day with two cups of tea, others cannot start their work without checking Twitter and Facebook and some look askance at anyone who doesn't think it is essential to read a daily newspaper. And during this strangest of years we have been experiencing since last March, rituals have become even more important, ensuring that our endless days have structure and even purpose.

Of course it is not just the start of the day that can benefit, but the close of the day too. For some the early evening news marks the end of the working day and the beginning of winding down time, while others may allow themselves a relaxing drink at 6pm or 'Gin O'clock' as one old friend used to say. All these scheduled activities help to give us a sense of order in this year when it has been hard sometimes to remember what time it is, let alone what day.

And in February we took up the invitation to add another ritual to the daily programme. Our Archbishops decided, following the terrible news that deaths from Covid 19 had escalated to 100,000, to invite all churches and their communities to pray every evening at 6pm. In a widely circulated letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said, 'As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic. 100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.'

Our parish decided to implement this initiative with the aid of Zoom and our evening prayer sessions were well attended from the beginning of February. Each evening we prayed for a different group in our community and across our nation. It has been both a heartening and a healing experience. As the Archbishops also said, 'More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.'

Even though we were aware that the Church already prays for the life of the nation every day throughout the year, this additional, fixed time of prayer, has felt like a very positive, constructive act. A variety of themes were available to us as guidance and we felt comforted in praying together at this time of uncertainty, using prayers such as:

My God,
 I believe so firmly that You watch over all those who hope in You,
 and that we can want for nothing when we rely upon You in all things,
 that I am therefore resolved for the future to have no anxieties,
 and to cast all my cares upon You.
 Amen.

Claude la Colombiere

Maybe these six o'clock prayers have become a new ritual for those who took part or those who heard about this initiative. It would be wonderful to think it has encouraged many around the country to pray regularly and often at this time of great need. And we can still have Gin O'clock as well, when our prayers are through.

Yann and the team

YOUTH UPDATE

March 2021

Happy March everyone! Spring is coming, hope is drawing closer and it's great to be sharing what the children and young people of BenBinFro (and the adults too!) have been getting up to.

This is the time of year when the 'L' word starts getting banded about. No not, 'lockdown', we're getting bored of that one, I mean Lent! There's often a panic of, 'oh I forgot about that, 'is it really that soon?!' and 'I have no idea what to give up this year...'. Well for me, instead of giving something up, Lent is a time where I reflect upon Jesus' unconditional love and my relationship with God. Many people like to take up a new activity, like doing an act of kindness every day, which is something I'm taking part in with our local Youth Worker's Network, United.

As a Benefice, instead of giving something up, we are encouraging everyone to be thankful through something called Thankfulness Jars. In a time when it's so easy to focus on the doom and gloom, we feel it is important to turn our attention to the good things, whether big or small. So, I encourage you to find yourself a jar and start writing down things you are thankful for to pop in the jar - you can decorate yours if you like! See my one below... This is something we are doing throughout Lent, and within our Sunday services to nurture an attitude of thankfulness as we head towards Easter.

Also, much like our Advent Calendar videos back in December, Sam and I are creating daily Lockdown Lent videos to encourage people of all ages to reflect on the word of God and to be thankful. We are using our Thankfulness Jars as part of the videos too so feel free to join us on YouTube every day at 9am.



So, perhaps instead of giving something up, you'd join us every day throughout Lent to take time to reflect on God's word and to be thankful.

In other youth work news, our older girl's group are really enjoying the Prayer Course and our younger group are engaging in a course written by YouthScape, covering topics like can we earn God's love, and forgiveness. We have just watched The Shack which I highly recommend! And we've even been making burgers... well why not!

It's really encouraging to hear of lots of young people interested in a future Youth Alpha course too! Do get in contact with me if you would like to know more.

Have a great March!

Gemma Ball
*Pastoral Assistant (Youth)
and Administrator*

Church Register

Funerals, cremations and interments of ashes:

Bentley

- February Dennis Faulkner – 8th Feb (cremation)
Dorothy Morgan – 15th Feb (funeral and burial)
Pamela Marston – 17th Feb (cremation)
Olive Morley – 19th Feb (funeral and cremation)

Froyle

- February Laurence Blunden – 8th Feb (funeral and burial)

LIVE@5

Sunday 28th March at 5pm on YouTube

Join us on Zoom at 4:30pm for tea and cake

Meeting ID: 830 1145 2668

Passcode: 739842



Subscribe to our Youtube channel: BenBinFro Churches

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.

14th March 2021 at 4:30pm

Meeting ID: 816 5023 6547

Passcode: MessyZoom

We're looking forward to seeing you!



FIND US ONLINE



Since making the decision to close our churches for now, you can find our online services on our YouTube Channel on Sundays at 11am.

Our services are also available to listen to via a phone line for those who have little or no internet connection. Just call 01420 552652.

We are still posting short Thought for the Day videos on YouTube at 6:30am Monday to Friday. It's been great to see how popular they continue to be!

Join in with our daily Lockdown Lent videos on YouTube – send us a photo of your Thankfulness Jar!

The church website is continually updated with any news and updated guidance, along with the links to all our online content, so do have a look or contact the church office if you have any questions.



Subscribe to our Youtube channel: BenBinFro Churches



Like and follow us on Facebook: BenBinFro Churches

www.benbinfro.co.uk
admin@benbinfro.org / 01420 23339

Art at Bentley

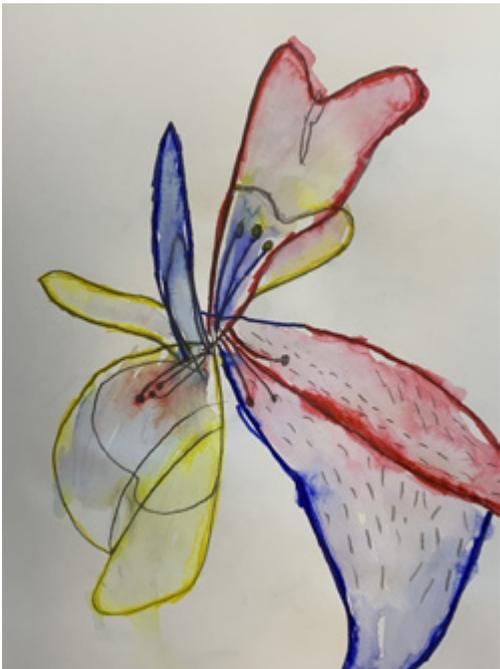
Happily, there are *some* things which are still the same in the COVID Lockdown. Art is most certainly one of these and many children and families have been enjoying some creativity through art lessons and art for fun. We have seen some beautiful work posted on Seesaw and Tapestry, our School Learning Platforms. We have also seen some great experimentation and progress in art skills as children practise and experiment, both very important skills for any artist!

We have recently reviewed our Art and Design curriculum over the seven years of learning at Bentley. We want all children to have the opportunity to develop skills from sketching and shading with a pencil, to confidence in colour mixing with a variety of paints. Over their time at primary school the pupils get repeated opportunities with printing, clay work and collage. We also think that it is important that children have the opportunity to 'have a go' with one off art techniques, from tie-dye to papier-mâché. Some areas of Art overlap with Design Technology, such as sewing. Other areas overlap with Computing, such as photography.

The current National Curriculum includes a strong emphasis on children learning about art in the world around us. We are incredibly fortunate to have nature all around us in Bentley to capture the children's interest. From Andy Goldsworthy style outdoor art, to sketching the beautiful landscapes around us or using natural objects in still life drawings. There is much to inspire in our beautiful location. We

also have a clear plan in place to ensure that children have an understanding and appreciation for the work of different artists, designers, architects and crafts people. Pupils in Year 5 study art linked to different religions. Pupils in Year 3 look to the Viking world to study artwork from another era. Year 6 pupils create propaganda posters linked to their study of World War 2.

Pupil feedback has told us time and time again how much our children enjoy their weekly art lessons. Learning new skills, using different media and creating work to be proud of! Art gives us all the opportunity to explore and escape, both very welcome at this time. Art Leader, Mrs Scott- Bromley says, "At Bentley we want our children to enjoy the creative process, just as much as the outcome. We want children to be proud of their own work and not worry about comparisons. We teach them to appreciate art, to develop their own taste and opinions, about their own work and that of other artists".





School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

We thought we would share the thoughts of some of our children about their likes and dislikes of this third lockdown, which has meant for many of them, a return to home school learning

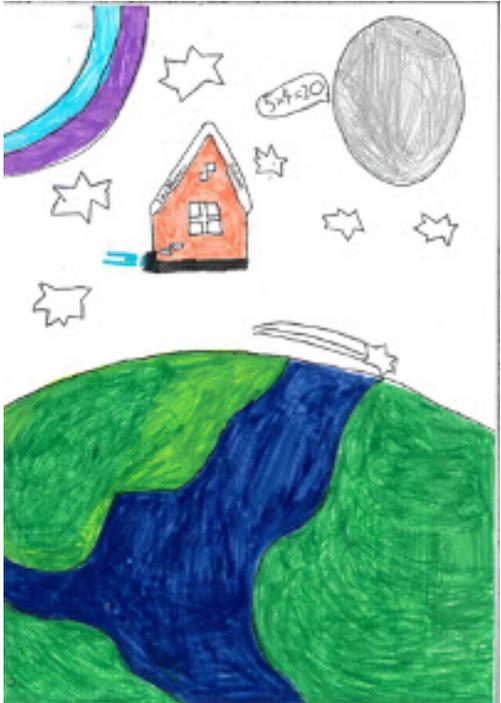
I like working at home but miss playing
Charlie

I can't go to swimming or rugby
Frederick

I like walking with my family but am sad that I can't see my grandparents
Autumn

It's really boring and I don't get to do much
Zander

You can't see your family
Lola
You can't see your friends
Ziggy





School News - Binsted CE Primary

March 2021

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

I like not getting up early but I miss footie

Jack

I liked drawing the yeti and spending time with my family but we can't see many people

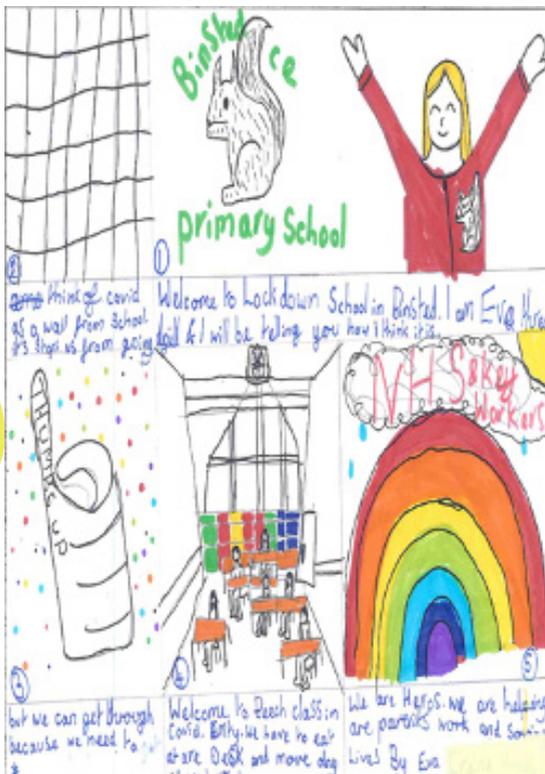
Lizzie

I enjoy homework but miss school work and friends

Lowenna

I like being home with my family but don't like not seeing my friends

Madeline



LOCKDOWN BLUES?

Just be careful because people are going crazy from being in lockdown! Actually I have just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic ... told me just to suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would soon blow over. The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me yes, you've guessed it ... pull yourself together.



Volunteer for AREA COORDINATOR (Ride and Stride) in the ALTON AREA

Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) is looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to be the new Area Coordinator for the Alton area, to champion the highly successful Ride and Stride (R+S) fundraising Day held annually on the second Saturday in September.

The Area Coordinator shares a love of historic buildings, enjoys meeting and liaising with others, supports and encourages churches, local communities, and individuals to become actively involved in R+S.

The Area Coordinator liaises with the Church Representatives of the local churches and needs to have basic computer skills. Overall, it need only take up a few hours a month at your own time and pace. The Area Coordinator is part of a friendly, supportive team of 15 other Area Coordinators as well as an enthusiastic, encouraging team at County level.

HIHCT is a non-denominational charity that raises funds to save the County's beautiful heritage church buildings for the next generation. It provides grants for repair, restoration, and modernising facilities. R+S is the major fundraising event for the Trust, 50% of which is returned directly to the participating or nominated churches and 50% to the Trust to fund grants.

R+S Day is invariably a fun and enjoyable day for individuals, groups, or families to get out and about exploring the countryside and heritage of Hampshire.

Please join us to help make it happen!
To find out more, please contact

Christine and Geoffrey Wort, County Coordinators for R+S

Tel: 01264 810584

Email: rideandstride@hihct.org.uk

Web: www.hihct.org.uk



**VISIT
FROYLESARK.COM**

A celebration of creativity online and around the village

HOW TO CREATE A CREATURE FOR FROYLE'S ARK

You don't have to be Grayson Perry, Tracy Emin or Damien Hirst to contribute to Froyle's very own Ark. There are easy ways to get involved including reusing and recycling everyday objects you have at home. At www.froylesark.com there are plenty of ideas for children and adults alike including all sorts of animals and materials. You can also take a behind the scenes look at people's work in progress. Why not get started by trying an egg box mouse? Send your creations to ahoy@froylesark.com



With grateful thanks to darrellwakelam.com

THANK YOU FOR OBJECTING AGAIN



Objections to Veolia’s application to build an enormous incinerator in Alton’s rural Wey Valley poured in from all quarters in the final week of the second public consultation which ended on February 15.

Mark Weldon, spokesman for action group No Wey Incinerator said, ‘We are determined to oppose this development, which would make Hampshire the waste capital of the South of England, burning waste from other counties. Nothing Veolia has said in response to Hampshire County Council’s searching questions in

their three Regulation 25 notices has made the slightest bit of difference. We and our consultants have found no meaningful new information in the company’s responses and conclude this is still an inappropriate development for this particular location.’

Local Councillors, MPs and bodies such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England all voiced strong opposition to this inappropriate development. For the latest news on the progress of this application please go to www.noweyincinerator.com.

Bentley Parish Council *needs an identity!*

Are you a local designer or maybe studying design at school or college?

We’re looking for a Bentley resident to design a brand identity for the Bentley Parish Council, maybe something you can add to your portfolio and your chance to develop a design that will be part of Bentley history.

We need:

- A new Bentley logo (using the archer)
- Style guide
- Stationery design
- Website front page

The winner will be chosen by our councillors and receive £1000

Please contact the clerk for details:
Emma on: 07795 326539

clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

The Choir that Can't Stop Singing!



It hasn't been the best time for the arts but Alton choir, Luminosa, has been keeping alive its passion for music throughout the pandemic, firstly on-line each week on Zoom and, more recently for 8 weeks before the subsequent lockdown, at their regular rehearsal quarters of The Maltings in Alton.



Luminosa: keen to get back to singing and donating to charity

Inspired by its talented and charismatic choral director, Rebekah Abbott, who is currently Head of Voice with the Royal Marines Band Service, and its patron, Neil Ferris, Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, members are always motivated to excel, and Covid-19 has not diminished the choir's ethos of singing captivating music at a high level of expertise.

The 'connectedness' of the Choir is one of the mainstays of its success. During the pandemic this has been a particular blessing, sustaining the emotional and mental health of its members, young and old, enriching self-esteem, confidence and community through singing.

The Choir was due to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a landmark concert in Odiham in March 2020 with an exciting programme of music, including an inspiring commission. Plans are being made to celebrate Luminosa's decade of choral success as soon as possible.

For now, the main choir, Luminosa Voices, are rejoicing in Haydn's Creation, full of

unsullied optimism expressed in some of the most lovable and life-affirming music ever composed. This is in preparation for a summer concert which the Choir is optimistically planning, to include Haydn's magnificent oratorio and other positive music full of light and hope, with singing by the Chamber Choir, Luminosa Chamber Voices, along a similar theme.

Luminosa Rising Voices (ages 10-16) and Luminosa Young Voices (ages 6-11), the choirs creatively led and managed by youth music specialists, Jonathan Upfold and Josh Robinson, are working on an exciting virtual choir project in which young singers are collaborating in the composition of an original song which they will perform on-line later in the year. They will also perform in the summer concert.

Luminosa is always keen to hear from new members and there is a collective warm welcome waiting! Why not come and trial a rehearsal for free? Information about the work of the choir, its ethos and how to get in touch can be found on the website www.luminosamusic.com.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are still in place and even with the roll out of the vaccination programme 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 sometime later in 2021. As soon as this is possible, and speakers are booked, we will let you know.

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

Stay safe.

From all the Committee

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 100+ CLUB

The winners for **February** 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

February 2021

1st Prize	Bruce & Lizzie Powell
2nd Prize	Claire Ewin
3rd Prize	Patric Curwen



THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the February 2021 draws:

February 2021

1st prize John Kenwood

2nd prize Sarah Boswood

3rd prize Trish Cardy

Details of the March 2021 draw will appear in the next magazine.

Remember 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

THANK YOU

The Thallon family would like to thank everyone in the Benefice for their messages of sympathy. They have been a great comfort to us at this difficult time.

Gill

March 2021

Can you find the names of 16 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below:

"I once made a remark about the hidden book of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a fascinating few moments for you. Yes there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

Answers can be found on page 36

JANUARY WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum 13.1°C (28th) to 0.4°C (7th)
Only 3 days above 10°C

Nighttime minimum - 5.1°C (25th) to 9.1°C (19th)
16 nights below 0°C



Rainfall



Total for month 3.48 inches (88.5 mm) over 25 days

Wettest days 0.79 inches (20.0 mm) (20th)



Wind



Dominant wind direction South West

Maximum gust 26 mph (21st)

THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY, ALTON

(01420 82802)

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

And on Facebook.

Things seem to be moving in the right direction towards a possible relaxing of Lockdown. With any luck the venues will be able to reopen around Easter. Here is a heartening photo of the garden at the back of the Gallery – a great place for a Spring stroll and a cup of tea after viewing some of the famous Ceramic collection.

Fingers crossed.



The Allen Gallery garden in Spring.

WAYMARKS...

Rights of Way Bridge Survey in Binsted

The Binsted Rights of Way Group started a big new project at the start of February. We have been asked by HCC to conduct a detailed survey of all bridges on rights of way in the parish; there are apparently no less than 71 of them!

Bridges on footpaths vary considerably in their size and nature, from a substantial stone bridge carrying a roadway in the far west of the parish, on path 2, to a large number of plank bridges across drainage ditches, while some of the bridges listed by HCC have turned out to be culverts. Nevertheless, this is an interesting project for the restricted days of winter lockdown!

Just to start, here are some photos; the first two are on path 4 (between Wyck and Neatham)



This one is actually a metal footbridge and, although it might look a bit dilapidated, it's actually in pretty sound condition.

This one is just a large drainpipe through a mound of earth and spoil, and the ditch is starting to get blocked by rubble.



This one is on bridleway 502, south east of Wyck. Is there a troll living under there?



Alton Walking Festival 2021

Alton Town Council is still planning to offer the Walking Festival throughout May 2021, and there are around 50 walks of a variety of lengths on the draft programme. We very much hope that this excellent local event (one of the longest and largest walking festivals in England) will be able to go ahead.

Walk of the Month: Further west

Back in September's issue I featured a walk in the western part of the parish. This one goes a little further west and also introduces you to the rather bizarre arrangement at the roundabout at the eastern end of the Alton bypass. It's a walk with a difference, but might prove interesting if you have exhausted all the routes in the central part of Binsted parish! This walk is slightly over 10 miles in length, so it offers a good workout.

Wickham Institute to Wyck

Start at the Wickham Institute and head through the churchyard and past Montgomery's grave, turn right and then soon left when you reach the field and continue west on a grassy path until you reach trees in the valley ahead. Descend into the valley and climb up the far side; turn left and follow the broad path southwards past a pond on the left, descending at Forty Acres to meet a track at right angles. Turn right and then very soon left, ascending the hanger. (Apologies for the state of the steps; were it not for the lockdown, these would have been dealt with on February 3rd)

At the top of the hanger, turn left and then follow the hanger edge southwards for just over half a mile. Ignore a path on the left dropping down the hanger, but soon look out for a waymark directing you obliquely right. Climb the hillside and pause at the top to admire the view away to the south east. Take the path on the right, which joins a metalled lane and passes dwellings; follow this as it bears north westwards, passing a field on your left in which is usually found an elderly and very friendly donkey. You are now in Wyck. Look for a footpath sign on the left and head across the grassy field in a westerly direction (don't take the path along the edge of the wood) The path drops down to the lane at the far side of the grassy field (the steps here are also on HCC's list for attention as soon as lockdown is over), bear left along the lane and continue across the junction ahead.

Wyck to Neatham

Follow the track south west and pass a barn on your right; the path now deteriorates somewhat and bears south along a field edge and around the headland of a second field before meeting a bridleway. Turn right and follow the track north westwards, with a view ahead of Monk Wood. Turn left where the track joins another at right angles; the right of way is to the left only and leads to Clays Farm. Near the buildings, ignore a kissing gate on your left and turn right up a wooded track.

As you reach the end of the woodland, turn right on a path heading across the fields to the east side of Monk Wood. This will probably be rather claggy, but don't despair, as when you finally pass Monks Wood you'll join a farm track (still the right of way), which is surfaced and therefore easy walking (boring in a dry summer but a welcome respite in a muddy winter!) Follow the farm track through a small wood and then northward to Manor Farm. There are wide fields around and not really a lot of beauty in the nearby landscape, but, as you swing through Manor Farm, it's always interesting to see all the modern farm buildings and equipment. As you do so, you'll leave the parish of Binsted. At the gates to the farm, bear left on a metalled lane which takes you down past Neatham Mill and under a pedestrian underpass to cross the A31.

Neatham to East Worldham

Emerging from the underpass, turn sharp left and look for a kissing gate giving onto a track which runs south west alongside fields (with noise from the A31 rather dominating). Follow the track to another kissing gate, cross a small footbridge and continue on a path between fences; there are usually plenty of interesting farm animals along here. At the end of the path, go through another kissing gate and turn left on a metalled lane. Continue ahead and ignore a footpath on your right. Go on along what becomes a private drive, bear left across the river, re-entering Binsted parish, and soon right, following a footpath sign.

Turn left at the gap in the fence (there is a fingerpost missing here) and follow the path across what appears to be someone's grassy garden; this is the infamous Binsted path 1. Keep ahead and look for signs in white on the grass; the path climbs slightly and takes you to the top of the embankment above the A31 roundabout. Follow the narrow path down to the edge of the carriageway. Here you'll see a notice advising you that the path ends at this point. Cross the A31 westbound carriageway (with great care!) and then the eastbound carriageway. Follow the verge around the edge of the roundabout until you finally see a footpath sign on your left. The portion of route between the sign mentioned earlier and the entrance of the path to the field on the south side of the roundabout is not a right of way, but can be used to link the two sections of path 1.

Soon after you have circumnavigated the roundabout, the path becomes delightful. It climbs up the slopes of Copt Hill along the edge of a huge field, then swings south and heads across country to Neatham Down, leaving the noise of the A31 behind and providing some lovely views. Keep climbing until you reach the parish boundary on the shoulder of Neatham Down at about 150 metres in height. Continue ahead, downhill now, turning left at a fingerpost in the middle of a huge field and joining the Hangers Way.

Follow the Hangers Way east and you'll soon reach the spot where you turned off towards Manor Farm, with Clays Farm beyond. Continue ahead, through the kissing gate, across the lane and round the back of the buildings on a narrow path that soon emerges onto a large field and takes you to the lane north of East Worldham.

East Worldham to Wyck

Cross the lane and go ahead past dwellings on your right, then bear slightly left on a path along a hedge. Soon turn sharp left and take a

well-defined straight path across the field which heads in a north easterly direction towards Wyck. You will come to a sunken track crossing your route at right angles; this is the Binsted parish boundary and also the line of the Roman Road from Silchester to Chichester. Cross the track and continue on your previous line across a field. The path is very easy to follow at all times of the year and you should have some good views west towards Alton and east towards Alice Holt. When you reach the boundary hedge of Wyck Place, leave it on your right, cross the drive and continue alongside woodland until you emerge on the lane in Wyck. Turn right and walk past the donkey field, bear left on the metalled lane and ignore the track dipping down on the right, and you'll soon reach the spot where you paused much earlier on the outward journey.

Wyck to Wickham InSTITUTE

Now you retrace your steps to the edge of the hanger but this time take the footpath on your right which descends the hanger (this is another spot waiting for attention to steps). Descend the narrow path which drops quite steeply to the bottom of the hanger, cross a grassy area and a bridge over a stream and then start climbing again up a headland path which brings you out alongside Stubbs Farm.

Bear left at the end of the path and then right to follow the farm road, which twists in its course and emerges at South Hay. Turn left and follow the lane northwards until you reach a left hand bend. Soon after this, cross a stile to a footpath on the right and follow the path across a damp grassy field and then steeply uphill to gain the top of the hanger. Cross another stile and go straight ahead across the field (or round the headland to your right if conditions are very wet and muddy) Continue ahead and reach Hay Place on your right; bear left to take the path north westward back to the Wickham, with just one stile en route.



1 mi





Binsted Parish Safer Cycling Questionnaire

Binsted Parish Council recently launched a new initiative to improve the safety of the local cycling network in the parish and our links with surrounding areas. The council's particularly interested in exploring ways to improve safety for cyclists crossing the A325 at Bucks Horn Oak, and to make Bentley Station better for cyclists.

During the Covid pandemic, many people have enjoyed the health and environmental benefits of cycling and walking. Investments in cycling infrastructure are being improvements are being made in many towns, including Alton and Farnham. And affordable electric bikes - and cargo bikes - are a game-changer, especially in hilly areas like ours.

However, East Hampshire is a car-dominated area, and getting people to leave their cars at home and cycle instead will not happen unless the local infrastructure becomes both safer and more convenient.

The parish council believes it should be feasible to improve our local cycling network. We've started to scope ideas as to how this might be achieved.

Binsted's a large parish, covering the communities of Alice Holt, Binsted,

Blacknest, Bucks Horn Oak, Frith End, Holt Pound, Isington, Malms and Hawbridge, Rowledge, South Hay and Wheatley, and Wyck. The council wants to represent the views from the community across the parish.

We're inviting you to share your views, ideas and knowledge with us.

Whether you're a hardened cyclist, a fair-weather one, or a non-cyclist, please spare a few minutes to share your thoughts. Could infrastructure changes encourage our community to cycle more? Can we find fixes for safety worries at particular locations?

There are two ways to get involved:

Complete our survey, which is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SaferCyclingBinsted>

Or jot your ideas in an email and send it to clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.

Let's make Binsted parish a better place for cycling!



Binsted Parish Council

- Your community needs you!!



Love where you live and want to continue to make it a great place to live, raise your children, grandchildren and explore and protect the beautiful countryside? Then we need you... Binsted Parish Council is looking for new councillors to join the team to do exactly that.

The council role is to improve the local environment and quality of life in the community. As well as managing the land and assets which it owns or is responsible for, Binsted Parish Council is closely involved in planning, traffic and highways, community safety, footpaths etc. The Council also maintains close contact with a wide range of organisations within the community including Eco networks, cycling network and local community groups.

Binsted Parish area is broader than Binsted Village itself, including Alice Holt, Binsted, Blacknest, Bucks Horn Oak, Frith End, Holt Pound, Isington, Malms and Hawbridge, Rowledge, South Hay and Wheatley, and Wyck.

We currently have 4 councillors who are all volunteers and support the council alongside their day jobs. We are supported by a clerk and deputy clerk who manage all administrative and legal duties including Finance.

If you are interested in your local community and would like to help improve and protect it for the future, why not join Binsted Parish Council as a co-opted member

To be eligible for consideration, you must meet with the following criteria:

- Attain the age of 18 years
- Be on the electoral role for Binsted
- Be a Commonwealth Citizen

Also meet with one of the following criteria:

- Have occupied as owner or tenant, land or premises in Binsted for at least 12 months
- Worked in the Parish of Binsted for 12 months
- Reside in the Parish of Binsted or within 3 miles of the boundary for at least 12 months

We meet monthly, currently via Zoom, in the evening and then we have separate working groups for the various initiatives where you can get involved in the topics you're passionate about.

Not sure? Chat to one of our existing councillors; Geoff, Alison, Ryan or Lizzie or our lovely clerks. Come along to one of the monthly meetings to see what's going, and/or visit our website. Ping us an email on clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk and Sue will get you sorted.

Mind made up? To apply, please drop us a note to the same email address telling us a little about yourself and why you would be great for the role.



Where have 2nd Bentley Scouts gone?

Don't worry we're still here, it's just a bit more difficult to see what we're doing at the moment. Despite the restrictions all our sections from Beavers through Cubs and Scouts to Explorers have once again been meeting online this year. Our leaders are coming up with a range of different activities to attempt from week to week.

Beavers have been creative, writing poetry and inventing superheroes. Cubs have taken part in a cycling challenge and finding out about



count on Sunday. We normally get lots of birds in our garden but it was quite quiet for a while as we had been concentrating on the feeders and didn't

communicating. Scouts too have been communicating and finding out about astronomy. Our Explorers have also been looking into space as well as learning First Aid. Everyone's been encouraged to take part in the CPRE Star Count 21 and the RSPB Birdwatch. Some of the Cubs e-mailed Akela, here's what one of them sent.

*Dear Akela,
I did the RSPB bird watch too, I made some fat balls for the birds and some snacks for us. I made bird hides in our lounge with my sister and we did our*

notice the buzzard was about until it landed in our garden. Once it left the birds did come back so we had a very busy last 15 minutes

I was lucky to get 2 Blackbirds and a Robin!!

Last year we should have been celebrating 2nd Bentley Scout Group's 50th birthday, clearly we weren't able to, so 2021 will see us attempt to have some sort of celebration once the Covid restrictions allow us to. Our Group Camp will be taking place in June, even if we can't camp traditionally we will endeavour

to come up with some activities to do together, the Scout Leaders are also determined that a summer camp will happen this year!

February 22nd was Robert and Olave Baden-Powell's shared birthday, celebrated around the Scouting world as Founders Day. I believe that our recent circumstances have given us the opportunity to realise part of Baden-Powell's last message to Scouts, he died 80 years ago this year.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it...

Mindfulness and wellbeing, as much a part of life then as we are finding now. Our Scouts, from 6 to 18 are currently all getting this opportunity through a shared online experience. We're all looking forward to when that be in person once again and we can be seen to be having fun on the village green.

We always welcome new people to join with us in our Scouting journey, find out more on our Group website <https://www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk/>

Stuart Withey
Group Scout Leader

Bentley Fete & Flower Show 2021

Whether we will be able to enjoy the 125th Bentley Fete & Flower Show this year is still unknown but you can rest assured that the members of the Fete Committee are keen to hold an event of some description and are starting to put some ideas together.

We have more hope for Bonfire Night and a date for your diaries - Bonfire Night this year will be on, appropriately, Friday 5th November.

New Committee Members

For many of us on the Committee joining the Fete team has been the best thing we have done to feel part of the village. If you would like to be part of the team just let Dick Davies know on 07720.782638 or at richarddavies1001@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Author of the month: Paula Gooder

Paula Gooder began her working life teaching for 12 years in Oxford and Birmingham, then spent around 8 years as a speaker and writer in biblical studies and 6 years with the Bible Society as their Theologian in Residence. After some time with the Birmingham Diocese as their Director of Mission Learning and Development she is currently the Chancellor of St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

Book of the month:

“Let Me Go There: The Spirit of Lent”, Canterbury Press, 2016, 128 pages, paperback.

This book is about two related themes – Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness and his calling of disciples. The two events are at the start of Jesus’ ministry. They begin to show us who he was, and the importance of disciples. With 34 reflections on key Bible passages we consider Jesus’ deep nature and the pattern to follow which they offer.

The author expresses the hope that we will discover the joy of hearing Jesus’ call – “Come, follow me” – and of living out, in everything we do, the patient following, learning and proclaiming that lie at the heart of discipleship.

Each of the 6 chapters has questions for discussion and reflection. At a time when the world continues to experience the COVID-19 Pandemic, three topics in particular appeal to this reviewer. They are:

- experiences we have today that might be described as a wilderness
- how do we become more confident in knowing who we are and what God has called us to do and be?
- in our busy lives, how can we best stay alert to Jesus’ call on our lives?

At the time of writing, very good copies were available from £6.91 inc postage at www.bookfinder.com

Answer – The 16 hidden books of the Bible are:

Luke, Revelations, James, Numbers, Job, Judges, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter, Kings, Mark, Acts, Ruth, Amos, Esther, Titus

The Tanzania Project



I expect many of you remember coming along to the quiz nights we had in the school hall to raise money for Tanzania. Darren Paine and a team of people from Bentley went to Tanzania for several weeks each summer doing building projects for things like goat sheds, a church and school toilet blocks, as well as laying water pipes into the village.

Darren and some others have now set up a charity called 'Act Tanzania' and we are currently trying to help the HIV children in that village. They are excluded from the local Junior school so Darren has hired a house and a teacher for a Saturday school for them. Fredy, the man on the ground there, is helping run this with the teacher and trying to teach them to be self-sufficient by growing vegetables and keeping chickens. The children are allowed to go to secondary school but only if they can afford the uniform and equipment.

We are selling packs of 7 cards for £10 to help finance this as we can't do our usual fund raising at the moment. They are good quality cards (of local watercolour scenes) suitable for greetings cards or just writing notes. The pictures on the cards can be viewed on the church website.

If you ring Richard on 07711 059255 or Marilyn on 07801 059490, your cards will be hand delivered to you.

Notelet cards and greetings card are always handy. Here's your chance to stock up.

Hedgerows

Chicago, Illinois is situated at the south end of the gigantic Lake Michigan. Chicago gets its name from the First Nation description for the smell of the swamp that used to be there. Then as now the area lies on the main north-south migratory route for birds, bats and butterflies. Many of them arrive exhausted and hungry after a 300-mile journey down the lake. As big as the city has grown there is still plenty of green space, including Montrose Point, to the north of the city centre, where many of the migrants make landfall.

Twenty years ago I lived close by. I was fascinated by the diversity of wildlife, in particular the birds. Then I was told about the Magic Hedge at Montrose Point. Then it was just that, a hedge, in the middle of the park, with a small brown tourist signpost to point to where it was. And it was bird spotting made easy. All the local enthusiasts had to do was to scatter some food under the hedge, and then sit back, at a respectful distance, to watch the show. However shy some species might have been under normal circumstances, the need to refuel overcame their shyness.

The name 'Magic Hedge' has been retained while the area has been transformed to a large nature reserve. Go to <https://www.lakecookaudubon.org/birding-sites/montrose-point-bird-sanctuary/> if you want to find out more.

We are not in Illinois. We are not situated on a migratory route. But nevertheless you can get 'hedge action' round here too.

In the past, hedges were viewed as a valuable resource – people gathered everything from fruit to firewood from their local hedges and benefited from a free harvest of healthy

local food. Unfortunately, this culture that connected food with where it comes from is being lost. Our grandparents and parents may remember blackberrying, but with urbanisation and the rise of convenience food, many of us wouldn't know what to pick or how to use it.

One reason the traditional linear structure of a hedge is so good for producing fruit and nuts is that it provides a great habitat for pollinating insects. It also allows sufficient sunlight to reach and ripen the developing fruit.

In some parts of the country, this simple idea of using a hedge as a linear larder has been taken further with the development of specialised fruit production hedges. The Kent "orchard" hedge consisting of apple trees, the damson hedges of Shropshire and Herefordshire and the elder hedges of Hertfordshire were all planted to produce local food.

Intensification of farming in the second half of the 20th century resulted in the loss of thousands of miles of hedgerows, along with millions of hedge trees. The Dutch elm disease outbreak of the late 1960s onwards removed some 20 million elms from our countryside, mostly from hedgerows.

This underlines the importance of a concerted effort to plant more new hedge trees and conserve the young trees already growing in hedgerows. But it is also vital to look after the mature and ancient hedge trees which are such significant landscape and wildlife features.

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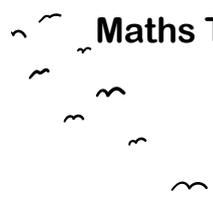
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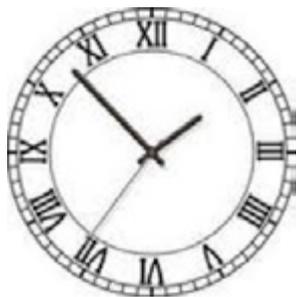
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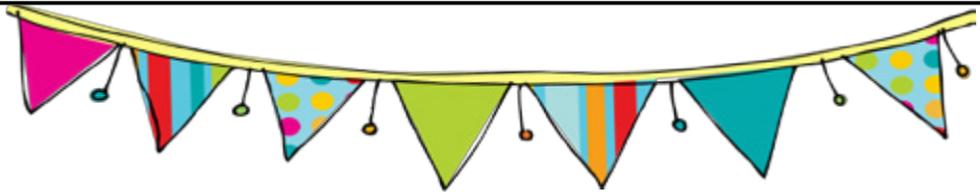
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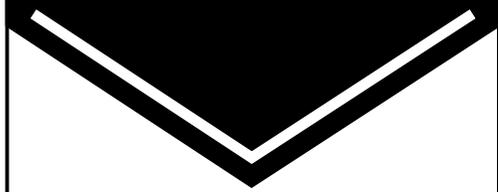
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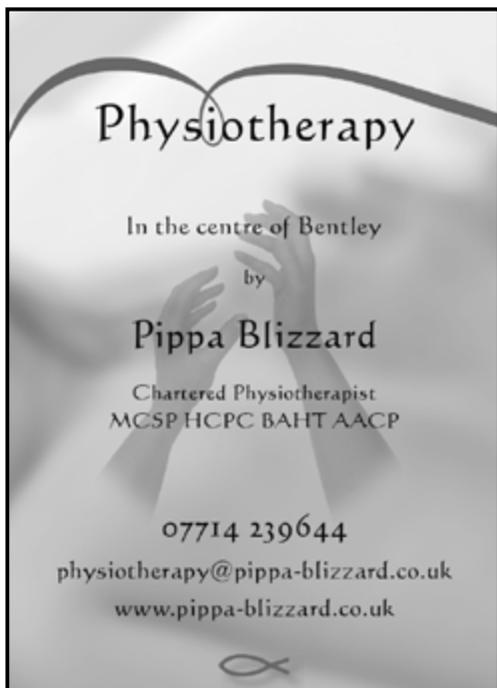
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Body Firming-Monday at 7pm at Bentley Memorial Hall, Main hall.

Yoga- Tuesday at 6.30pm at Froyle Village Hall

Yoga-Thursday at 10am at Wickham Institute, Binsted

Yoga-Thursday at 5.30pm at Froyle Village Hall

Yoga-Saturday at 10am at Wickham Institute, Binsted

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Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913

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Garden Club Chairman

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Treasurer Patricia Cardy Tel: 01420 22325

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Chairman: Mr John Goodyear 01420 22133

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Parish Office Hours

Monday to Thursday 9am to 3pm

Bentley School

Headteacher: Katy Pinchess 01420 525010

Email: bentleyschoolptfa@gmail.com

Childcare

Dottie Tots: Karen 07387 576 307

Fête Committee

Chairman: Hugh Chissell, Greystones, Bentley

01420 23117

Flower Show

Chairman: Vanessa Remington 01420 525322

Phoenix Group: Cathy Smith 01420 520169

Bentley Rec Ground

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stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

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Our services are also available to listen to via a phone line for those who have little or no internet connection. Just call 01420 552652.

We are still posting short Thought for the Day videos on YouTube at 6:30am Monday to Friday. It's been great to see how popular they continue to be!

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The church website is continually updated with any news and updated guidance, along with the links to all our online content, so do have a look or contact the church office if you have any questions.



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