

DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022

BENTLEY & BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE



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Parish Magazine

Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to
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Vicar's Letter

Dear All

When even the hymns in one of our Benefice services reflect the concerns of COP 26, you know that the issue of climate change has truly hit home. *All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned*, we lustily sang on October 31 in Froyle, feeling extremely conscious of the threats to our immediate locality. It is a minute to midnight for the whole world and for us too.

We are so fortunate to be living in such a beautiful area, where we can enjoy stunning views on our walks and marvel at magnificent sunsets over the woods and the whole of the Wey Valley. Yet even here we are becoming aware of the threat to our surroundings, as well as to our planet. The proposed Energy From Waste incinerator, which at the time of going to press is far from decided, would generate 330,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum if it goes ahead. That's the equivalent of an extra 100,000 cars on our roads. Just imagine all those extra vehicles causing not just greater chaos on our highways, but creating emissions which would add even more to our greenhouse gas problem.

The Wey Valley, the location for this controversial development, has long been an important transport corridor. St Swithun's Way, the long distance footpath from Winchester to Farnham, roughly following the route of the Pilgrims' Way, runs through this landscape, which is appreciated and valued by visitors as well as local residents. In one of his famous Rural Rides, the most famous local inhabitant, the reformer, writer and MP William Cobbett (1763-1835), born and raised in Farnham, wrote: "The vale between Alton and Farnham is the finest ten miles in England. Here is a river

with fine meadows on each side of it, and with rising grounds having some hop-gardens and some pretty woods". The renowned Selborne resident and naturalist, Gilbert White (1720-1793), also wrote in his journals about the landscape in admiring terms.

But can we do as the words of the hymn said and ban what would not only ruin this resource, but also increase the planet's greenhouse gas problem? Many within our benefice are already making valiant efforts. We are seeing marvellous work from Binsted Eco Network, offering practical advice on how we can recycle, reuse and make the most of our local environment. In the town, Alton Climate Action Network has been holding events to motivate and help residents asking what they can do. And East Hampshire District Council held its own COP26 in the Maltings in Alton in October, involving local groups and schools to share practical solutions for action on climate change. The operation of the Wey Valley incinerator, the fourth such development for Hampshire, would exceed EHDC's carbon budget by the late 2020s, so local government is rightly concerned.

As the lines in that recent hymn reminded us, caring for God's creation is our responsibility. As it says in Genesis, *God saw what He had made, and, behold, it was very good*. We know that it is no longer very good, but we can try to ensure that it is still good and beautiful. And maybe that is the best Christmas present we can offer ourselves – a promise to protect and appreciate the wonderful gift God gave us - our world.

Yann and the team

Church Register

Bentley

2nd October 2021 Wedding of Becky Glockler and Nick Fawcett

3rd October 2021 Baptism of Jemima Tagg

8th October 2021 Wedding of Kathryn Conner and Ian Spicer

Binsted

2nd October 2021 Wedding of Jenny Jacyna and Igor Tolstoy-Miloslavsky

21st October 2021 Funeral of Paul Kohler

Froyle

8th October 2021 Wedding of Cleopatra Chikaviro and Abiodun Fadeyi

10th October 2021 Baptism of Molly Richardson

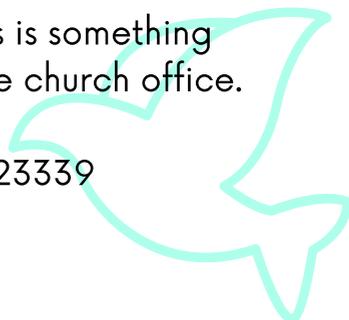
Confirmation Service

Sunday 13th February 2022 - Live@5 Big Praise

We're very excited to welcome back Bishop David Williams in February to confirm the young people who are currently taking part in the Youth Alpha course.

And this is not just for teenagers, if this is something you'd like to explore, please contact the church office.

admin@benbinfro.org / 01420 23339



Got questions?

TRY ALPHA

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith.

Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is run all around the globe and everyone is welcome. It runs online, in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it!

No two Alphas look the same, but they generally have three key things in common: hospitality, a talk and good conversation.

In 2022, BenBinFro will be running an online Alpha course. To register your interest please contact the church office and we'll be in touch with more details.

admin@benbinfro.org / 01420 23339



Binsted Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December 2-4pm



This year the stalls will be spaced out between the Wickham Institute and inside the Church

Please support this Church community event as funds will be going towards the continuing upkeep and vital repairs needed for Holy Cross Church

There will be the regular favourite stalls and more including a book stall and Santa's grotto [organised by FOBS]

Offers of homemade cakes, books, old jewellery, mince pies, nearly new gifts and raffle prizes are needed... and any extra pairs of hands

Please contact angela1dunne@sky.com or 01420 22922



SANTA'S GROTTO AT BINSTED CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021, FROM 2PM TO 4PM

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO BINSTED!

Come to meet Santa in his Grotto at Holy Cross Church

Father Christmas and his helpful elves will be at Binsted Christmas Fair to hear your children's wishes and offer them a small gift.

£3 per child (suitable for children 18 months to 11 years)
Pre-booked time slots available in advance
all profits to go to Friends of Binsted School.

For more information or to book your time slot, scan this link or email **fobs.binsted@gmail.com**



Binsted Christmas Fair also offers lots of stalls, refreshments and activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Binsted's Real Nativity Singalong



Friday 17th December 2021

Holy Cross Binsted / 6:30pm

Get into the Christmas spirit at the Real Nativity Singalong service.

Bentley's Christingle Singalong



Christmas Eve

St Mary's Bentley / 4pm

We're dressing up! Come along as a Nativity character and get festive with the Christingle Singalong service.

**These services are ticketed on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the Church Office.
01420 23339 / admin@benbinfro.org**

Froyle's Flying Carols

Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Starting at Miller Lane, Upper Froyle / 6pm

The Froyle Flyers' Magical Christmas Sleigh will again be touring the village!

Caroling will start at 6pm at Miller Lane, Upper Froyle and then:

The Froyle Village Hall car park, 6:30pm

Hodges Farm, Lower Froyle, 7:00pm

Hussey's Lane, Lower Froyle, 7:30pm

Choose the location nearest to you and hark the heralding!

Binsted's Carol Singing

Thursday 23rd December 2021

Starting at Holy Cross Binsted / 6pm

Wrap up warm and bring a torch for some festive carol singing round Binsted!



BINSTED CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS



After last year's success with Christmas cards sold last year in aid of Holy Cross Church we have produced three completely new cards for Christmas 2021.

Two of the cards are pictures from our 2020 Real Nativity on YouTube featuring Mary and Joseph on the donkey and the Full Stable. The third card is based on one of the line drawings by Jo Stronach used for our church notelets but now with a Christmas flavour. The wording inside each card reads 'With blessings for Christmas and the New Year'.

The cards are on sale at the back of the church for £5 for a pack of 5 of the same design with all proceeds going to General church funds which support the day-to-day running and maintenance of the church. Alternatively if it's easier for you please contact me on binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk (or PM me on Facebook) to arrange a purchase. The cards will also be on sale at our Christmas Fair in December.

Stella Croom-Johnson

A New Boiler for St Mary's Bentley

– an unexpected £9,000 bill

Who remembers the number 1 hit songs from 1976? On the 1st January, Queen and Bohemian Rhapsody were top of the charts, Abba had three no 1s that year and the Christmas chart topper was Johnny Mathis with When a Child is Born.

Elton John and Kiki Dee were also no 1 that year with Don't Go Breaking My Heart.

The boiler heating Bentley Church was installed when Cath Bonner was churchwarden and had given some 45 years of faithful service. At the annual service this year, it broke our hearts and finally gave up the ghost when it was deemed unrepairable. It was a very inefficient and old one, but it did the job well for many years. RIP dear friend!

To avoid us shivering as the winter drew close, we have had to have a new boiler installed, which has been done in very quick time by the excellent team from Ampella Heating.



Of course, a boiler big enough to heat our wonderful church does not come cheap and the final bill came to just under £9,000.

In 2021, the church has been running a deficit (as has been the case for general expenses for the last few years) and it would be a wonderful and generous help to the church if our village community felt able to help the church cover the cost of the new boiler with a donation, however big or small.

For more details, please contact our treasurer Steve Fice, at steve.fice@btinternet.com

BLESS YOU & THANK YOU

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR & PA

Location: St Mary's Church Office, Bentley

Salary Commensurate with experience



The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle is seeking a Church Administrator and PA. The role will include administration of activities within the Benefice and co-ordination with the various volunteers and Churchwardens in each of the parishes. The Administrator will also act as the first point of contact for pastoral enquiries to the Benefice. A key part of the role will be to act as a Personal Assistant to the Vicar, helping them to make the best use of their time, by dealing with administrative tasks.

This will be a part time post for two mornings per week (8 hours) and occasional work outside these times. It is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.

For further details and a full Job Description please contact Steve Fice, Operations Manager of the Benefice of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle, by email: bentleytreasurer@benbinfro.co.uk

Interviews will be held in early December 2021. Final date for applications is Sunday 5th December. Invitations for interview with details of times will be posted by Tuesday 7th December.

Advent Calendars

How will you take part in this Advent season?

Binsted's Advent Windows

Every day in December a new window will be decorated - can you spot them all? Starting on the 1st December at Binsted School and ending at Holy Cross Church Binsted on Christmas Eve.

BenBinFro's Advent Cards

A card a day with the theme of Spiritual Disciplines, running from the 1st to 31st December. Please contact the church office if you can't get hold of one and it will be personally delivered to you.

Sam and Gemma's Family Online Advent Calendar

An online advent calendar made for families - join Sam and Gemma from the 1st to 25th December on our YouTube channel for A Carol A Day.



Advent Calendars

How will you take part in this Advent season?

Binsted's Advent Windows



BenBinFro's Advent Cards



Sam and Gemma's Family Online Advent Calendar



This one's for the children - colour in this nativity scene and bring it to Live@5 to receive a Prize!



SOME NEWS ON THE UPCOMING MONTHS IN OUR CHURCHES



With the news of Yann and Hannah's departure at the end of February combined with the move towards incorporating the parish of Kingsley with Oakhanger into the Benefice, the current pattern of services will need to change. Kingsley and Oakhanger are a single parish with two churches.

From the start of the new year, Yann, Christopher and David take on the responsibility for leading services in Kingsley with Oakhanger. In addition, Froyle church plans to be closed from early January for a period of 3 months whilst rewiring, a new lighting system and finally redecoration takes place.

So during this time, to ensure we have a Holy Communion service every Sunday somewhere in the enlarged Benefice, there will now be a Holy Communion service in Binsted in week 2, rather than a Morning Worship service.

We are working on a plan to have some of our worship services lay led in 2022 and a new service pattern for the four parishes of Bentley, Binsted, Froyle and Kingsley with Oakhanger which reflects both the reduced number of clergy and also our enlarged Benefice. This will be published in the next magazine.

We have also begun to hold meetings with Bishop David and Archdeacon Richard to both start the search to find our new Rector and also to move forward with the move to a single parish. We'll be providing regular updates on progress in the parish magazine and on the website.

Please hold Yann, Hannah and their family and all the church team in your prayers during this time of change.

Christmas at Bentley CE Primary School

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! So say the teachers at Bentley in late September when Mrs Miffling, our super deputy headteacher, mentions Christmas cards! We have a longstanding tradition of children creating beautiful designs, which are whisked off to the printers and turned into fantastic Christmas cards for friends and families. The Christmas music goes on in the classrooms, the glitter comes out and a very early festive moment is enjoyed!

There may be the odd PTFA Christmas fair planning meeting or some Nativity songs heard but it would be fair to say in a Church of England village school we fully embrace Christmas from the 1st December. Each year group builds on previous learning and we prepare with Advent prayers and preparations.

I spoke to the children about their most favourite Christmas school memories;

"Christmas jumper day when we all have lunch in the dining hall" (This is also a big favourite with our Governors who come in and serve lunch to the children wearing festive hats. We all enjoy the special lunch created by our HC3S Cooks – it's delicious!).

"Having a Christmas countdown in class with advent candles or an advent calendar where we take turns. One year we did a good deed every day for Advent. We like Sam and Gemma's St Mary's

advent online too".

"My favourite part of school Christmas is the Nativity story. I think the Kings with the gifts is my favourite part. It was amazing that they went to see a humble baby. It makes you think". (All of the children remembered the roles they had had in previous Nativity plays at school. They remembered the tea towels involved in their costumes and how it felt to perform to the audiences).

"I love it when we decorate the classroom. One year there was an Elf on the Shelf and they hid and did naughty things, it was funny!"

"The PTFA Christmas Fair is always amazing and Year 6 get to be elves. It is like having a shop at school and it's so busy with lots of games and treats. I liked it when the Grinch came but also when you can visit Father Christmas".



"The Christmas postbox is fun – it only comes out in December. The whole school looks different and I love the plays as well". (This is a busy but much enjoyed part of Christmas for staff too - the sports hall looks amazing as it becomes a 'West End theatre' with props and backgrounds begged, borrowed and created by Mrs P and her team of helpers).

We very much hope to have parents and family back into school this year, for many of our traditional Christmas

celebrations but rest assured the staff and children will be fully involved and Christmas 2021 will be a fantastic one!

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful 2022 from the pupils, staff and parents of Bentley CE Primary School.



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Friday 5th November (UK)
In the news this week.

Good evening, for this weeks news has been crazy. we shall be taking about Racism. COP 26 also know as conference of parties and more.

Racism has been a huge part of this world crisis racism is causing lots of mental health problems. I have heard that people have started to end their lives because of how serious it is getting.

Now onto Cop 26 is taking place in Glasgow tomorrow young children will have their right to say what they want to happen with climate change.

Scientists have been testing these Covid 19 pills to try and help with this this terrible virus going round the world and giving it to people and it keeps spreading.

Also the police have not been following the rules and doing lots of illegal things.

Time for some local news in Alton Reservoir tower is being demolished today 5th November 2021 live.

Time for fun news! A parrot from the Amazon caught a webcam in traffic in Brazil. The Northern lights has been seen in Scotland, Devon and parts of England

Thank for watching see you tomorrow. 😊



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

In the news this week...

This week has been a busy week for the news!

First of all, the COP-26 has been crazy, countries from around the world have come together in Glasgow to 'stop' climate change tomorrow on Saturday 6th November young people from around the world can give a speech as they're the future generation of the world.

New Racism is another big issue and headlines say that one man has quit his job and is thinking of ways of taking his own life! This is creating huge mental health problems.

Moving on to football Tottenham FC have sacked Nuno after, in 4 months and have replaced him with Conte! Last Saturday as Arsenal overcame Leicester 2-0 Ramsdale made some stunning saves but his tip onto the crossbar from a free kick was amazing. Former keeper Peter Smith said it was the best save he's seen in years and his son was the Leicester goalkeeper!

The Northern lights have been shown (the Aurora) in Britain! Some people have said they were the prettiest lights they ever saw!

Some tears and cheers in this paragraph: Alton tower will be demolished! On the bright side, a parrot played peekaboo on a speeding camera in Brazil, and, the pub the Binsted Inn is opening Wednesday 10th November 2021 as it has just been announced!

That's all for the news this week, thank you, Charley Krempel head of BBC news.

"outro music"

Where have all the acorns gone?

Whilst out seed gathering this year, you may have noticed that acorns are hard to come by. And you're not alone. Right across the country, we are seeing one of the lowest falls of acorns for roughly 7 years.

There are fewer acorns this year because last year was what is known as a 'mast year'. A mast year occurs roughly once every 5-10 years, and is where a tree species such as oak drastically increase the number of acorns they produce. The oak trees put so much energy into this bumper crop of acorns that they leave themselves little energy to continue producing in the following years. Since last year was a mast year, this year our beloved oaks are recovering, resulting in far fewer acorns for wildlife and nature-lovers to enjoy.

We do not know for sure why oak trees do this. But one theory is that there is an evolutionary advantage to producing an unreliable number of acorns each year. If it were too reliable, the theory goes, surrounding wildlife populations like that of squirrels, deer and birds would adjust to eat the entire yearly crop. Mast years stop this from happening. In these years, oak trees flood the ecosystem and produce too many acorns for local wildlife to consume, meaning more will have the chance to grow into saplings come spring. And in the several years that follow a mast year, like this one, where we see far fewer acorns, the cut to the food supply helps to control these wildlife populations so that there are fewer animals to gobble up acorns when the mast year comes back around. Effectively, what we are seeing are oak trees acting to stop all their acorns from being eaten. Of course it also helps that squirrels have far from perfect memory of where they have buried their reserves.

This phenomenon also isn't exclusive to oak trees. Other iconic species such as beech also employ it, theoretically for the same reason: to stop so many of their seeds from being eaten. But these other species don't act in unison with oaks (just as well for the

squirrels!). Last year and this year have seen good crops of beech nuts.

The recovery period normally lasts 1-2 years. So you might begin to see acorns in the autumn of 2022, and come autumn 2023 we are likely to see acorns littering green spaces in full swing again.

The lack of acorns this year means that there may well be a supply shortage of native British Oak trees in 2023/24 from our tree nurseries. Normally it takes 2 years in a nursery for an acorn to become a 20-40cm tall tree suitable for woodland or hedgerow planting.

In the past two years, we've had a good haul of acorns and so this year and next we're ok. To mitigate for the challenge ahead, nurseries are looking at different options including:

- improved compost and feeding techniques to get next year's acorns to grow to the desired size within one year
- holding back some 2022/23 oaks by reducing feed /watering /retention in pots to slow growth (oak trees are very good at waiting for the right conditions to put on growth, so respond well to being 'slowed down')
- seeking a method to store acorns for longer so they pause germination within the year they fall, and have a ready supply of acorns in the event of another fallow year.

As the mast year was intended to do, it has resulted in the appearance of more than usual numbers of wild sown saplings. We should be making special efforts to preserve these by transplanting them, where necessary, to places where they can grow in peace. One such place is the tree orphanage in the allotments at Binsted recreation ground. I will be there, planting the orphans I rescue and I will also plant any you leave for me at the allotment gate.

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Curtis 10am – 4pm. Allen 10.30 – 3.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY OCTOBER

EXHIBITIONS

Martyn Kee – About Faces

Local artist's exhibition of traditional hand-painted acrylic portraits.

4th December – 23rd January 2022. In the Café area. FREE

From Dawn to Dusk

A selection of paintings by **W H Allen** (after whom the Gallery is named) which capture the changing light and atmosphere of the rural landscape as the day progresses from sunrise to sunset.



Haystacks by
WH Allen

15th January – 19th March. In the Main Exhibition area. FREE

TALKS

No Talks in January

New Book

“The John Whites of Selborne” by Ronald A. Chalmers.

This book consists of biographies of three **relatives of Gilbert White** the naturalist – his father, his brother, and his nephew. All called John, rather confusingly. They were very different, however. The father was originally a barrister in London. Later he settled at The Wakes in Selborne, leading a blameless life “devoted ... to family life, country pursuits, music, ... charitable interests” and the improvement of his own garden and the Village of Selborne in general. He died in 1758.

His son John – younger brother of Gilbert – was a much more interesting character. A somewhat rickety young man (often in debt), he attained a more sober maturity as Chaplain in Gibraltar. Here he became a naturalist of note. He corresponded with many famous naturalists round the world, including Carl Linnaeus. In some respects John might be considered greater than Gilbert, to whom he sent specimens and observations which greatly helped Gilbert’s own studies. It was John who suggested to his brother that birds migrated ahead of cold weather; rather than hibernating as was previously thought. He eventually returned to England as Vicar of Blackburn Parish Church, and died in 1780.

John’s son John (known in early life as “Gibraltar Jack” from his birthplace) became his Uncle Gilbert’s amanuensis before training as a surgeon. He had quite an adventurous life, including being captured by a notorious French privateer during the Napoleonic wars, while on his way to India with his wife. He died in 1821.

This informative and scholarly book, a great addition to works on Gilbert White’s background and the early days of Natural History study, is on sale in the Museum for £5.

Please see our websites for the most up-to-date news on events

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery



As we enter the cold winter months, it's time to think about winter resilience. And about actions we can all take to boost community resilience.

Like all householders, the parish council has a list of jobs that we always do at this time of year. Checking our pipes are well-insulated, so we don't get frozen pipes. Checking that the sports equipment is tied down, so it won't blow loose in high winds. And checking the parish's eleven grit bins are well-stocked, ahead of icy spells.

But community resilience is much more than just checking the grit bins! It's about creating a way of living that prevents crises from occurring, or at least reduces their impact. It relies on our taking common ownership of the issues that threaten. And stepping up to address them.

Reporting potholes, missing road signs, road markings or lights, and things like broken stiles on the Rights of Way are simple day-to-day actions that everyone can all take to help reduce risk levels for the community. Some good online reporting systems make this easy to do:

- Binsted Parish Council's webpage 'Report a road problem – Binsted Parish Council' gives you easy access to the Hampshire Highways sites to report all manner of road-related problems, and track progress in fixing it.
- Problems on rights of way | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk) can similarly be reported online, and also enables you to view the definite Rights of Way map, so you can identify any problems on routes you are planning to take.

All too often communities only discover what they care about after a tragedy. The recent very close shave of one of our parishioners, whose car was crushed when a tree fell on it as she was driving down a local lane is a salutary warning that tree safety is one of the things we need to actively consider. Hampshire County Council is responsible for managing trees growing on highway land - but it isn't responsible for managing trees on private property. So if you own trees close to roads or footpaths, please be vigilant about checking your trees: it's down to you to manage them so they don't endanger others.

Alison Melvin, Chair, Binsted Parish Council

Could 2022 be the year when you become a Binsted Parish Councillor?

Our Parish Council currently only has five councillors, and we should have nine. Without a full team, we simply can't do as much for the community as we'd like.

We need reinforcements to our Transport Committee, to secure improvements for local cyclists, riders and walkers, as well as to address road and traffic issues. We need help to improve our liaison with Binsted School. To develop Blacknest Fields as a place for local greenspace and nature recovery. And to examine new uses for the Holt Pound Oval. As well as help with our Climate Action Plan, developing our Community Cupboard, maintaining our website and improving social media ...

You don't need specialist knowledge. Parish councils are places where ordinary people come together and freely give up their time for the good of their community.

Do join us - the role is more rewarding than you might expect! If you could be interested, please phone Lisa Spindler our Parish Clerk on 07483 310631 or chat with any of the current councillors, whose contact details are on the parish council website.



THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Binsted Village Hall)



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

WEDNESDAYS 10am – 12noon

(weekly during term-time)

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US

COFFEE, TEA, HOME MADE CAKES, CHILDRENS' TOYS

ALL ARE WELCOME – MODEST PRICES!

WI-FI NOW AVAILABLE



ALL COVID REGULATIONS IN PLACE AT THE TIME WILL BE OBSERVED

2nd Bentley Scouts

**At long last our Scouts were able to camp.
A long weekend in the Brecon Beacons scaling
the highest mountains in South Wales.
Scout Leader Martin reported**



"... fantastic weekend walking in the Brecon Beacons with 2nd Bentley and 1st Haslemere Scouts. The weather was challenging throughout the weekend with Sunday being cold, wet and windy walking in the clouds to the memorial at a WW2 Bomber crash site. Monday had lighter winds but also had some heavy showers. The showers however did clear and we were treated to some clear blue skies and spectacular views as we reached the summits of Corn Du (873m) and Pen-y-Fan (886m). This was followed by a brief hail storm for the final summit of Cribyn (795m). Well done to all the Scouts on a fabulous achievement. A very memorable weekend in a beautiful part of the country. "



Small selection of Martyn's pictures show their adventuring. We're extremely fortunate that our Leaders are able to offer these fantastic opportunities. By now we should also know who of our Scouts has been selected to represent Bentley and Hampshire at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea or alternatively on a 3-week expedition around Europe. These activities are the goal to look forward to for not only our Beavers and Cubs but also hopefully our Squirrels. The programmes they follow build their abilities and skills progressively to enable them to take part in challenging expeditions.

As for everyone the last two years have probably been the most challenging that many of us have ever faced, mentally and physically. 2nd Bentley Scouts, through all sections both young people and adults, have managed magnificently in taking part in imaginative programmes whether in person or through the wonders of Zoom. Thank you to all of you for your dedication, patience and enthusiasm. With luck 2022 will enable us to get back to more of our camps and expeditions.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book of the month: “Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen”, Liguori Publications, Liguori, Missouri, 2004, paperback, 88 pages.

At the time of writing, very good copies are available from www.bookfinder.com from £6.89 including postage and packing.

Henri Nouwen was a Dutch priest, professor, writer and theologian. He taught at academic institutions and went on to work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Advent is when we prepare for the celebration of Christ’s arrival in Bethlehem as a baby. This book is designed to be used from the First Sunday in Advent to the end of the Christmas season.

Reflections for each day start with the words of Henri Nouwen taken from a selection of his writings. Each quotation

is followed by an excerpt from the Bible related to the quote, and a short prayer. There are 28 Advent readings, and 12 for the Christmas Season.

One of the quotes which leapt off the page for this reviewer was the one about “True Identity”. “Jesus’s whole message is to say that you are God’s beloved child. ... The mystery of this spiritual truth is that you were loved before you were born, and you will be loved after you die. ... Your dwelling in God’s heart is a dwelling from eternity to eternity”.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



We will not be having meetings in
December 21 or January 22.

We hope to start up our regular monthly meetings again from Tuesday 1st February 2022. Hopefully at that meeting we will have a schedule of speakers for the whole of 2022.

The committee wish all our members a happy Christmas and New Year.

OCTOBER WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum 18.9°C (19th) to 11.7°C (21st)
8 days below 15°C

Nighttime minimum 1.3°C (22nd) to 16.4°C (19th)
15 nights below 5°C



Rainfall



Total for month 4.06 inches (103.0 mm) over 13 days

Wettest days 0.90 inches (22.8 mm) (20th)



Wind



Dominant wind direction South West

Maximum gust 21 mph (5th)

Parish Weatherman



BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 100+ CLUB

Congratulations to the Winners

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

The winners for the December draw of the Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are below

DECEMBER 2021

1st Prize Jim Munro

2nd Prize Diana Harrap

3rd Prize Patrick Curwen



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www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

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

November 2021

1st prize Cathie Weldon

2nd prize Jan Nicolle

3rd prize Sarah Boswood

Details of the December 2021 and January 2022 draws will appear in the next magazine in February 2022.

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

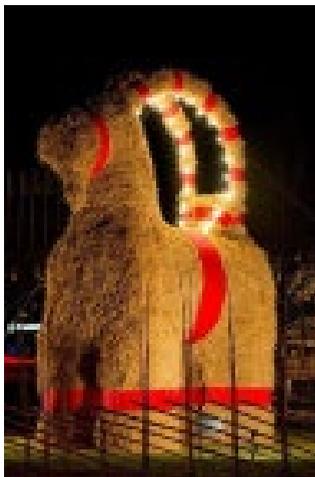
50% of the monthly purchase price of each number goes in prizes and 50% to the running costs of The Wickham Institute. The more people that participate in the 100+ club, the more money that is paid out in monthly prizes.

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.

Christmas Traditions from Around the World

With the festive season almost upon us, it seems appropriate to look at how some of the other countries around the world celebrate, and there may be a few traditions that are surprising

Sweden's Yule Goat



Whilst the tradition of having a straw goat at Christmas dates back to ancient pagan festivals, this has taken on a whole new being in the mid 1960's since when a giant straw goat has been constructed in the castle square at Gävle. It is 13m high, 7m long and weigh 3.6 tonnes taking 1,000 man hours to construct. The Gävle Goat even made it into the Guinness Book of Records in 1985 and he has a social media following in more than 120 countries and his own webcam from the first Sunday of Advent until after New

Year. To catch sight of the Gävle Goat visit <https://www.visitgavle.se/en/about-gavle-goat>

Mexico Las Posadas



A tradition stretching back over 400 years, this derives its names from the Spanish 'posada' meaning lodging or accommodation and re-enacts the journey of Mary and Joseph. Certain houses in the towns and villages are designated 'inns' and the actors travel to one house a night for nine nights usually between the 16th and 24th December. Usually Mary travels on a real donkey with angels and shepherds joining along the way and children typically carry poinsettias. Musicians follow the procession and all sing posadas (asking for a place to stay) - you can find lyrics for a traditional posada at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

[Letan%C3%ADa](#). At each house the occupants respond by singing a song and inviting Mary and Joseph in, members of the procession are also invited in and kneel around the Nativity scene to pray. At the end of each night, carols are sung, children break open star-shaped piñatas and all share a feast.

Ukraine



Orthodox Christians, who make up nearly half of Ukraine's population don't celebrate Christmas on 25th December, rather they observe Christmas Day on the 7th January when they dress in traditional costume and walk through the town singing carols. Kutya, a dish made of cooked wheat, honey, ground poppy seeds and sometimes nuts is often served on Christmas Eve. Tradition has it that if you throw a spoonful at the ceiling and it sticks, there

will be a good harvest. Before the dinner, the kutya is placed under the icons in the house, the most honourable place. The ingredients are also symbols – wheat for Sunday, honey for health and strength of spirit, poppy for wealth and nuts for prosperity and longevity of relatives.

Austria and the Krampus



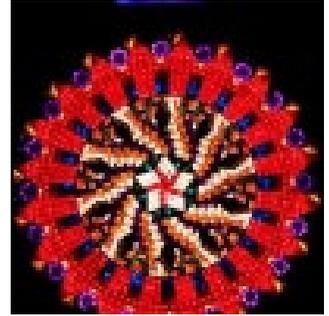
Krampus is a devil-like creature who forms part of the St Nicholas festivities. Children make a list of their good and bad deeds and leave these out on the night of the 5th December. Good children wake to find sweets, apples and nuts left by St. Nicholas whilst those on the naughty list find coal or bundles of birch. It is thought that Krampus has pre-Christian origins, although the creatures has since achieved notoriety in Hollywood horror films.

Iceland and the Yule Lads



These are figures from Icelandic folklore and whilst their number has varied over time, there are now considered to be 13. Children place shoes on their window sills during the thirteen nights before Christmas Eve. The Yules Lads have individual names reflecting their special talents, look or appetite. Each night, one Yule Lad visits, the last one being Kertasnikir or the candle-stealer who arrives on 24 December and you can find the names of the other 12 at <https://icelandandyou.com/yule-lads/>. Each Yule Lad will leave a gift within the shoes, generally sweets if they have been good or in the case of bad behaviour during the year, rotten potatoes

Philippines Giant Lantern Festival



Held in the city of San Fernando in mid December , the Ligligan Parul is a stunning display of lanterns that symbolise the Star of Bethlehem. Each parol is made up of thousands of spinning lights and can reach up to 20 feet in diameter and contains around 3,500 to 5,000 lights. Each barangay, or administrative district constructs its own parol with a competition for the best design. The word parol derives from the Spanish for lantern or light and Filiponos regard these as sign of hope.

WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way network

The seven volunteers of the Binsted Rights of Way group, now including our three new members, met for the first time at Binsted Recreation Ground Pavilion in late October. There was much discussion of a variety of topics from training needs to plans for next year's Alton Walking Festival in May. The main themes, however, were finalising a revised allocation of paths between the seven members according to geographical location and then our immediate plans for working parties on two of them.

A section of Footpath 14, running south from The Straits to the parish boundary, has become very overgrown in the recent mild, wet weather. A small group of volunteers will be tackling this as a priority.

Footpath 44 runs from Bentley Station to Rowledge and forms a part of the Shipwrights' Way long distance path. The section in Bucks Horn Oak, just prior to crossing the A325, has suffered because of the recent heavy rain and has become extremely muddy. In conjunction with our new Community Ranger, Lou Aparo, we will be doing some work to improve the surface of the path.

It has also become obvious that some paths (particularly on the eastern side of the parish, near Alice Holt forest) are being badly affected by the increasingly rainy weather and that some serious remedial work is required to make them more accessible – we are in contact with Forestry England to try to address this.

Winter walks

I suspect that our family is not alone in having a tradition of long walks over the Christmas and New Year period. Once upon a time, it would be accompanied by a fervent wish for snow from the younger members of the family, but now we all merely hope for one of those wonderful sunny, dry and cold winter days that are perfect for long walk together.

Thinking about that, I'd like to highlight various sources of information about walks locally in the Parish and in the wider area nearby. My favourite candidate so far is the Six Hills of Alton walk that is documented on the Walk Alton website. Apparently, it was first proposed in 2013 by Robert Athis, a local walking enthusiast, although he sadly died before it was officially launched at the 2018 Walking Festival - the walk now bears his name. It is an 11 mile circular walk around Alton, taking in our marvellous Hampshire countryside and the magnificent views of the town from the aforementioned six hills. That should build up a decent appetite!



Another good source of longer walks is the Binsted Parish Council website, which already carries a selection of suggested walks, with links published in section called Local Community / Rights of Way Group, Tree Warden and Allotments. Ben Hamlin, the parish Tree Warden, has also developed a number of Tree Walks, and the plan is to publish these walks on the website in the near future.

I hope you find some enjoyable walks over the next few months, and that our newly enlarged Rights of Way group can continue to improve the experience of walking the parish footpaths and bridleways in the New Year, as well as sharing some of the better walks we have discovered in the course of our duties.



INCINERATOR DECISION DELAYED AGAIN

If you objected previously to Veolia’s application to build an enormous incinerator in the rural Wey Valley, Hampshire County Council will have notified you that they had extended their consultation to November 29, 2021. This is because HCC had omitted to ensure that all information submitted by the applicant on air quality and habitats was publicly available.

A copy of the application documents may now be seen on the HCC Strategic Planning website at <https://planning.hant.gov.uk/33619/007>.

No Wey Incinerator is pleased that all of Veolia’s most recent claims are being subjected to public review and is working with the campaign’s consultants to examine this information carefully. We will issue advice to our supporters in adequate time if we consider that further public objection will be helpful. We may yet need our supporters to tell HCC once again that this proposal is the

wrong solution, in the wrong place and is not needed. We believe that this delay means the application is unlikely to go before the HCC Regulatory Committee before Christmas.

Past public consultations have led to over 5,000 objections from local residents and businesses, backed by two MPs, three local planning authorities, two town councils and 19 parish councils.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Binsted Cricket Club: bouncing back



Hampshire is considered by many (and particularly the residents of Hampshire) to be the birthplace of cricket, and there has been a cricket club in Binsted for well over a century. Once a local powerhouse, the club sadly declined towards the end of the 20th Century and eventually folded like so many other clubs around that time, as there was an explosion of other sports and pastimes. Happily, though, that was not the end of the story, and Binsted CC re-formed in 2015.

The village demographic had changed and a small group of residents, whose passion for sport far outweighed their ability, were looking for ways to create interest and activity in the village for themselves and their young families. Within a year Binsted Football Club was formed (and still has 5 youth teams playing every week) and Binsted Cricket Club was reborn.

In the early days, the junior section of the cricket club was by far the most successful. Before the first Friday evening session, the coaching team (four dads) had a 'planning session' in the pub. They reckoned 8-12 kids would turn up, because they were bringing 7 between them and surely a couple more would join in? As it happened, more than 40 turned up for the first session, and for the next few years it was an absolute delight to see the Rec on a Friday evening packed full of players and parents – who were occasionally supporting their children, but more occasionally supporting the BBQ and the bar.

The adult section took a little longer to get going. During the first season we were regularly press-ganging people on a Saturday evening to turn out the following afternoon. The vicar played for us, the chimney sweep, one chap who had played in last innings 50 years ago. Proper village cricket. And we had an absolute blast. A few years on we have recruited a few more players and our opposition tell us we're not half bad now. But we are still a very social side. The cricket is just a lovely excuse.

The last couple of years have been tough going in so many ways, but we are determined to pull through and keep the club going. We lost two summers of junior cricket, but we will be kicking off again next year at the start of the school summer term. Binsted junior cricket is for everyone – we're much smaller than some of the surrounding clubs, and lots of children have joined because they find it more accessible. We're not obsessed with finding the next Ben Stokes, we just want to make sure that everyone gets a game.



Clipping from the Alton Herald celebrating the first game of a 'reformed' Binsted CC in 2015

First match in 2015 vs Old Californians CC



As for the adult section – well, none of us are getting any younger, but fortunately we've got a few of our juniors coming through now into the first team and a few of the oldies are still hobbling on. We play about 18 super-friendly games a season at some beautiful grounds around Surrey and Hampshire – not least of which our own Rec which is just glorious in summertime.

Many of us have a lot going on outside of the club and can only play a handful of games each season. So we are always keen for new players to come and join us. There are no excuses – I give you a personal guarantee that

you will not be the oldest / least experienced / least capable player to play for Binsted CC. Not by a long shot! So if you fancy having a go, you will be more than welcome. Practice sessions start in February at Weydon school (indoors) and from April up at the Rec. Drop me a line at ben.krempel@hotmail.co.uk or give me a buzz on 07907 247117.

Thanks for reading. We'll keep you posted on our progress in 2022 and hope to see you down at the Rec sometime – everyone is welcome to the Friday evening junior session and BBQ, as they are to watch on a Sunday.

Light Up A Life For Someone You Love This Christmas



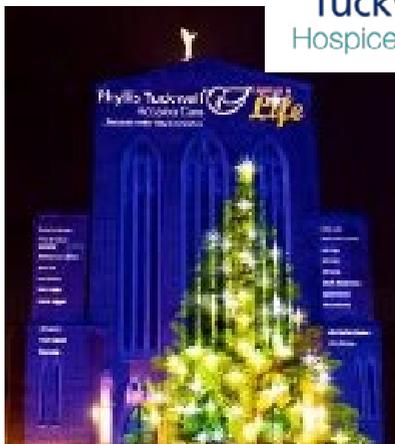
With the festive season approaching, many of us find our thoughts turning to loved ones whom we would usually spend Christmas with, but who are no longer with us. Phyllis Tuckwell's annual Light up a Life service is a special way to remember those we are missing, and find comfort and support at what can be a difficult time of year.

Last year, Covid restrictions prevented Phyllis Tuckwell from holding Light up a Life at the Hospice, but this year it is delighted to announce that it will once again be able to invite people to gather around its Christmas tree in the Hospice grounds for this important and poignant service.

The service will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 5th December, at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham. Readings, carols and prayers will help those who attend to remember special times they had with their loved ones and reflect on fond memories. During the service, the lights on the Hospice's Christmas tree will be switched on, to represent the lives of those special people to whose memory the service is dedicated.

Anyone who would like to remember a loved one – whether they were cared for by Phyllis Tuckwell or not – is invited to attend. If they wish to, they can also make a dedication in memory of their loved one and have their names added to the evening's Order of Service booklet. Their loved one's name will also be projected onto Guildford Cathedral, alongside an image of a giant Christmas tree, on the evening on Tuesday 7th December, for people to view. Dedications must be received by Friday 19th November in order for the names to be included in the Order of Service, which is given out to all who attend, and on the cathedral projection. The Order of Service will also be published on Phyllis Tuckwell's website and be available to download from Sunday 5th December.

As well as inviting people to the event, Phyllis Tuckwell will also be live streaming it via their



Caption: Last year's Light up a Life service was held at Guildford Cathedral, and the names of those being remembered will be projected onto the cathedral again this year.

website so that those who are unable to attend can watch it online, and recording it so that anyone who wishes to can watch it again at a later date.

You can make a dedication by visiting www.pth.org.uk/lual or calling 01252 729446. By making a dedication to Light up a Life, you will not only remember your loved one, but will also help Phyllis Tuckwell to continue caring for individuals and families who need its support.

If you would like to attend the service, Phyllis Tuckwell advises that you bring a torch and wrap up warm, as it is held outside. Parking will be available at local schools and on surrounding roads, but is limited, so please car-share where possible.

Every day – including Christmas Day – Phyllis Tuckwell supports and cares for over 250 local people, but because the NHS/Government usually only covers 20% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 a day to do this. The charity's annual Light up a Life service is provided completely free of charge, but any donation you wish to make would be gratefully received.

It's official. We're going to try to supercharge local tree and pollinator planting!



We're going to see how many new trees, hedges and wildflower patches our local community can plant by December 2022. Involving everyone! And recording our results.

Our November 'First Friday' get-together produced some great ideas about how we can go about it. As well as looking at our local map, we heard how groups in Petersfield and Farnham have organised themselves to get the community involved in tree planting. We heard about some great actions being taken by two local farmers through agri-environment schemes. And Bentley's Butterfly Reserve shared information on rare butterflies that need our help. Since one of Buglife's aspirational 'B-lines' runs right through Froyle, Bentley, Blacknest, Frith End and Dockenfield, there's clearly opportunity to establish new pollinator corridors.

Turning these dreams into reality means we have to get organised! Organising access to suitable planting stock is obviously important. Getting people to decide where trees can be planted is often a bigger hurdle. To stimulate action, we've set up a map board in the foyer of the Wickham Institute, where people can record the trees and pollinator patches they've planted. We'll be sharing photographs of these new plantings in future editions of the Parish Magazine. And recording trees planted through the 'Queen's Green Jubilee Canopy' project. Over the coming weeks we'll also be advertising how to get advice and resources, including some free planting stock.

There's already a group of volunteers and we'd love any further help you can offer.

There's lots to do! As well as people to organise planting parties, we're looking for:

- gardeners who can donate unwanted tree seedlings or grow wildflower plugs
- people willing to act as local champions, to tell their neighbours about the project
- wildflower enthusiasts and botanists who can survey roadside verges to spot any potential Road Verges of Ecological Importance; and
- people to help with general organisation such as recording planting and news items.

If you can help with any of the above, or want to suggest ideas, do get in touch:

- send an email to binstedeconetwork@gmail.com
- ring Alison on 07851 677057
- come along to our next 'First Friday' coffee, between 10:00 and 12:00 on Friday 3 December, at the Binsted Pavilion, GU34 4PD; or
- join us for 'Green Drinks' at the Binsted Inn, between 19:30 and 21:00 on Wednesday 12 January.



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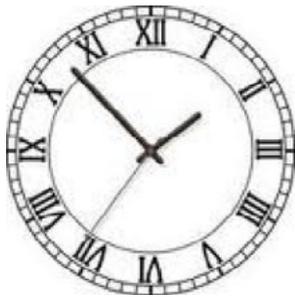


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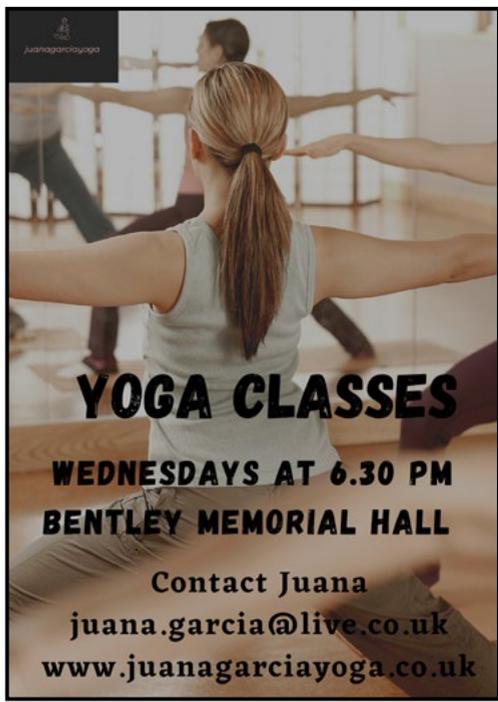
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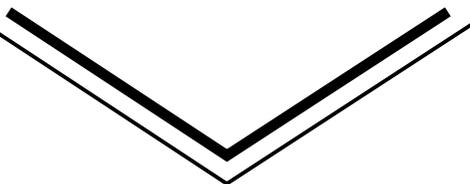
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(Bentley Community Association):

Chairman: Steve Fice Tel. 01420 22197

Email: steve.fice@btinternet.com

www.bentleymemorialhall.org

Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913

martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk

Garden Club Chairman

Andrew Croom-Johnson Tel: 01420 23157

Treasurer Patricia Cardy Tel: 01420 22325

District Council

Ken Carter, Brookfield, Station Road, Bentley GU10 5LA. 01420 22576 Email

kenc@comark-associates.co.uk

Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Goodyear 01420 22133

johngoodyear@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Vice Chairman: Patric Curwen 01420 520060

Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539

Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Bentley Memorial Hall, Hole Lane,

Farnham GU10 5LP

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

Chair: Stephen Whowell

stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Joint Parish Organisations

Care Group (car service)

Bookings 01420 23440

Secretary: Cathy Smith 01420 520169

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

Lucy Yendell 01420 80560

2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk 07974377736

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BINSTED

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The Wickham Institute

Chairman: Catherine Hadfield 01420 23146

Bookings: Ann Mann 01420 22388

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Treasurer: Andrew Croom Johnson - 23157

County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee - 01420

563550, email - marknkempgee@aol.com

District Council

Ken Carter, Brookfield, Station Road,

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Email ken.carter@easthants.gov.uk,

David Ashcroft, 07966 511 868.

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Parish Council

Chair: Alison Melvin a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk,

07851 677 057

Vice Chair: Ryan France-Moore r.francemoore@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk Lisa Spindler clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

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Email clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Deputy Parish Clerk: Karen Ray 07805 800 373

Email depclerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

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Binsted School

Headteacher: Sharron Morton 01420 23200

Fête and Flower Show

Matt Arrowsmith

thebinstedfete@gmail.com

Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

Chair: Nial Dunne 01420 22922 nial.dunne@sky.com

Secretary - Malcolm Kerry 01420 520400,

malcolmkerry@icloud.com

Website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/btcc/>

Growmore Club Secretary:

Reita Fisher 01483 570996

Bentley and Binsted Police

Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby

Alton Police 101

Binsted Cricket Club

Chairman: John Dineen 01420 617814

or mob: 07747878392

Binsted Football Club

Secretary: Tim Winkworth binstedfootball@gmail.com

Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

@FOBSBinsted 01420 23200 or

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

Chairman: Alice Cowie

December & January Services



- Saturday 27th November 6:30pm Froyle Advent by Candlelight
- 5th December 8am Froyle Holy Communion
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship with Children's Church
5pm Bentley Live@5 Holy Communion
- 12th December 9:30am Binsted Morning Worship
11am Froyle Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise
- Friday 17th December 6:30pm Binsted's Real Nativity Singalong ★
- 19th December 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Village Carols at Bentley Memorial Hall
6:30pm Froyle Family Carol Service
- Wednesday 22nd December 6pm Froyle Flying Carols starting at Miller Lane Upper Froyle
- Thursday 23rd December 6pm Binsted Carols starting at Holy Cross Church
- Christmas Eve** 4pm Bentley Christingle Nativity Fancy Dress Singalong ★
5:30pm Froyle Crib Service
10pm Bentley Midnight Communion Service
11:30pm Binsted Midnight Communion Service
11pm Froyle Midnight Communion Service
- Christmas Day** 9:30am Bentley Christmas Day Communion Service
9:30am Binsted Christmas Day Communion Service
11am Froyle Christmas Day Communion Service
- Sunday 26th December 11am Binsted Benefice Communion Service
Boxing day
- Sunday 2nd January 2022 11am Froyle Benefice Communion Service
- 9th January 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Froyle Holy Communion (*closed Jan-Mar*)
5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise
- 16th January 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
11am Froyle Morning Prayer (*closed Jan-Mar*)
5pm Bentley Live@5 iPad
- 23rd January 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Live@5 YumYum
6:30pm Froyle Evensong (*closed Jan-Mar*)
- 30th January 11am Bentley Benefice Service

★ This is a ticketed event, please contact the Church Office
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