

FEBRUARY 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

I am writing this on a beautiful cold, frosty morning that began with an amazing sunrise beyond Binsted Church which has been a regular sight from the Vicarage.

My family and I have been so blessed during our 11 years here by the incredible surroundings we live in. Hannah and I have continuously told our children that they are unlikely to live in such a beautiful place again and to make the most of it! We have experienced great local schools for our children and made excellent relationships through them. We have had the joy of living in rural village communities and we even ended up with the almost obligatory rural Hampshire accessory – a dog (Scooby)!

My role here has been a truly privileged one. I have had the opportunity to share in people's lives, whether it has been through a chat in the pub, passing on a dog walk, in people's homes or after a church service. There have also been those key moments in families' lives preparing for funerals, weddings or baptisms. These are such profound events - I never cease to feel so honoured to be involved with these. Particularly precious to me has been my involvement with Binsted and Bentley C of E Primary Schools – working with the staff and children has been really rewarding.

I've also enjoyed seeing our three churches go through exciting changes as our worshipping community has grown. We now have a homegrown Associate Priest, Benefice Administrators, Youthworker, Worship Leader, Anna Chaplain and Church Manager – and with all the volunteers including our Churchwardens and PCC members and the myriad others on our many, many rotas who have done so much over the last few years - what a team!

We've seen new services start: Bentley's live@5, Binsted's Messy Church, and Froyle's Evensong alongside the old regular favourites on Sunday Mornings; we've even gone online with our Thought for the Day each weekday and Online Sunday Services. And, we've continued with many special services and amazing events through the year

such as the Maundy Thursday service, Passover Supper, Good Friday Meditation, Pet Services, Marquee Services, Remembrance, Advent Carols, Christmas Carols, Real Nativity, Journey to the Stable, Christingle, Crib Services, Church Weekend Away, etc.! I can't finish this paragraph without also mentioning the homegroups that meet during the week and that have regularly put on Alpha Courses through the year enabling people to discover more about Christianity.

However, it is now time for us to move on – which we will do with a whole mixture of emotions – sadness at leaving a place of such great blessing for us but also excitement at the opportunities that lie ahead.

We're not going very far – only 15 minutes down the road – so although we will on the one hand be missing our local friends and acquaintances we shall doubtless continue to bump into familiar faces from BenBinFro over the coming months and years.

When we do see each other - will our conversations change in nature – or will it be just like old times?

Hopefully, we'll be able to carry on as we have in the past, but whatever, my sincere and deeply felt hope is that in the midst of the chat and gossip, our friends from BenBinFro will be able to give testimony of God's blessing in their lives – that somehow, despite the sometimes very difficult times we all experience, through the work of the church, through the relationships in the village communities, through the beauty of this place, all will be able to testify that they have been blessed by God.

So I leave you with an ancient blessing:

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace.
Amen.*

Au revoir!

Yann, Hannah, Sophie, Toby, Max and Scooby xxxxxx

Youth at BenBinFro

Looking back to before Christmas, our various youth groups had great fun. We had the Holy Spirit weekend for the Youth Alpha group back at the end of November, and the Christmas film night at four:twelve before the Christmas holidays where we enjoyed watching Home Alone with pizza. There was so much in between it will be impossible to list it all!

January has been a joy to get back to meeting in person, even with some limited restrictions in place. We started back at four:twelve with bench ball and we learned about the Bible. We also learned why four:twelve is called that! Based on 1 Timothy 4:12 where Paul is writing to his apprentice, Timothy, giving him encouragement to lead the church in Ephesus with courage. He tells Timothy to stand up to those who are teaching incorrectly, and not to let people look down on him because he is young. Instead, he should be an example to those around him through his actions and words. Young people are important and at BenBinFro, we believe our young people can and should be great examples of loving, kind and generous behaviour. So at four:twelve, in amongst the fun and games, we aim to impart good things to the young people to help them be the best version of themselves. We also played lots of board games together and we're really looking forward to t-shirt design in February! You might get to see some of our designs in the March parish magazine.

In our Sunday night small group, we are tackling the 'Big Issues'. So far, we have discussed sexism and gender, with the aim to develop our own thoughts and opinions about these in a safe environment. We are looking at these topics through the lens of

our Christian faith, and seeing how the Bible can help us with these difficult issues.

The most exciting thing, however, in the youth diary is the upcoming weekend away to the Isle of Wight! We're super excited to be going away with other youth groups from the Alton Deanery and beyond. There will be more to tell in the March issue of the parish magazine, but activities include laser quest, swimming, tree climbing, games, crafts, a trip to the beach, plus a whole lot of worship, teaching and ministry based on Acts 2:42.

Please do continue to pray for our youth team and young people as we venture boldly into 2022!

If you'd like to support what we're doing, we are currently on the lookout for newspaper! Our upcoming 'Construction' night at four:twelve requires a lot of newspaper, glue, tape, string etc. so if you'd like to donate any of those items, the church office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (10am-1pm) where someone will be available to collect the items. Thank you!

Gemma Ball
Pastoral Assistant (Youth)
& Administrator
gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

Church Register

Bentley

Thursday 11th November Funeral of Margaret Arnold

Sunday 5th December Baptism of Jasmine Hope

Sunday 5th December Baptism of Joseph-Henry Samuel

Sunday 5th December Baptism of Theo Nichols

Binsted

Monday 29th November Internment of Ashes of Paul and Sylvia Macey

Thursday 2nd December Burial of Joan Prior

Froyle

Saturday 20th November Wedding of Mina Douglas and Anu Aiyegbusi

Sunday 21st November Wedding of Opeyemi Osobu and Mojubaoluwa Oyeleye

Friday 10th December Wedding of Anna Clapson and John Fernandes

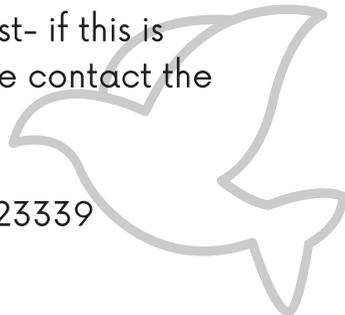
Confirmation Service

Sunday 13th February 2022 - Live@5 Big Praise

We're very excited to welcome back Bishop David Williams on the 13th February to confirm a number of young people and adults.

It's not too late to show your interest- if this is something you'd like to explore, please contact the church office.

admin@benbinfro.org / 01420 23339



CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR & PA

Location: St Mary's Church Office, Bentley



Hi, I'm Lucinda, and I've just started work in the BenBinFro church office as an administrator. I'm excited to be working with Gemma and to become part of this great team! I'll mainly be dealing with the pastoral side of admin – so Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Perhaps our paths may cross if I can help you with one of your important life events.

After university, I started my working life in team secretary/PA roles, and in between a fair bit of travelling and exploring, I decided to train to be a teacher. 10 years in varying teaching roles, at home and abroad, a husband and 2 children later, and here I am!

We moved to Bentley in 2015, and love our home and the village. Both my girls are very happy at Bentley Primary School. When I have any spare time I love to be out in the garden or on a walk, or starting a sewing project.

Binsted's Advent Windows



Wow Binsted - what a wonderful display!
Thank you to everyone who took part and
made this the best year yet.

We don't have room to show all the amazing
designs, but have just enough space to show
a couple of the panels that made up the final
display at the church.

Many thanks to everyone for making, sharing
and giving Binsted a great Christmas.

A BIG THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Binsted Church Christmas Fair. A bumper profit of £2,500 was made. I don't know why we hadn't thought of holding it inside the Church as well as the Wickham Institute in previous years, as it worked really well. There was space for the stall holders to spread their wares and customers had space to browse. Special thanks go to FOBS [Friends of Binsted School] who created a wonderful grotto around the organ area in the Church and for Father Christmas and his Elf who were kept busy all afternoon. The School Children's stall of decorations was beautifully displayed around the font area. Their profits went to the FOBS funds, but they brought in lots of families to the fair and our regular stall holders had record sales. My sincere thanks go to the stall holders for their time, skill and money contributions, plus anyone who donated items for the raffle and the stalls. A fair could not take place without you.

In addition, I must mention the Binsted ladies who made a record number of Christmas wreaths to adorn front doors in the local area and beyond. Finally, **thank you to you**, if you came along as a customer. Let's do it all again next year! AD

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the church parishioners who so kindly contributed to the vouchers we were given at Christmas. It was unexpected and very gratefully received. Thank you for your generosity. Best wishes from Yann and Hannah, Christopher and Kathy, Sam and Gemma and David and Mary.



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DRINKING ?
etc. etc.

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Course info

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Next course from Wed. 2nd Feb. 10:30 at Alton Maltings

TO ALL BENTLEY RESIDENTS
SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022
FROM 2PM

Let's come together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee at a very "Royal Garden Party" on the Recreation Ground

The party is supported by the Parish Council but we need your help and ideas, for instance

Do you have any special skills i.e.,

Can you sing?

Do you play a musical instrument?

Can you juggle or perhaps you're a magician?



***Let us know via the new Facebook page
"Bentley celebrates the Queen's Jubilee"
or by email at
clerk@bentley parish council.co.uk***

The plan

(subject to change)

- Picnic on the Rec from 2pm so bring your own food, chairs and tables
- In case of bad weather bring your own gazebos, umbrellas ; "the show must go on"
- Be part of a photograph of the entire village taken by drone
- Entertainment in the Marquee

Other activities proposed during the 4 days of celebration - ideas welcome!

Planting a Jubilee tree

Beacon on Carters Meadow

And other stuff

Commemoration of Memorial Stone

four:twelve

YOUTH CLUB / SCHOOL YEARS 5-7

WHEN? FRIDAY EVENINGS.

WHERE? BENTLEY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL.

WHAT? FUN & GAMES, SHORT BIBLE TEACHING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, TUCK SHOP.

“Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young.

Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Contact Gemma for more info gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

CHRISTMAS AT BENBINFRO

We had such fun at all of our Christmas services in December, from singing carols outdoors to dressing up as Christingles!



It was wonderful to have so many people attend all that was put on, even with the covid restrictions in place – thank you for your patience and cooperation with these restrictions.



In Bentley and Binsted we had a 10ft screen and projector which turned our churches into a cinema! At Binsted, the Real Nativity screening was festive and reflective, where we enjoyed all the hard work



that was put into filming the Real Nativity in 2020. In Bentley, the Christingle service used much of the Real Nativity film to retell the Christmas story, but it was sprinkled with modern arrangements of our favourite carols – and of course the Bethlehemian Rhapsody!

We hope you had a restful Christmas and pray your 2022 will be happy and healthy.

Blessings,

The BenBinFro Team

SERVICE PATTERN UPDATE AND FINDING A NEW VICAR

With only weeks until Yann and Hannah move to pastures new, we have revised the service pattern for both the reduced number of clergy and to factor in that we are now also helping with services in Kingsley and Oakhanger churches.

Froyle church is closed until sometime in March whilst rewiring, a new lighting system and 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 continuing discussions with the Diocese to progress moving the Benefice to be a single parish. We are also working with the Diocese and representatives from the parish of Kingsley with Oakhanger as we continue to move towards incorporating the parish into our Benefice.

Following meetings with Bishop David and Archdeacon Richard, we are close to finalising a profile for the Benefice. This will need to be approved by the three PCCs in a formal Section 11 meeting and then we can place adverts for our new Rector. We are hopeful of achieving this in the next couple of weeks.

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

PE at Bentley

We are very keen on helping every child to find a sport they enjoy. Whilst some love team games, others enjoy solo sports such as running or multi-sports. We have always enjoyed competitive opportunities but balance this with encouraging each child to aim for a 'Personal Best'. This has served us well with creating a positive culture around physical exercise.

In the Autumn Term we were delighted to be able to return to some sports we were unable to offer last year due to Covid restrictions. Gymnastics and Swimming are both highly popular at our school and it has been great to build them both back into the curriculum. We have also returned to having all children take part in the same sports at the same time. This allows us to set mini challenges and to build team spirit!

Swimming is a sport we are very aware has suffered over the Lockdowns

as many children were unable to continue with lessons and quite a few have now dropped out of the after school or weekend classes they did before. Water safety is always our first priority as a life skill but our Year 4 children made phenomenal progress this term with their swimming skills and we are looking forward to taking Year 3 for lessons next term.

We are very fortunate in having some terrific Sports Coaches who come and work with the children at school. Some run clubs before or after school, from





gymnastics to judo, street dance in Boppin, to football and team games. We always have lots of great opportunities to stretch the skills of our super sporty children or get a child interested in a new sport.

Every Wednesday each class has coaches from CMSports to teach them. The team come in with great enthusiasm and give children a good chance to work on their speed, agility and teamwork, using a 'multiskills' approach. It is great for children to have additional opportunities and different teachers and CMSports have helped to talent spot and train up many a Bentley pupil, as well as to give a lot of fun and enjoyment to all pupils. The coaches run our most popular club after school each week and about a third of the school takes part in Football Club, which interestingly popular with a growing number of girls. At the start of next term, the coaches will be running

an in-school Football tournament which children are really excited about.

Visitors often comment on the full cabinet of shiny trophies at the front of school and I am often asked how we do so well, being such a small school. The answer is simple. All Bentley children are encouraged to 'give it a go' and by taking part and getting involved, the children often amaze themselves with what they can achieve. I am hugely proud of them all. Two sporting highlights in December have firstly, been the whole school 'Elf Run' which certainly got everyone on the move, running laps of the Recreation Ground. Secondly our Bentley basketball team beat all the local East Hants competition and are through to the final of the Hampshire Games. Great news and well done to the team! Please wish them luck for the final.

K. Pinchess, headteacher



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Just a School

It's the chanting of Times Tables
 It's the ticking of the clock,
 It's the smiling of our faces
 as the chickens start to flock,
 It's the ringing of the phone
 when Mrs Kiely makes a call
 but it's never, not it's never,
 no it's never just a school.
 It's the rainbow that makes your day,
 It's the words that we chant,
 It's the teacher that encourages
 when we say we can't!
 It's the shouting of the children,
 trying to get the ball,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a school.

By Maisie

Just a School

It's the swishing of a curtain,
 It's the ticking of a clock,
 It's the giggling of children
 as the chickens start to flock,
 It's the swimming of the children,
 all splashing in the pool,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a school.
 It's the books in the library,
 It's the last glue stick,
 It's our lovely building,
 That is made of brick,
 It's the squeeking of the whiteboards,
 It's the pain on the wall,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a school.

By George

Just a School

It's the teacher teaching children
 Maths,
 It's the ringing of the bell,
 It's the sticker given to you
 when you've done really well,
 It's the writing of our poems,
 That are really cool,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a school.
 It's the very messy cloakroom,
 It's the name of all my friends,
 It's the fun and laughter
 That never ever ends,
 It's the cosy book corner,
 And the splashing in the pool
 But it's never, no it's never,
 No it's never just a school.

By Lottie

Just a Creature

It's a bug climbing a rock,
 It's a fly zooming around,
 It's a worm dashing through holes
 as it wriggles underground,
 It's the armour on a crocodile,
 That's a very clever feature,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a creature.
 It's the mane on a lion,
 as it shreds through the trees,
 It's the laughing of a chimp,
 It's the buzzing of the bees,
 It's the crawling of a tarantula,
 as it scares your teacher,
 but it's never, no it's never,
 no it's never just a creature.

By Fraser



Just a Creature

It's the playing of the kitten,
It's the jumping of the deer,
It's the sprinting of a cheetah,
It's dogs barking I can hear,
It's the scales on a rainbow fish,
that's such a pretty feature,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a creature.

By Arabella

Just a School

It's the squeaking of a whiteboard,
on the wall up high,
It's the echo from our noisy hall,
as Debbie serves us pie,
It's the ringing of the phone,
as Mrs Kiely makes a call,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a school.
It's learning our maths,
sometimes it's easy,
but at the moment,
we are a bit sneezy,
It's football on the playground,
It's the plaster when I fall,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a school.

By Oliver

Just a Game

It's exploring the world,
It's collecting strange creatures,
It's finding the secrets,
It's learning from teachers,
It's pushing the buttons,
I play my way to fame,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a game.
It's the jumping through levels,
and having lots of fun,
It's getting interrupted
by your lovely mum,
It's the focus in your head,
as you take aim,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a game.

By Bradley

Just a Creature

It's the dragon sleeping softly
At the back of a dark cave,
It's a dog chasing a rat,
It's the insects that I save,
It's the curling of a woodlouse
Whose shell is it's best feature,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a creature.
It's the stripes on a tiger
as it strolls through the jungles
It's the buzzing of the bees,
Honey bees and Bumbles,
It's the legs on a spider
that always scare my teacher,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a creature.

By Henry



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Just a Creature

It's a kitten rolling happily
In her fluffy little bed,
It's a dog running outside
Chasing a squirrel that is red,
It's the stripes on a tiger
such a beautiful feature,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a creature.
It's the galloping of a horse,
as it splashes in the lake,
It's the antlers on a deer,
It's the hissing of a snake,
It's the jumping of a frog,
that was found by my teacher,
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a creature.

By Chloe

Just a Creature

It's a serpent breathing softly,
In an echoed dark cave,
It's a bang of a volcano
Making a humungous wave,
It's a bee flying gently,
through trees with green reachers
but they're never, no they're never,
no they're never just creatures.

By Joseph.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Due to the uncertainty surrounding potential Covid restrictions at the end of 2021, contact was only made with potential speakers for 2022 at the beginning of January. Unfortunately, with the current situation with the Covid Omicron variant, speakers are reluctant to commit themselves at the moment. We have therefore had to cancel our proposed first meeting of the year which would have been on Tuesday 1st February 2022.

We hope to start up our regular monthly meetings again from Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 8pm as usual in the Memorial Hall Denis Smith Room.

Confirmation that this meeting will take place will be in the March Parish Magazine which you should receive towards the end of February. Members can, if they wish, also contact a committee member towards the end of February to confirm if the March meeting is to take place. Contact details are on your membership cards or on the back inside page of the parish magazine.



As 2022 gets underway, it's time to organise our Jubilee celebrations. And have some fun!

6 February 2022 will be the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. It was on this date in 1952 that King George VI died, and the then 25-year old Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II.

Excitement is already starting to build. The focal point of the celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be the extended bank holiday weekend, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, which will include:

- **Trooping the Colour** in London on Thursday 2 June
- **Over 1500 Platinum Jubilee Beacons** being lit, across the country, on the evening of 2 June
- **As service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral**, on Friday 3 June
- **The Platinum Live Concert**, to be staged in London, on Saturday 4 June
- **A Platinum Jubilee Pageant**, near Buckingham Palace, on Sunday 5 June; and
- **Community Jubilee Lunches**, across the country, throughout the weekend.

How should we celebrate this unique historical event locally? Some exciting ideas are being suggested, and many local schools, churches and community groups already have some great plans for their celebrations.

Binsted Parish Council is inviting anyone with ideas or plans for Jubilee celebrations to join our Zoom 'Jubilee Planning' meeting at 18:30 on Tuesday 8 February.

We'll be discussing suggestions from across the parish, and looking for ways to collaborate.

What should we do, to have fun, and to create a lasting legacy? Should we have a party? Light a beacon? Plant trees around the parish? Establish a local history archive?

We'd love to hear your ideas and thoughts! Do join the Zoom meeting if you can – just email us for the login code, or drop us a note about your ideas before the meeting.

The contact point is our Clerk, Lisa Spindler: email clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.

The parish council also has a webpage, www.binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/jubilee, which will give details of all community celebrations we learn of. And we'll be co-ordinating with East Hampshire District Council's Jubilee lead, to learn about other events happening locally.

Let's make it a year to remember.

Alison Melvin
Chair, Binsted Parish Council

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

EXHIBITION

From Dawn to Dusk

A selection of paintings on rural themes by **W H Allen** (after whom the Gallery is named)

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

WORKSHOP

Felt pom-poms with Judith Benn. Wednesday 9th February. Please check with the Gallery for details.

TALK

A Parcel of Gold

Jo Smith, Chairman of The Headley Society.

Mr Smith's talk is based on a series of Nineteenth-Century letters discovered in a bureau. They were written by Ellen Read to her brother, a paper-maker in Headley. Ellen went to Australia to seek a better life. She spent most of it in the gold fields of Bendigo, and her letters give an insight into the hard daily grind encountered by the Pioneering families.

Thursday 10th February 7.30 pm.

FREE – donations to the Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery most welcome.

Snow Drop Saturdays

Come and look round our lovely garden. FREE. Probably 12th and 19th February BUT better check with the Gallery in case the snowdrops come out early.

CURTIS MUSEUM

By popular request THE MUSEUM BY TORCHLIGHT returns. It's amazing how different things look by torchlight – follow our special trail.

Wednesday 23rd February, 5.30 pm – 7pm. £3.50 per child. Children must be accompanied. No need to book.

A new issue of **Alton Papers** is now available (No. 25), price £3. This issue covers topics such as the history of Adlam's/Buck's Bakery, the Early Banks of Alton, and two eye-witness accounts of life at Thedden Grange just before and just after WW2. The first is from a boy of 14 whose family were amongst the Grange staff; the second a letter sent home by a German prisoner-of-war housed in the grounds.

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



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 January and February draw of the
Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are below

JANUARY 2022

1st Prize Bill & Chris Whitfield

2nd Prize Bruce & Lizzie Powell

3rd Prize Jean Cox

FEBRUARY 2022

1st Prize Ray Cox

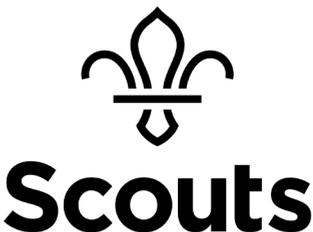
2nd Prize Bruce & Lizzie Powell

3rd Prize Richard & Grace Sherfield

2nd Bentley Scouts

Happy New Year!

We were so pleased to be involved with the Alton Round Table and 8th Alton Scouts project bringing Father Christmas to the communities. If you missed it, Santa arrived on his bike powered 'sleigh' on the 18th December and toured most of Bentley including a ride by Pax Hill Nursing home, the previous home of our founder Lord Baden Powell. Apologies if we didn't make it to you. The comments from those that came out to greet the sleigh made the evening and it was a great initiative to bring to our community. We are hopeful that we can bring Santa back Christmas 2022 and possibly extend the route.



This year we look forward to being able to open a new Squirrels section for 4-6-year-olds, we hope to expedition with our young people including our brilliant group camp and summer camp for the older members. We also hope to be involved in the village celebrations for the Jubilee.

We will also be holding our locally famous Jumble Sales so please keep your unwanted items for us. These will be the 3rd Saturdays in May and September as usual. Unfortunately, this year we had a lot of waste due to much of the jumble being in storage for so long so we did have to use a skip to dispose of some of the rubbish. As a group we do try to recycle as much of the left-over items as possible but as you can imagine we will always have some rubbish/ broken/unsuitable items to be disposed of. If you are able to help with the Jumble Sales or the clearing up of unsold goods, please do let us know.

We do have good numbers in all sections at the moment. As ever if you are interested in getting your child involved or would like to join us as a volunteer, please do get in touch. We are particularly looking for additional adult support in Explorers.

Melissa
2nd Bentley Scout Group Chair

BOOK REVIEWS

Book of the month: “Lent for Everyone: Matthew Year A” by Tom Wright, SPCK, 2011, paperback, 162 pages.

At the time of writing, good copies are available from www.bookfinder.com from £1.98 including postage and packing.

Tom Wright, a former Bishop of Durham, wrote “Lent For Everyone” as a guide to the readings for every day of Lent and Easter. The Bible readings are from his own translation from “Matthew for Everyone” (SPCK 2002).

Each passage from the Bible is followed by a reflection and a prayer to help us all think about the relevance of Matthew’s Gospel for our own lives today.

One of the early passages is about the Sermon on the Mount. We are reminded that this is not a list of rules. It’s a royal announcement that God is turning the world the right

way up. It’s a whole new way of being human.

A later passage celebrates Jesus’s resurrection. Because of that, the more we look at Jesus and learn from him, the more we will discover what it means to love God. And the more we will find energy and goodwill welling up inside ourselves to love our neighbours as ourselves.

The first day of Lent this year is Wednesday 2nd March. That gives you plenty of time to order a copy of this book if you would like to do so.

Happy reading!

Graham Trasler (Vicar of Binsted and Rector of Bentley 1979-84) has now retired completely from ministry as from Remembrance Sunday 2021.

If you wish to watch his last service at St John’s Church Alresford you can do so on Youtube: it was on 12th November 2021.

NOVEMBER WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum 16.3°C (9th) to 4.1°C (28th)
8 days below 10°C

Nighttime minimum -3.7°C (24th) to 9.8°C (19th)
12 nights below 0°C



Rainfall



Total for month 0.44 inches (11.2 mm) over 10 days

Wettest days 0.18 inches (4.6 mm) (27th)



Wind



Dominant wind direction North North West

Maximum gust 24 mph (27th)

Parish Weatherman

DECEMBER WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum 14.7°C (29th) to 4.9°C (22nd)
15 days below 10°C

Nighttime minimum -6.9°C (22nd) to 12.7°C (30th)
6 nights below 0°C



Rainfall



Total for month 2.14 inches (54.4 mm) over 20 days

Wettest days 0.43 inches (11.0 mm) (7th)



Wind



Dominant wind direction South West

Maximum gust 31 mph (28th)

Parish Weatherman

WEATHER STATISTICS FOR 2021



Temperature



Highest Daytime temperature 36.6°C (11th August)

Lowest Nighttime temperature -6.9°C (22nd December)



Rainfall



Total rainfall 25.83 inches (656.2 mm) (wettest month was October)



Wind



Strongest gust of wind 41 mph (14th January)

Parish Weatherman



ISINGTON PLATINUM JUBILEE PARTY

1pm Friday 3rd June 2022

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are planning to hold a "Street" Party for the residents of Isington and their friends on Friday 3rd June 2022 at 1pm. The party will be held at Lady Fraser's field next door to Newton Bungalow and will include a hog roast. We will ask you to bring your own chairs, we are providing tables.

Tickets (possible cost £15/children half price) will go on sale in early March when further details will be available. In the meantime, it would very helpful to get an idea of how many people are likely to attend. If you are interested in joining us to mark this historic event, please send an email with an estimate of how many tickets you will need to Christopher.lowther69@gmail.com

cc: sandiebaker@btinternet.com

Sycamore seeds

I read a book by Charles E MacKay, an aviation historian, about the early days of helicopter development, which he entitled 'The Sycamore Seeds'. Anyone who has ever watched a seed fall from a sycamore tree, spinning like a helicopter rota, will know where he got the idea. Indeed the first commercially successful British helicopter was called the Bristol Sycamore. Technically what falls from the tree is not a helicopter since it has no independent means of propulsion. It spins because of the air rushing over its aerodynamic surface as it falls under its own weight. And technically it should not be called a seed as the actual seed is a passenger encased in the blobby end of the vehicle we should call a samara.

So what is the point of a sycamore samara?

Trees have three main strategies for distributing their DNA; fruit, nut and seed. In all three cases it is in the mother's interest that the new generation takes root some distance away and does not compete for the same root or canopy space. The fruit and the nut strategies have in common that animals carry them away from mother. Many seeds, on the other hand, are equipped with a winged case that will be carried away on any breeze.

The sycamore is a maple, a member of the acer family. All acer samaras grow in opposing pairs. They only spin if they part company as they fall from the tree. They are particularly well built for spinning, with a cross-section like an aeroplane's wing, that is, thick along the leading edge and tapering away to a thin film along the trailing edge. As they fall and spin the shape generates aerodynamic lift that slows the samara's descent, allowing time for it to travel further from mother. Arriving amongst the forest litter the samara will slowly rot and the seed will settle into the soil.

I should now say that it wasn't the book that prompted me to write this, but a friend who remarked that sycamores are, after all, just weeds. It's not the first time I've heard this, and it seems to have been a widespread view for some time. In 1664 horticulturist John Evelyn wrote: "...the Honey-dew leaves, which fall early (like those of the Ash) turn to Mucilage and noxious insects, and putrefie with the first moisture of the season; so as they contaminate and marr our Walks; and are therefore by my consent, to be banish'd from all curious Gardens and Avenues". How rude!

However, go further back and the story is different. In Wales, sycamore was used in the traditional craft of making 'love spoons', decoratively carved wooden spoons given as a romantic gesture.

It is not certain when they were first planted in Britain but they were familiar enough in the middle ages that they became confused with the *Ficus sycomorus* the tree that Zacchaeus was supposed to have climbed to see Jesus pass by. And this is how they got their name.

On the moorland around Haworth in west Yorkshire, two gnarled old sycamores stand near to a ruined farm which is said to have been Emily Brontë's inspiration for *Wuthering Heights*. In the novel, when Mr Earnshaw arrives home from Liverpool with the young Heathcliff, he is disappointed to find that the fiddle he has brought with him

as a present for his son has been damaged beyond repair. To mark the 200th anniversary of the author's birth, in 2018, a special violin was made, using sycamore wood from a tree growing close to the Brontë home.

Not bad for a weed!

WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way network

One of the advantages of now having a greater than ever number of people in the Binsted Rights of Way team is not just that the paths get walked more frequently or that there are more willing hands when we hold a Work Party! Our new recruits also bring a new perspective to paths and walks that may have become over-familiar. This has manifested itself in a growing number of suggested improvements in the waymarking of some paths and also of some of the other hardware that currently exists, such as gates, stiles and bridges. We will be working with our Community Ranger to address some of these issues in 2022. In fact, several new fingerposts have already sprung up around the parish. We think they make things much clearer and hope you agree!

As highlighted in the last magazine, the southerly section of Footpath 14, from The Straits to the parish boundary, had become very overgrown in November. A group of volunteers formed a work party to thoroughly clear the vegetation during December.

In December, the full team of volunteers, as well as our Community Ranger Lou, gathered in Bucks Horn Oak to work on Footpath 44, which runs from Bentley Station to Rowledge and forms a part of the Shipwrights' Way long distance path. Lou had arranged to bring some serious mechanical equipment, as well as the delivery of eight tonnes of scalplings, with the aim of re-surfacing the parts of the path which had become very muddy during wet weather. It was very hard work - digging out the affected areas, shifting barrows of scalplings and then compacting them to form a better surface. I can tell you that the flapjacks and flasks of tea and coffee that magically arrived at half time were gratefully devoured! Despite that, there is still more to do to complete the task, so an additional work party will be needed in 2022.

The two named storms of the autumn and winter so far, Arwen and Barra, hit us in November and December. Fortunately, at the time of writing, there is still no sign of Corrie and Dudley making an appearance. Winter storms usually mean fallen trees and branches on the parish footpaths and bridleways, but we escaped relatively lightly this time. In mid-December, two of the volunteers cleared a large fallen tree on footpath 22, which runs west from Holy Cross Church, down the hill to meet footpath 9. Just for good measure, we carried on to clear several smaller obstacles from footpaths 32 and 35, near Bottom Copse in Binsted.

Further afield

It looks more likely that many families will be taking UK holidays again this year and uncertainty around foreign travel continues, due to the evolving COVID-19 situation. It is therefore even more important to have good sources for walks in other corners of our beautiful country.



I've already talked here about how good the Walk Alton website is. However, if you are venturing further afield, it is worth also bearing in mind that Alton is a member of **Walkers are Welcome**, a network of over 100 towns and villages who are especially welcoming to walkers and have something different to offer them. Their website is at <https://walkersarewelcome.org.uk>

Another great resource is **The Outdoor Guide**, who believe passionately in the value of enjoying a healthy life outdoors. Their website has impressive numbers of themed walks and a huge amount of walking-related content, including places to stay. It is at <https://theoutdoorguide.co.uk>. Wherever you take your walks, whether locally or when on holiday or visiting friends and family, have a great time!



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& January 2022 draws:

December 2021

- 1st prize Trevor Blaber
- 2nd prize David Leonard
- 3rd prize Stella Croom-Johnson

January 2022

- 1st prize Pat Smalley
- 2nd prize Ron Neil
- 3rd prize Ros Kohler

Details of the February 2022 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.



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the Binsted fete

2nd July 2022

Did you get any good garden tools for Christmas? Are your green fingers itching to get planting but can't decide what to grow? We are revamping the growing categories for the 2022 Binsted Fete. We are going to include 'Colour' categories where you can enter anything of that colour – be that Rose or by any other name! We hope this will encourage more entries from gardeners of all ages and growing experience. Also if you enter, you might become the first ever winner of a new trophy, watch this space for more details|

Remember you need to grow your produce to present on the 2nd of July 2022. There is lots of advice on planting times and helpful growing advice on packets of seeds and many websites.

Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers and Plants

1. Vegetables, 4 kinds in an appropriately sized box
2. Vegetables, 3 kinds of salad vegetables on a white plate
3. Soft fruit, a dish of 18 of 3 kinds
4. Gooseberries, dish of 10.
5. Rhubarb, 3 sticks
6. Peas, dish of 5 pods.
7. Broad beans, dish of 5 pods.
8. Runner beans, dish of 5 pods.
9. French beans, dish of 6 pods.
10. Carrots, bunch of 5.
11. Beetroot, 3 roots leaves trimmed and tied with raffia
12. Potatoes, dish of 5 any kind
13. Cabbage, 2 heads.
14. Lettuce, 2 heads.
15. Onions, 2
16. Tomatoes, dish of 3,
17. Tomatoes, dish of 5, small fruited variety
18. Cucumbers, 2
19. Courgettes, 3 with or without flowers
20. Herbs, bunch of 3 kinds, 9 stems
21. Any vegetable not mentioned above.
22. Novelty class: Ugliest Vegetable
23. Sweet peas, vase of 9 stems of one colour.
24. Sweet peas, vase of 9 stems, mixed colours.
25. Roses, 3 stems large headed type.
26. Roses, 3 stems spray or cluster flowered (Floribunda).
27. Roses, 1 stem of a scented rose (condition is not important)
28. Vase of "Red" growths
29. Vase of "White" growths
30. Vase of "Blue" growths
31. Flower grown from a bulb, 1 stem
32. Flowering shrub
33. Annuals, vase of 5 stems
34. Flowering perennials, 3 or more kinds, 9 stems.
35. Perennial, 1 stem for the
36. One flowering houseplant (must have been in owners possession for at least 6 months)
37. One foliage houseplant (must have been in owners possession for at least 6 months)
38. Fuchsia, 6 heads
39. Hosta, 5 leaves, cut and presented in a vase





Results of the Village Survey

Many thanks to everyone that took the time to complete the survey. The aim was to ascertain which facilities you use, like and would like to use in the future in the village, to enable the Parish Council to allocate our funds appropriately. I thoroughly enjoyed reading everyone's comments...some things we can change, some are beyond our control, but we'll certainly take on board what you've told us.

In total 98 responses were received (62 from online Survey Monkey; 36 from the printed questionnaires), which is fantastic. We are in the process of developing a brand new website, some of the comments received will be posted on there once it's completed.

Here are the top line take-outs:

The facilities that people used most on a regular basis: Bentley Stores (85%); footpaths (80%) then Playground/rec (70%). Little surprise that the Old Rec scored the lowest, with people not knowing where it is located (next to the alpaca field!).

The facilities that residents wanted to make better use of: Kingsmill Pavilion and the recreation ground were top of the list. Some suggested a cricket club (top answer), tennis courts, facilities for older children (skate park; basketball hoop). A café or coffee morning events in the Pavilion were suggested by a few and also for the Pavilion to be used by residents as well as the Scouts. Bentley Memorial Hall came next: a better selection of activities (not just the nursery) with requests for those activities to be better publicised.

The 3 amenities to be improved and how: Top 2 answers by a long way: the playground & rec and dog bins (particularly up by the church)! Sadly, EHDC have declined our recent request for more dog bins, so please ensure all waste is taken home. A wide range of suggestions for the rec: tennis courts and again activities for older children. The pond area, Pavilion and Memorial Hall received about the same number of responses. The majority of answers for the Pavilion suggested a priority upgrade or replacement building. We are discussing an upgrade of the Pavilion within the Parish Council and have also received quotes for repairing the cricket nets and cricket strip. If there are any keen volunteers to organise a village cricket team, the Parish Council are happy to invest in improving cricket facilities.

For the pond area, there were many answers requesting the continuation of good maintenance; to create a wildlife information board; 'it is sometimes overgrown'; 'remove metal railings'. Comments for the Memorial Hall included: 'better hiring facilities'; 'it is dated'; 'liked the café'.

Facilities currently engaged in: Top answers were Bentley fete and fireworks (75% of responses), then dog walking, then cycling.

If facilities improved residents would engage in: Top answer (69% of responses) tennis, then cricket.

Summary

- Playground & rec: tennis facilities and cricket team; facilities that older children can engage in.
- Kingsmill Pavilion: upgrade and to hold more social events beyond Scouts (generally residents requested more social events in the village)
- Pond area: appreciative of maintenance but sometimes overgrown
- Bentley Stores: excellent feedback (almost without exception), very happy with new owners and what has been done to it
- Old rec: not aware of it, or where it is
- Dog bins: more, more, more!
- More social events in the village (look out for our Platinum Jubilee Celebration in June)

So, if you're wanting to form a village cricket team or village club, it looks like Bentley residents will be more than happy to participate.

Please sign up to our Facebook account to receive regular village news and look out for our new website coming soon...

Emma Wadey

(Clerk & RFO for Bentley Parish Council)

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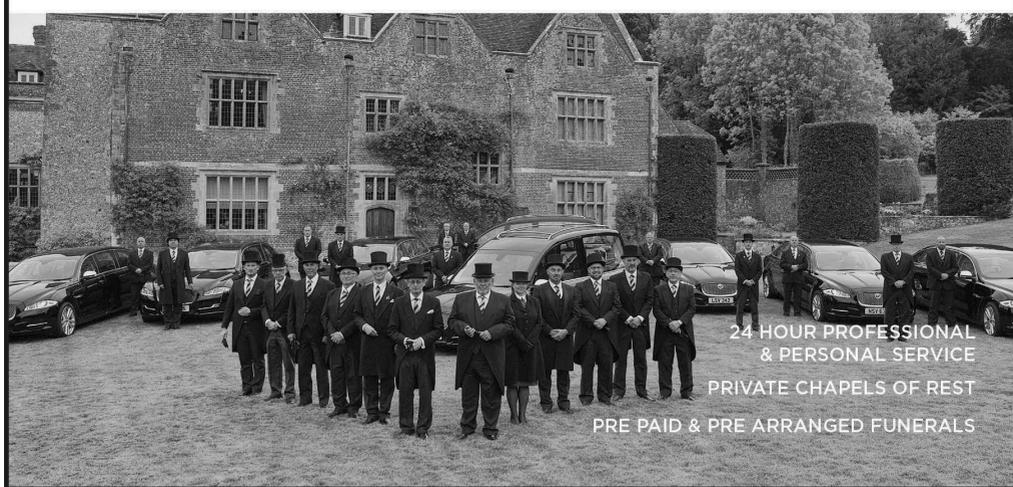
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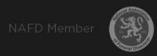


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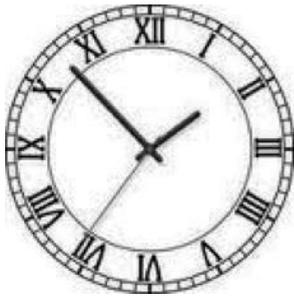


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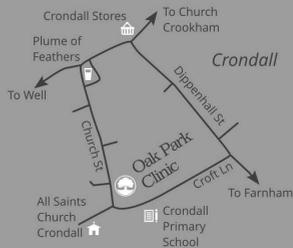
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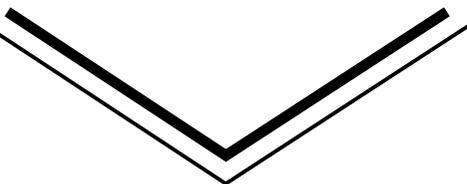
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Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913

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)

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2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

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The Wickham Institute

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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

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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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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

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Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby

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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)

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Chairman: Alice Cowie

February Services

We are continuing to provide online Sunday services on YouTube at 9:30am and weekday Thought for the Day videos at 6:30am.

6th February 9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
with Children's Church
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

13th February 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise
*Confirmation/Baptism Service with
Bishop David Williams*

20th February 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion

27th February 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
5pm Live@5 Big Praise

Please note that St Mary's Froyle is currently closed for rewiring and for lighting works until the end of March. We are aiming to reopen in April but in the mean-time, there are services available across the benefice, including online services on our YouTube channel, BenBinFro Churches.

If you are not receiving it already but would like to receive our weekly digital pew sheet, which includes church news, events and notices, please visit our website and follow the links to sign up.

