

MARCH 2022

BENTLEY & BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE



Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle: In Vacancy

Holy Cross Vicarage, Binsted, Alton, GU34 4NX

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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

Writing this on a bright frosty day under a blue sky, the future feels full of promise, yet right now many of us are facing uncertainty. And in times of uncertainty we all have a tendency to worry, even when we know we can't resolve our problems.

Over the next few months, our benefice faces change as our much-loved vicar Yann departs and we await his replacement. Should we be worrying about the changes this may bring or is it better to pray that the newcomer will embrace this beautiful area and its supportive congregation with enthusiasm?

At this very moment of writing, the Hampshire councillors who will consider the application to build an enormous incinerator in the rural Wey Valley are making a second site visit. However, this time they will also be touring significant viewpoints to appreciate the impact this development would have. Rather than simply worrying about the problem, campaigners have encouraged the council to embrace the opportunity to fully understand the development from all angles.

Also at this time, many of us are still anxious about Covid infections. And in fact right now, this particular author is suffering symptoms despite triple vaccinations. However, the reassurance of a negative test, confidence in the protection afforded by the vaccine and faith in a fairly strong immune system means there is little cause for serious concern.

So is there ever a day when most of us aren't worried about something or other? And even if we rationally consider the consequences aren't dire, can we stop ourselves fretting? Sometimes we can take practical steps to solve the problem, but if we can't do we find our minds constantly spiralling and returning to the issue, so that we end up in a greater state of anxiety?

There is a trend at present, to talk about 'manifesting', as a way of achieving a desired outcome, whether it be a job, a partnership or a lifestyle. But a tried and tested way of calming fears, real or otherwise, is to pray. Yes, we should apply our minds and hands to practical steps if we can, but we should still seek guidance and pray that we are making the right decisions.

In the months ahead, our benefice will be praying that the changes we are facing present an exciting opportunity to assess and invigorate our work here. Maybe we shall be presented with new ideas and approaches that will improve our worship and communication with our community. It may not always be easy and we may have some anxious moments, but we shall work together with faith, as it says in Matthew 28:20: *obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

An update from our Anna Chaplain

Having relatively recently celebrated Candlemas, it feels like a special time of year for Anna Chaplaincy – with the ministry named after the faithful older woman ‘Anna’ who lived, prayed, fasted and worshipped at the temple for such a large part of her life. At Candlemas we remember and celebrate the presentation of Jesus at the Temple when he was a little over a month old, but I think it’s also an important time to celebrate the very important part that older people play in our communities. Like Simeon and Anna, God cherishes and values each one of us. And no matter what stage of life we are at, God has important roles in mind for us all.

Anna Chaplaincy is a ministry focused on visiting older people wherever they may be living, whether in residential and nursing homes, sheltered housing, retirement complexes or other private homes. The emphasis is on nurturing spiritual support in its broadest sense (whether they have strong, little or no faith) and is focused on each person’s individual needs.

Importantly, visits at our two care homes remain closely regulated, but it is so good to be allowed back to visit old friends, and to continually meet new residents. We continue to lead monthly services at Bentley Lodge Care & Nursing Home and Pax Hill Care Home. At our March service, we’ll be leading another special service of reflection where we’ll be reflecting back over the last year of the pandemic, as we share the highs and lows together.

I’d like to thank our fantastic team of Anna Friends who continue to serve faithfully in this community: Liz Carey, Nick Carter, Steve Fice, Marilyn & Richard Greenway and Sarah Roberts.

If you know anyone who would appreciate a phone call or visit from myself or one of our Anna Friends, please get in touch.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6. 24-26)

With warmest wishes

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

Church Register

Bentley

Thursday 6th January Funeral of Mary Cole

Tuesday 18th January Cremation of Doreen Buxton

Binsted

Saturday 22nd January Wedding of Mark Rogerson and Camelia-Diana Beever

FINDING OUR NEW VICAR

After our farewell services on Sunday 27th February, filled with thanks and joy at what has been achieved and sadness at their departure, Yann, Hannah and their family have now left us for their new parish of Headley.

So, we're formally into the period of being without an incumbent vicar in the Benefice, known as an interregnum.

The Writing Group appointed by the PCCs worked hard throughout January and the Benefice Profile was approved at the formal Section 11 Meeting of the Joint Benefice PCC on Tuesday 1st February.

The next step is advertising the role, both on the Winchester Diocese website and in the vacancies section of the Church Times.

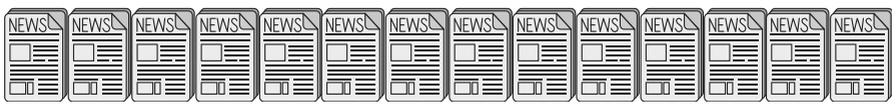
There have been further meetings of representatives from BenBinFro and Kingsley with Oakhanger as we progress the move towards incorporating the parish into our Benefice.

Please continue to hold the Benefice team your prayers.

Our pew sheets have turned **DIGITAL**



Scan the QR code to sign up to our pew sheet. You will receive weekly emails with church news, events and notices.



Worship Update

We had a wonderful Confirmation service on the 13th February with Bishop David; we were delighted to see Mike, Paul, Alfred and Max confirmed. These photos show our amazing worship and tech team busy in the service.

It has been great over the last few months building and working together as a team to provide a big and full sound in our worship at Live@5 – and for special events like Confirmation! We are also really looking forward to a special worship training day for our growing team in March.

As a part of our exciting growth, I have put together a proposal alongside other members of the tech team which was presented to and approved by Bentley PCC. This proposal outlined some exciting upgrades, including a new keyboard, new digital mixer and a semi-permanent sound booth, which will benefit not just the worship team, but everyone who comes to our services whether in the morning or at Live@5. I am excited to be able to start raising funds, but more information on that will come in April's parish magazine.

Thanks for your continued support!

Sam Ball

Pastoral Assistant (Worship)
sam@benbinfo.co.uk





Sunday 20th March
4-6pm
Wickham Institute, Binsted

We're really excited to be back in person! Join us for all age arts and crafts, activities, stories and songs.

Supper will be provided.

After this, our next Messy Church will be on the 15th May.



As we emerge from the pandemic restrictions, we realised we needed to rethink how Messy Church in Binsted might look in the coming months. Sadly, several people feel they are no longer going to be able to help us and our core team has shrunk considerably. We would love to be able to continue offering Messy Church in our community in the future.

Those who have attended or helped at Messy Church previously; our church congregation; parents of the children at our schools; placing this letter in the magazine and the website. If you are at all interested – please find out more by getting in touch with one or all of the people listed below.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey we sent out. We appreciated your input. After analysing the replies in the survey and discussing how best to restart Messy Church we have come up with some ideas.

We propose to hold Messy Church afternoons approximately twice per term, rather than every month.

The dates we have chosen till this mid-year are the 20th March, 15th May and 17th July.

We are going to move the location from Binsted School to the Wickham Institute. This will enable all the activities to be in one room and we will be able to provide more of a cooked meal for everyone at the end of the session. So our times will alter slightly to 4-6pm.

We need to regroup as a Team and establish who is able and willing to help. Help is needed in several areas, and we want to try to share the 'load' as much as possible. Several people indicated in the survey that they would be willing to help but since the survey was anonymous, we have no idea who you are! Please could



you now identify yourselves to Kathleen. It would be very helpful if you could think about whether you are willing to help regularly or occasionally? Would you be willing to think of a craft and organise the materials or would you rather just help on the day? We would like to offer age specific crafts and so include some older children with more complicated and challenging ideas. Suggested age ranges for crafts are up to 6 years of age, 6-10 and 10-12. Is there an age group that you would prefer working with? Perhaps helping with advertising; setting up; leading the time of singing and worship; telling a bible story; tidying afterwards or providing the meal is more appealing to you? Anyone who has attended or helped at a Messy Church afternoon is aware of how many people are involved.

We are excited about restarting Messy Church after so long and hope you might be interested in joining us.

From the Messy Church Team;

Nick Carter
(01420 489122 or
nick.carter1945@outlook.com)

Kathleen Digby
(07768 046153 or
kathleen.digby@talk21.com)

Kathy Ogilvie Thompson
(01420 23125 or kathyot1984@gmail.com)

Lent Lunches 2022

These will be offered from **12.30 to 2pm** on each of the **Thursdays** during Lent and are simple fare: home-made soup, bread & cheese. The host/ hostess chooses the charity to which the donations on the day will go.

Everyone welcome; and if anyone needs directions, please ring me.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

3rd March at Mill Court House, GU34 4F Kathy & Christopher Ogilvie Thompson 23125

10th March at Manor Farm, Wyck, GU34 3AH Kay & Andrew Hunter Johnston 544743

17th March at Malms House, Binsted Road, GU34 4NU Cathie & Mark Weldon 525276

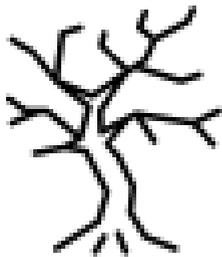
24th March at Knox Farmhouse, The Straits, GU35 9NS Nick & Rose Carter 489122

31st March at Sunnycroft, Binsted, GU34 4PF Susan & John Bourne 07957 160356

7th April in the Wickham Institute, Binsted Kathy Ogilvie Thompson. 23125

Any questions or directions to any of the venues:

Kathy Ogilvie Thompson 01402 23125
or 07710 623784 or kathyot1984@gmail.com



JUBILEE TREE

Churches across the nation have been encouraged to plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. We already have trees planted in our Binsted churchyard to commemorate the Silver (Oak) and Golden (Mulberry) Jubilees and it's lovely to be able to continue the tradition.

We have purchased a small rowan (mountain ash) sapling from a local re-wilding project and will be holding a short informal ceremony to plant it in our Binsted churchyard at 11:00 am on Wednesday 2nd March which perhaps appropriately is also Ash Wednesday.

We'd like to make this an event for the whole village so everyone is welcome to join us. The Wickham Institute Coffee Shop will also be open that morning, so why not gather there and enjoy tea/coffee and cake beforehand?

Stella Croom-Johnson

History at Bentley CE Primary School

As a school with our own rich history (and a building in Bentley built in 1842!) we are extremely passionate about having a rich and interesting history curriculum for our pupils.

We start with the child's own experiences in our Reception class, where children talk and think about their own timelines and the concept of time passing. In Key Stage 1 pupils are taught knowledge through specific contexts. For example, we teach about the Victorian era through the life of Florence Nightingale. By Key Stage 2 we tackle some much more concept based history topics such as 'empire', 'invaders' and 'law' across different periods of history. Chronology is taught to pupils as we follow sequences in history such as Stone Age to Roman invaders but also as they develop skills and knowledge to help them sequence events and periods in history.

We are very fortunate in having teachers who relish their work and love to get pupils immersed in thinking about history. This teaching is enhanced by lots of special experiences, which often stay with children for life! We borrow history boxes from local museums so children have opportunities to see and touch real artefacts. Children love our special dressing up days, where they experience aspects of life in a different time. We have super visitors into school

who share memories and special knowledge to bring alive past times.

We carefully plan school visits so our pupils can all enjoy the wealth of historical sites in our area. Pupils love finding out more about the local history of Bentley and our local residents, from Baden Powell to those commemorated in the War Memorial. The Infants are lucky enough to visit Arundel castle and the Sea City Museum. Our Juniors remember visits to the Watercress Line and Butser Ancient Farm, to name but a couple.

In our library we are fortunate to have a great resource of super history reference books for our pupils to enjoy. Children can read more about any era in history and particular favourite topics are the World Wars and Henry VIII. Pupils also enjoy autobiographic books about famous people in history and novels based in different times too.

It can sometimes be a little disheartening to know times we adults consider to be relatively 'recent' are now considered the 'olden days' by our savvy young learners. If you have never experienced the mystified face of a



child looking at a CD, or even a camera, I can tell you it is somewhat aging...!

Pupils often tell governors about these experiences and we know they develop a true appreciation for the subject of history over their years at Bentley. If you are reading this article and have

a special interest, archive or idea which might enrich our learning then we would love to hear from you! Please do get in touch with our school office at adminoffice@bentley.hants.sch.uk to benefit future historians in the making.



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

An update from Oak Class, Binsted School

Oak Class is the youngest class at Binsted School. We have 14 Reception children and 7 Year 1 children in our class. We have had a busy Spring term so far! The great joy for the Early Years teachers is that we can be led by our children's interests, so this half term we have set up a Dinosaur Museum as we have lots of budding palaeontologists in our class. The children have been able to hunt for dinosaur bones, make salt dough dinosaur fossils and sell tickets at the museum counter. We have also been exploring 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and having fun in the swishy grass and squelchy mud. The Year 1s have re-written the story with some help from 'Grandma Fantastic's ambitious words that she teaches us each lesson. The finale of all this, is the creation of our own class story, 'We're Going on Dinosaur Hunt!' This has included some of our work in Geography exploring our local area and also our work in Science on everyday materials and of course some Maths too! The children in Oak Class are busy learning through fun every day. We can't wait for the arrival of Spring (hopefully at about the time this article is printed) as we will be spending

lots of time in our vegetable and herb garden growing goodies that we are planning to serve with home-made bread later in the year. We will keep you updated with our progress and will share some pictures of our final produce later in the year. Our new topic chosen by the children is super heroes and we are planning on talking about how we are all unique and have our own super powers and we will be reading the 'Super Tato' series of books, 'Super worm' and 'Traction Man' as well as the more traditional super hero stories too.

For all of us in Oak Class, Yann has been a very special person. As well as being a regular visitor to school, Yann has also baptised a number of our class and he has married one set of parents. We will all miss him, Hannah, Sophie, Toby, Max and of course Scooby and we wish them all the very best in their next adventure. We always take a picture at the beginning and end of the children's time in Oak Class as we know that they start as small acorns and grow so much in their time with us. Yann has been part of that growth for years now and we thank him so much for that.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

DO YOU HAVE JUST A FEW HOURS TO SPARE?

BINSTED BENTLEY & FROYLE CARE GROUP

The Binsted Bentley & Froyle Care Group provides a Car Service that takes local residents to GPs, hospitals, dentists & opticians appointments. The service operates from Monday to Friday and can be for local appointments to Alton, Bentley & Farnham, or further afield Basingstoke & Guildford etc.

The service relies entirely on volunteers and we really need more volunteers!!

The volunteers act either as coordinators - who take calls from clients and arrange the transport to meet their requirements; or as drivers who take the clients to their appointments. There is no regular commitment required, when asked you simply offer to help when you can, even if this is only two or three times a year. You can choose to do either the short or the longer journeys.

Expenses are paid to all volunteers - telephone expenses for coordinators and a mileage expenses for drivers.

The help the car service gives to those in need is greatly appreciated, so if you feel able to volunteer, in any capacity, no matter how little time you have available, it is a great way of supporting your community.

Please contact Ellen Saunders on 01410 520679 if you can help.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

BINSTED BENTLEY & FROYLE CARE GROUP
CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

The Binsted Bentley & Froyle Care Group telephone number for making bookings with the car service will in future be:

07775 458873

This change will take place on 1 March 2022.

Any other queries should be addressed to the Secretary, Ellen Saunders, on:

01420 590697

News from Bentley Parish Council



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

A huge thank you to Vice-Chairman Patric Curwen

Patric Curwen has given Bentley Parish Council 8 years of truly outstanding service and is finally stepping down. A truly honourable and conscientious man, Patric took the Chairman's seat for 3 years as well as the Vice-Chairman's, and could also be found traipsing the countryside as our Footpaths Officer.

Always the first to volunteer his time, his commitment to the village is much appreciated. Patric's enthusiasm, support and groan-worthy jokes will be much missed at our parish council meetings.



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

Make a difference in your community!

Your village needs YOU!



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2022

If you are interested in your local community and would like to help improve and protect it for the future, why not become a Bentley Parish Councillor?

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

- Attained the age of eighteen years and -
- Be on the electoral role for Bentley.
- Be a Commonwealth Citizen.

And meet with one of the following below:

- Have occupied as owner or tenant, land or premises in Bentley for at least 12 months.
- Have worked in Bentley for at least 12 months.
- Reside in Bentley or within 3 miles of the parish for at least 12 months.

You must be free to attend 10 parish meetings a year, which are held on the second Monday evening x1/month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

For more details and information on how to apply, please contact the Clerk on: 07795 326539 or email to clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Emma Wadey

(Clerk & RFO for Bentley Parish Council)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

@bentleyparishcouncil

@bentley_parish_council

clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

www.bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk



Signs of new life. Spring is on the way!

Spring is a glorious time. After the cold and dark of winter, signs of new life bring us hope and cheer; and more light and warmth encourage us to get outside, and to start the new projects we need to tackle. The parish council is no exception to this, with plenty to do!

New hedge at Blacknest Fields

During February, we've been busy at the council's Blacknest Fields site, taking the first steps to develop it as a place for nature recovery and low-key community greenspace. The parish council was delighted to win a grant from the Tree Council's 'Branching Out' Fund, for a 70 metre new hedge for Blacknest. This has now been planted, thanks to the sterling efforts of our local tree warden and the energetic families who got involved in the Half Term community planting days, organised by Binsted Eco Network. Well done to all involved.

Pollinator plants for Binsted Recreation Ground

In March, we'll tackle our next outdoors project. We're adding some pollinator-friendly, low-maintenance plants to the grassy bank at the entrance to the Binsted Recreation Ground carpark. We hope this will help local wildlife, as well as looking pretty.

New Deputy Clerk

Other exciting news is that, from 28 February, our council team will have two Lisas!

Lisa Spindler, our existing Parish Clerk, is being joined by Lisa Tilston, our new part-time financial officer / deputy clerk. We're delighted to welcome Lisa T to the team!

Platinum Jubilee Plans

As well as the various BBQs and hogroasts that communities are organising for their immediate neighbourhoods, enthusiasm is being expressed to hold an 'open-to-all' community event at Binsted Rec – but this won't happen unless people come forward to organise it! (As this article goes to press, no-one has yet stepped forward ... although hopefully this situation may have changed by the time you read this article?) There have also been interesting suggestions for commemorative tree planting; lighting a beacon; and developing a local history initiative. Keep an eye on the parish council's jubilee webpage, www.binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/jubilee for details - and if you are holding a local jubilee event that you want to publicise on this webpage, do send the details to Lisa Spindler, our Parish Clerk, at clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

And - save the date! - Binsted's Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday 6 April, 19:30.

Parish councils are required by law to hold an annual parish meeting, to give all residents the chance to have their say about parish matters. All parish residents are invited to attend. This is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when local councils did not exist, and all local decision-making was carried out by meetings of the whole community.

Due to the pandemic, Binsted didn't hold an annual parish meeting in 2020 or 2021. So it'll be particularly good to get the community together this year. Full details of the agenda and topics will be in the next Parish Magazine.

Alison Melvin
Chair, Binsted Parish Council

Bentley Community Association

Presents

West Side Story

Spielberg 2021 version



Friday 25th March *

At the Memorial Hall, tickets £7.00

Doors/bar open 7.15.

Film starts at 8pm

For tickets please contact

Glyn Barfoot 01420 23068

Or email: bentleybees@btinternet.com

or buy tickets at the door

***Subject to license release date**

History A-Level student makes historic find

Further to our Parish Magazine request last June, my son and I were very kindly invited by Michael Seigne to search a local paddock in Binsted with our metal detectors, quite incredibly my son found a huge Roman coin called a Sestertius of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. He was over the moon and has now recorded it on the national database for historic finds.

We are still keen to search new land in the area, from small paddocks to arable fields. My son is intending to study ancient history with archeology at University next year and his hobby gives him a fantastic connection with the subject. Any offer of land to search would be enormously appreciated.

John Lynes jlynes1971@gmail.com | 07414 891222

Springtime – which means it's nearly cricket time

I love this time of year. After the cold and dark of winter, the days are getting lighter and longer and the world is turning green again. That means work can start on the cricket square soon, to get it in shape for the season! The same should apply to the players ideally, but commitment varies enormously. I, for one, took on a very unusual shape over Christmas, and I still haven't managed to shift it, despite my continuing commitment to brisk walks all the way down the street to the Binsted Inn and back. Thankfully we still have time...

Perhaps the winter cricket practice will help. We have started net sessions at Weydon School every Tuesday evening between 7-8pm. If you fancy a go, you can either just turn up to the sports hall there or drop me a line if you would like

details. As always with Binsted CC, age and ability need not be excuses and everyone is welcome. The last session at Weydon is on 12 April, and we then move outdoors to practice on the Rec instead. Based on last year's performances, if you turn up you should anticipate A LOT of catching practice.

In terms of matches for the coming season, the fixture list is now set and we've shared a copy so you can see what we are up to and when. We have plenty of games at our own beautiful Rec and quite a few away games too at some really lovely grounds around Hampshire and Surrey. Even a long-weekend tour to Brighton in July. Supporters are always welcome at our games. Revered in fact – we've only ever had two. Yet our batsmen really thrive on heckling. So please – come along one day and have a laugh in the sunshine – we guarantee to put on the most excellent comedy for you.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring. Enjoy!



Binsted CC

Senior fixtures 2022

Date	Versus	Venue	Time
23 April 2022 (Saturday)	Headley CC	Away	1.00pm
1 May 2022	Tilford CC	Away	1.00pm
8 May 2022	Hawley CC	Home	2.00pm
15 May 2022	Brook CC	Away	1.30pm
22 May 2022	Rowledge Casuals CC	Home	2.00pm
29 May 2022	NO GAME (BH weekend)		
5 June 2022	Irascibles	Home	2.00pm
12 June 2022	Lord Wandsworth College (Staff XI)	Away	1.00pm
19 June 2022	Medstead CC	Away	2.00pm
26 June 2022	Vagabonds CC	Home	1.00pm
3 July 2022	Herriard CC	Away	1.30pm
10 July 2022	NO GAME (pre-tour recovery)		
15-17 July 2022	BCC CRICKET (GOLF) TOUR	Brighton	
24 July 2022	Fairlands CC	Home	2.00pm
31 July 2022	Lynchmere CC	Home	2.00pm
7 August 2022	Grayswood CC	Away	1.00pm
14 August 2022	Wood Street Village CC	Away	2.00pm
21 August 2022	NO GAME		
28 August 2022	Geoff Thorne XI	Home	11.00am
4 September 2022	Rowledge Casuals CC	Away	2.00pm
11 September 2022	Cron dall CC	Away	1.00pm
Binsted Cricket Club	Captain: Paul Knight (07955 374974)		
The Recreation Ground	Secretary: Ben Krempel (07907 247117)		
The Street	Website: https://binsted.play-cricket.com/home		
Binsted			
Hampshire GU34 4PB	The Rec is opposite the Binsted Inn - the only pub in the village!		

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)

Continues until 19th March. In the Main Exhibition area. FREE

Through Olly's Eyes

(till 27th March)



Olly Coulson is a local disabled artist. At the age of 8, he was involved in an accident where he was knocked off a bike and suffered a brain injury that has left with him with physical difficulties that include not being able to write with his dominant right hand, not being able to walk properly and mental and emotional issues.

Olly's passion for art started at Treloar's School and College and has been further enhanced by being an active member of Creative Response, Artscape, Art Venture, Art Invisible and Outside In. Olly has had pieces exhibited at Flora Twort Museum, Fabrica, Pallant House and Piano Noble Gallery (in conjunction with Outside In).

Olly has developed a love of creating Mer-people (Mermaids and Mermen), portraits, scenic landscapes, and using driftwood, sweet wrappers and other recycled materials. This exhibition showcases some of Olly's vibrant two dimensional work. In the Café area. FREE

TALK

Mud Larking on the Thames Foreshore

A talk by **Simon Moore** on his adventures scavenging in river mud.

Mudlark was the term used for people who scavenged for items of value in this way during the late 18th and the 19th Century. There are still mudlarks today, but more interested in the historic value of their finds.

Thursday 10th March, 7.30 pm. FREE, donations gratefully received.

Please phone 01420 82802 or see our websites for the most up-to-date news on events

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Luminosa Celebrates 12 Fabulous Years with a Tribute to Women Composers

Luminosa Voices have extra spring in their step and joy in their voices this Easter as they celebrate their twelfth anniversary, two years later than scheduled, with a concert on 2nd April at the magnificent All Saints Church, Odiham. The evening will showcase music from composers who have all drawn on inspirations from the past for their text.

At the heart of the programme, the Choir is honoured and excited to be performing the large-scale Da Vinci Requiem which was

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**CECILIA MCDOWALL
DA VINCI REQUIEM**

**Vaughan Williams
5 Mystical Songs**

World premiere of
Alison Willis 'Salve Deus'

All Saints Church, Odiham, RG29 9ND
Saturday 2 April 2022 at 7.30pm
Concert to include a talk by award-winning composer
Cecilia McDowall on her 'Da Vinci Requiem'

Conductor: Stephen Cleobury
Organist: Michael Morgan
Soprano: Sarah Cleary
Rochester: Stuart Green

Tickets: £15 (under 12s - £5)

Tickets available from info@luminosachoirs.com
or Ticket Source www.luminosachoirs.com

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composed by Cecilia McDowall for the 500-year anniversary of the artist's death in 2019. It has been performed only once before in

the UK, in the same year at its premiere in May at the Royal Festival Hall, London by Wimbledon Choral Society, under the baton of Neil Ferris. Composed from Leonardo's Notebooks and his reflective and penetrating insights into the nature of mortality, this work sheds new light on familiar requiem texts through its palette of light and shade and textural detail. The composer's distinctive fusion of fluent, melodic lines with occasional dissonant harmonies and rhythmic exuberance speaks directly to listeners, instrumentalists and singers alike. The piece is powerfully communicative and will be conducted by Rebekah Abbott, Artistic Director of Luminosa, and accompanied by Michael Higgins at the wonderful Odiham organ and a beautiful grand piano, hired especially for the concert. The evening will be enhanced by a rare and thrilling opportunity to hear an illuminating talk by world famous composer, Cecilia McDowall, about the links to Leonardo Da Vinci within this work, the composition process and about the composer herself.

Also in the programme is Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs, based on the devotional poetry of the seventeenth century Welsh-born poet and Anglican priest, George Herbert. The work is a fitting musical prelude to Easter: opening with simple, direct, intrinsic spirituality and finishing with the majestic Antiphon, "Let all the World in Every Corner Sing". Stuart Orme is the Baritone soloist who will join Luminosa for this performance.

Luminosa is also delighted to have commissioned a new work, *Salve Deus, Rex Judaeorum*, an impassioned portrayal of the Easter Cantata, by composer Alison Willis. Alison has breathed musical life into

the work of Aemilia Lanyer (1569–1645), one of the first Englishwomen to publish a volume of original verse at a time when there was still suspicion of women's work in print. Both Rebekah and Alison fell in love with the honesty in her writing. The poem is a daring version of the story of Christ, told from a female perspective. The cantata takes as its focus Pilate's wife who, according to Matthew 27.19, tried to dissuade her husband from ordering Christ's death. This moving and compelling piece is a synthesis of choral clarity, striking chords and harmony. Its composer, Alison Willis, is already a feted musician, having composed *Non Omnis Moriar* for the BBC Singers and *A Light Not Yet Ready to Go Out* for the London Concert Choir, raising awareness of, and money for, Breast Cancer Now.

With robust direction by Artistic Director and Conductor, Rebekah Abbott, the addition of high-quality instrumentalists and soloists, and motivated by a shared philosophy of outstanding collective music-making, the Choir has enjoyed consistently enthusiastic responses from audiences over twelve successful years. Luminosa looks forward to performing these vibrant pieces at Easter, with its focus on spiritual celebration and human growth, in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday 2nd April. Doors open at 6.30pm for the concert at 7.30pm.

Luminosa is grateful for the sponsorship of Hattingley Valley Wines which enables them to offer tickets at just £15 for adults (under 12s-£5), available on Ticket Source www.luminosamusic.com from January 22nd. More information can be found on the Choir's website www.luminosamusic.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Author of the month: James D G Dunn

James (“Jimmy”) Dunn was a British New Testament scholar. He was for many years Professor of Divinity in the University of Durham, and the author of many books.

Book of the month:

“Romans: The People’s Bible Commentary, A Bible Commentary For Every Day”, Publisher: The Bible Reading Fellowship, 2001, paperback, 208 pages.

At the time of writing, very good copies are available from www.bookfinder.com from £2.85 including postage and packing.

Jimmy Dunn writes that Paul’s letter to the Christians in Rome is probably the single most important letter ever written by a Christian. As an explanation of the Christian faith, it is arguably the most important Christian document of all time.

Whether you are new to reading the Bible, or have been doing so for years, the book contains lots to encourage, enlighten and inspire. It is about the generous character of God’s dealings with human beings, and about Paul’s wish for his readers to experience both the peace of God and the grace which Jesus showed people so fully.

The book makes clear that a central Christian insight into God is that

God has revealed himself through Christ, and that God’s character as Father has been given the clearest definition by the character of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

Whatever you may have previously thought about Romans, everyone has the opportunity to decide which chapter they find most helpful. In particular, one study expresses Jimmy Dunn’s summary of “the nearest thing we have in the New Testament to a definition of a Christian”.

And if you’ve never quite understood what the Holy Spirit is, you may find some of the writing a real eye-opener.

Happy reading!

JANUARY 2022 WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum 15.0°C (1st) to 3.6°C (25th)
Only 9 days above 10°C

Nighttime minimum - 6.9°C (6th) to 9.1°C (19th)
14 nights below 0°C



Rainfall



Total for month 0.56 inches (14.2 mm) over 18 days

Wettest days 0.19 inches (4.8 mm) (8th)



Wind



Dominant wind direction South West

Maximum gust 27 mph (31st)

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 March draw of the Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are:

MARCH 2022

1st Prize Julie Hawkins

2nd Prize Chris Holmes

3rd Prize Bill & Chris Whitfield

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS ARE BACK!

We are pleased to confirm that we will have our first monthly meeting of 2022 on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 8pm as usual in the Memorial Hall Denis Smith Room. Our speaker will be Nigel Choat who will talk to us about the flora and fauna of the Pyrenees.

At this meeting, we will be running the “outdoor flower of the month” competition as well as hopefully having our usual raffle.

We are planning to hold our regular Spring Show at our meeting on Tuesday 5th April 2022. In case you have not kept the last Membership card that was issued in 2020, which had the schedule of classes on it, we shall have copies of the schedule of classes for you at our March meeting.

The committee hope to see as many of you as possible on the 1st March and visitors are more than welcome to attend.

SATURDAY CAFÉ



Please join us on Saturdays at

Bentley Memorial Hall

10.30am – 12.30pm



Coffee, croissants, cakes and chatter

Tell your friends and neighbours, the more the merrier.

We look forward to seeing you particularly as Spring is approaching and we all want to get together more...



Bud burst

The countryside round here changes its appearance through the seasons as so many of our trees adapt to the annual cycle of climate. The most apparent change is the shedding of leaves in the autumn and the emergence of new replacements in spring. Every species of deciduous tree has its own timetable. They all have their own triggers for **bud burst**.

The simplest explanation for this is that leaves are the power source for turning sunlight (plus water) into sustenance but the leaves themselves consume some energy just to keep functioning and, when the sunlight is in short supply, it is better to shut down completely and wait for better times. It follows that leaves should emerge first, as the days get longer, and provide the energy to produce flowers. But, no, some species, such as witch hazel, opt to produce flowers first, and then leaves. This gets 'first dibs' on attention from pollinators but requires a reserve of last year's energy to be stored through the winter to 'feed' the flowers' growth.

Just as there are early risers, so there are also slowcoaches, notably ash, which can have us wondering if they are ever going to get started.

Of course, the buds themselves are formed in the autumn, as miniaturised capsules for what will emerge when the time comes.

A bud contains the embryonic shoot, the new twig, and a predetermined number of leaves (usually 5-20 but willows can have up to 50) and often flowers as well. Buds normally occur in the leaf axil above the scar of a previous leaf or at the tip of the twig. Consequently the distribution of buds on the twig is identical to that of the leaves,

which can be alternate, or in opposite pairs, or whorled (spiralling). There are far fewer species of tree or shrub with opposite buds than those with alternate buds, and fewer again with whorled buds.

Most species have some buds which contain both leaf and flower parts, but there are exceptions. Flower buds are usually much larger and can have a different shape to the leaf buds. Magnolias and elms are examples of this. Since a leaf bud actually contains many leaves and a twig it should really be called a foliage bud. Likewise flower buds usually contain several flowers.

The size of a bud is no indicator of the size of the leaves that will emerge. An extreme exception is the *Catalpa* or Indian bean tree, with enormous leaves and sprays of flowers emerging from quite small buds.

There are other variations, such as shape, protective covering, stalk/no stalk, so that it is possible to identify pretty much any species, even in the depths of winter, by examining the new twigs.

As our climate changes the trees' timetable will change. Presumably we can expect that leaves and flowers will appear earlier and that leaves, in particular, will hang on longer. We have to hope it never reaches the stage that we altogether lose the annual starter gun that is bud burst.

WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way network

During January and February, we have been getting out and about on the footpaths and bridleways of Binsted Parish, cutting back the vegetation that has been springing up after the unseasonably warm weather that we have had – anyone could think that Spring had already arrived. We have also been keeping a watchful eye on the waymarking of many paths, listening to the experiences of landowners, so that we can add or improve signposting at junctions and turnings where walkers and riders regularly go “off piste”. There is also a focus on improving accessibility, by removing unnecessary gates and stiles, or replacing them with kissing gates.

The long period of mainly dry weather in the last couple of months has meant that most of the Parish rights of way have dried out after 2021's wet summer and autumn and are a pleasure to walk on again. There are of course the “usual suspects”, usually close to the Alice Holt Forest, where wellies are still de rigueur. We are doing our best to persuade Forestry England to help us improve the quality of these paths, in conjunction with Hampshire Countryside Services. Wish us luck!

In February, a small group of volunteers joined our Community Ranger, Lou, in Bucks Horn Oak to work on Footpath 44 for a second time. The re-surfacing work that we had done in late 2021 has weathered nicely and now blends in perfectly. More experienced this time, we made really good progress with re-surfacing several areas of the path which had become rutted and muddy over the last few years. During the four hours or so that we spent working on the Footpath, it was nice to be passed time after time by dogwalkers, runners, cyclists in small groups and, at one point, a group of about thirty ramblers. It certainly made the work seem worthwhile, as most of them thanked us as they moved past.

There are various sets of steps on footpaths around the parish. These can become particularly treacherous after long periods of wet weather, and we have arranged a number of work parties in the past to address the issues on some of our paths. In the first few months of this year, we have been tackling the steps on Footpath 16a, where they descend Reynolds Hanger, between Wheatley and The Straits. There was also a plan to tackle the steep steps on Footpath 37 at Riverhill Farm.

Alton Walking Festival

Now in its tenth year, Alton's Walking Festival will be taking place over the whole month of May 2022. It will host over 100 walks of all varieties, led by knowledgeable volunteer walk leaders, and will offer an extensive programme of routes to suit all abilities. A number of these walks will be in our Parish and will be led by volunteers from our Rights of Way group. Overall, there are shorter strolls, day long hikes and themed walks, including Foraging, Nordic Poles, Bat Walks, Challenges and Town Walks – truly something for everyone.

You can register your interest on Walk Alton's website now and book spaces on the various walks from early March.





**BINSTED
ECO
NETWORK**

Taking stock... as Binsted Eco Network celebrates its second birthday

As Binsted Eco Network reaches its second birthday, it's timely to take stock of what we're achieving. And to plan for the future.

The goal for setting up Binsted Eco Network was to enable like-minded people in the villages and hamlets between Alton and Farnham to meet, share information, and take climate action.

It's been uplifting to discover that our area is richly blessed with people who care deeply about the state of the planet. Many are incredibly knowledgeable, giving us access to an amazing breadth of local expertise, on subjects from wildlife to food, water quality, plastics, EVs, insulation, and much else besides. It was a surprise that, even during the deepest lockdown, many great local events still took place (on zoom where necessary), organised by determined volunteers who find practical ways around problems, and share their knowledge generously, without lecturing or condescension.

The number of people subscribing to our newsletter continues to grow, and we often get some lovely feedback, which is great. Publishing it fortnightly means we can be agile - we can list local events that aren't finalised sufficiently in advance to feature in the parish magazine. There's also never a shortage of intriguing topics to write about. There are just so many opportunities to do things differently, without the future 'having' to be worse than the present.

The stop-start nature of the pandemic has of course made it challenging to establish a programme of regular meetings. Zoom was a godsend, but no one wants to spend their whole life on Zoom calls! Whenever we could, we've met on the First Friday of the month -

mostly for informal coffees, and sometimes for workshops.

Despite these limitations, we're making good progress with various projects. We're seeing particular progress with our 'Green Ribbons' project, launched last November to encourage the local planting of new trees, hedges and wildflower patches. New trees and hedges are going in all over the place! Do let us know if you have planted any, so we can include yours on the parish planting map. Tree Warden Ben's tree 'orphanage' is also proving popular - email binstedtrees@gmail.com if you want to see the list of free saplings that are available to anyone able to give them a good home, or to donate unwanted saplings from your own garden.

What's next? We want even more people to join in! We're still meeting on the 'First Friday' of the month for coffee. **Our next 'First Friday' meeting will be on 4 March, 10:00-12:00.** We're also organising a **'Green Drinks' evening at the Binsted Inn: 10 March from 19:30** (Omicron having put paid to January's attempt to arrange this!) Email us on binstedeconetwork@gmail.com if you would like to join either of these events - you're assured of a friendly welcome. **We're also going to continue to publish our free newsletter each fortnight.** Do get in touch (on the same email) if you want to be added to the distribution list.

Going forward, we feel that connection, inclusion, creativity and celebration are the things that matter: Feeling at home in our own skin, having meaningful relationships, and being friendly with our neighbours. Creating things that feel like they matter, with like-minded people. Being in natural environments, caring for living things. These are the things that help us sleep at night.



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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the February 2022 draws:

February 2022

1st prize Dennis Smith

2nd prize Mark Walden

3rd prize Sam Barrow

Details of the March 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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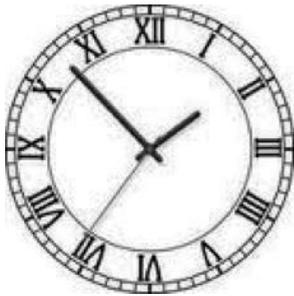


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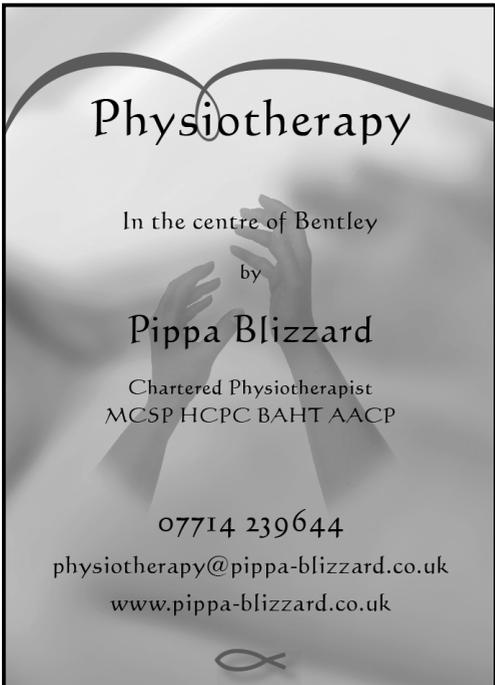
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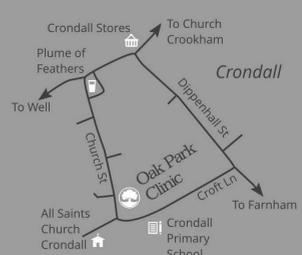


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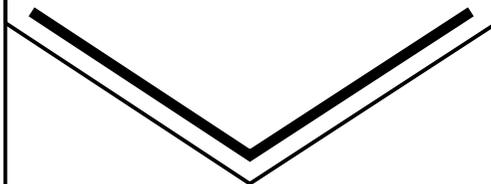
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Website: www.bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

The Memorial Hall

(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

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: 07775 458873

Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

Lucy Yendell 01420 80560

2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk 07974377736

www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

BINSTED

Website: binstedparishcouncil.com

The Wickham Institute

Chairman: Catherine Hadfield 01420 23146

Bookings: Ann Mann 01420 22388

email: annmann074@btinternet.com

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk

Treasurer: Andrew Croom Johnson - 23157

County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee - 01420

563550, email - marknkempgee@aol.com

District Council

Ken Carter, Brookfield, Station Road,

Bentley GU10 5LA. 01420 22576

Email ken.carter@easthants.gov.uk,

David Ashcroft, 07966 511 868.

Email DavidAshcroft@easthants.gov.uk,

Parish Council

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

binstedparishcouncil.org.uk, 07851 677 057

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

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Clerk Lisa Spindler

Tel: 01420 520692 Mobile: 07483 310631

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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](https://www.facebook.com/FOBSBinsted) 01420 23200 or

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

Chairman: Alice Cowie

March Services

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

2nd March 6:30pm Binsted Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

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

13th March 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise

20th March 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
4pm Messy Church

27th March 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
5pm Live@5 YumYum

Please note that St Mary's Froyle is currently closed for rewiring and for lighting works. We are aiming to reopen in mid-May 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, or use the QR code in the magazine.

