

MAY 2022

BENTLEY & BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE



Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle: In Vacancy

Holy Cross Vicarage, Binsted, Alton, GU34 4NX

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

Dear All

It may well be that by the time this issue of the magazine is printed and distributed at the end of April, there will be good news about Ukraine. Although the people of that nation will be dealing with the consequences of this destructive conflict for many years, we are all praying for a speedy resolution to this unjust war.

When all seems hopeless, it is natural to look around for wise words of advice. And this quote from Mahatma Gandhi, seem appropriate at this distressing time: ‘When I despair, I remember that through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it – always.’

That may not be immensely comforting to those currently suffering terrible privation in that war-torn country, but it reminds us that violence and oppression will not last and eventually good sense will win. From a distance, the ordinary people of our benefice cannot directly influence the outcome of this awful crisis, but we can give our support in prayer, financially and by offering appropriate donations of goods and even accommodation where it is needed. As always, the residents of our villages have been quick to respond with practical help and fund-raising, demonstrating yet again how much good there is in society as a whole.

But when we are faced with such devastating news day after day, even though it is far away and we are not immediately affected by the consequences, how do we maintain our mental strength and confidence that peace will eventually reign supreme? Those of us who pray will of course find reassurance in that activity, but others may find it helpful to increase their awareness of the joy all around us; it may be the shimmering of tadpoles in the garden pond, the scattering of primroses on a grassy verge or the swooping pattern of a murmuration of starlings. We just need to walk mindfully and see it, and sense it, and be with it.

Soon, summer will be here, gardens will open again, we shall be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and all of us will have the chance to experience joy in our community and in our country. Hopefully Ukrainians will also soon be able to rejoice in a lasting peace and rebuild their shattered cities. For, ‘How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!’ - II Samuel ch.12,v.3.

The Benefice Team

Youth Update

Spring has sprung and Easter came and went very quickly! Easter is just as busy for the Church as Christmas so there was a lot going on for our church families, children and young people. There was many an Easter Egg Hunt and lots of crafty activities to keep the children going through the holidays.

In Froyle, we had a craft morning, making Easter gardens out of soil, rocks, moss and plant pots and it was a joy to meet and share the Easter story together.

Our teenagers also got a treat as we teamed up with the United Youth team again to put on a brilliant Good Friday event. We started the evening with pizza (which is a must for youth groups!) and had fire pits acting as stations of the cross and all the teenagers enjoyed a brilliant craft involving hammers, nails and thread. We worshipped together and reflected on the Easter story, before ending the evening with some more worship and looking ahead to the hope of Easter Sunday.

We had a busy April, but May also holds some exciting activities! We are looking forward to the Big Sleep Out on the 13th May. This is a brilliant event where we collect cardboard and build our own shelters in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral before sleeping out for the night

to raise money and awareness for Trinity Winchester, a homelessness charity. Last year we weren't able to take part properly due to covid so we slept out in Bentley churchyard. However, this year we are particularly excited to go to Winchester and get the full experience. The youth group were so amazed and thankful for the generosity of everyone who sponsored them last year, and we ask for that amazing generosity again. If you would like to support our young people, we would love to take any large cardboard boxes off your hands, or if you would like to donate to Trinity Winchester, please visit the website below. Thank you!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/unitedyouth2022>

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

Church Register

Bentley

4th March Interment of Ashes of Peter Brown

11th March Wedding of Sophie Johnson and Thomas Knight

Binsted

7th March Cremation of Glenys Wall

HELP FOR UKRAINE

A massive thank you to everyone who responded to the request for clothes, bedding, blankets and personal hygiene items for those affected by the war in Ukraine. Both we and Astra Recycling who we partnered with on this initiative were bowled over by your generous response in such a short time. It took three people over 30 minutes to load the van with all the items and as you can see from the photo below our donations practically filled this.

We are happy to report that these were sent to a distribution centre in Lviv in Western Ukraine and from there have been shipped to Kharkiv and Kiev with some waiting outside the currently besieged city of Mariupol in the hope that humanitarian aid will soon be allowed in.

We were also delighted to learn that the family of Astra Recycling's Managing Director Dimitry have arrived in the UK from the Ukraine to join him here.



Astra Recycling and the BenBinFro Team



COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH EAST WIN- DOW APPEAL



Do YOU live in Binsted Parish?

Do YOU love our wonderful East Window?

Are YOU free on the morning of Wednesday 11th May?

In last month's magazine we highlighted how our wonderful East Window behind the altar needs professional restoration which will not be cheap. To help us raise funds for this the proceeds of the Wickham Institute coffee morning on Wednesday 11th May will go towards the restoration of the window.

Please support this initiative and help us to repair our East Window whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious home made cakes.

If you would like to contribute but can't come to the coffee morning (or coffee mornings just aren't your thing) please either scan the QR code in this article or contact our treasurer Andrew Croom-Johnson (binstedtreasurer@benbinfro.org) who will let you know the various ways you can donate.



Benefice Update

Thank you for your prayers over the last few weeks for the interviews in the search of our new Rector. While we had 3 very capable candidates on the 6th and 7th of April, the interview panel, which included Bishop David and the Archdeacon of Surrey, came to the decision that none of the candidates were the right fit for us. The good news is (at the time of writing) that there are some potential Bishop's candidates coming forward, with a potential interview date at the end of April. We will continue to update you on the progress, but please keep all of those involved in your prayers as we seek God's plan for BenBinFro, Kingsley & Oakhanger, and whoever our new Rector will be.

The Benefice Team

STORM DAMAGE TO HOLY CROSS CHURCH BINSTED



(Picture by Sue Beyfus)

Many of you will already be aware that Holy Cross Church suffered quite a lot of damage in the February storms and will be wondering when the work to repair the damage will start.

The most obvious external damage is to the roof between the porch and the bell tower and it was

originally thought that this was the only area affected. However, it later became apparent that the area between the porch and the Lady Chapel has also been affected and there is evidence of water damage on the ceiling above this area as well as above the font and by the bell tower. Please respect the tape cordoning off the affected areas which has been put there to ensure everyone's safety.

We are talking to the insurance company to get things moving as fast as possible and a visit from the loss adjuster is scheduled for 13th April.

At the time of writing this article (early April) progress feels frustratingly slow and I'm hoping things will have speeded up by the time you read this. If you would like any further information, or an update please contact me on binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk or 07740 861256 and I'll be happy to let you know what's happening.

Stella Croom-Johnson

You are invited to...

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



THY KINGDOM COME



PRAYER WEEK

Sanctuary

22ND - 29TH MAY

Join us in our annual prayer week. There are lots of prayer stations put together by members of our home groups on the theme of Sanctuary. Why not sign up on the 24/7 prayer calendar to pray for an hour in the week?

www.benbinfro.co.uk



Sunday 15th May

4-6pm

Binsted Village Hall

(Wickham Institute)

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 17th July.



Our 2022 Year of Music at Bentley CE Primary School

Over the pandemic music lessons at school (or home) carried on but for parts of the pandemic we were unable to sing collectively, play any wind instruments, have close contact music lessons and we really missed all of this terribly! This year at school it has been fantastic to get music fully up and running again at school. We have lots of our favourite music teachers back in school and the full curriculum is back in classrooms. We decided to really celebrate 2022 as a year of music and it has been going well already. Here is what is going on...

- The whole school enjoyed a brilliant drumming session with steel pans and Japanese Taiko drums in February. The noise was tremendous and the school hall was filled with concentration as the children learnt how to play to the beat together.
- All classes have a set music curriculum and have lessons each week. We use a programme called Charanga which is full of inspiration to help the teachers make lessons fun. Every class has opportunities to play an instrument and we have sets of ukuleles, recorders and glockenspiels. We also have lots of percussion instruments from all over the world for children to play.
- Music appreciation is also woven into our curriculum. We play music every day in Collective Worship, we sing and enjoy hearing one another sing too! Every class has a composer they study. We ensure children are exposed to a wide range of composers and genres of music. We encourage children to enjoy listening to music for pleasure and talking about how different music makes them feel.
- We have so many opportunities for individual music lessons too. Parents pay for tuition but we also have scholarship places too. We currently offer; guitar, flute, violin, keyboard/ piano and iRock (who teach performance with guitars, keyboards, drumming and singing). Lots of our pupils work really hard and go onto take music exams.
- At Bentley we believe in giving children lots of opportunities to perform, from assemblies for other children and parents to amazing large scale events in Hampshire. There is nothing quite like the buzz of singing and performing with others. This spring we are looking forward to returning to the O2 with our Year 5 and 6 classes who will



be performing an evening of amazing music alongside some VIP popstars! Over the year every class gets the chance to take to the stage (or help out backstage if they prefer with sound and lighting). We have had fantastic performance this year from every class from the Nativity to 'Yee Hah!' to 'Cinderella and Rockerfella' to Church and choir events too.

- We have our biannual Music festival again this year. Our pupils take part with amazing acts and we all love the festival atmosphere. All the community are welcome to come along so save the date for 12-4pm on 18th June. This year we also invite any interested musicians to take the stage on our

'Visitor stage' to busk – if you fancy dusting off your drum kit, know of a budding singer or rock act who's love to have a chance to shine, please tell them to get in touch with the PTFA at adminoffice@bentley.hants.sch.uk. We'd love to hear from you!

- Finally, something we always enjoy is hearing from experienced musicians in assemblies and in Collective Worship. We have 200 expert members of our audience aged 4-11 and they LOVE hearing brilliant musicians play. This year we have had a flute performance from Jess, some blue piano from Mark and we'd love to hear from you too! You will be much appreciated and may well inspire a young musician of the future.

Bentley CE Primary

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Could you be our new governor to help support our amazing school?

Come and join our team!



We have a fantastic governing body at Bentley CE primary school but we need a new non-parent governor to represent the local community views.

What is a school governor?

We are a great team of 14 volunteers who lead the strategic development of our school. We represent a wide range of roles and perspectives and through this mix of views we bring great strength and perspective to help the school to serve the needs of the local children.

Experience required;

- None, Hampshire Governor services offer an induction training.

Skills and abilities required;

- an interest in children and learning.
- keen to make a difference in your local community.
- Happy to share your ideas in meetings.
- Able to come into school during to see what is going on.
- can attend meetings (for governing Body meeting and committee meetings)

We look forward to hearing from you...

Email the Headteacher at adminoffice@bentley.bents.sch.uk or you could ring the school office on 01420 525010 to make a appointment to come in.



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

Silver Birch at Binsted Primary School

It has been a brilliant and busy Spring Term in Silver Birch. We are all in our new (slightly smaller) classroom this year. The children have been very quick to get back into the swing of things- Studying the book Stormbreaker by Alex Rider in English. This term we have been looking at Space in Science, including a fantastic trip to Winchester Science Centre. The whole class took an amazing trip around the galaxy in the planetarium and had lots of time to explore all of the wonderful exhibits.

In Geography we have looked at Trading Around The World- exploring many of the

places that we get our food and fuel from. A particularly topical subject at the moment!!



In sport our wonderful netball team entered two tournaments in the local area; coming 3rd and 4th respectively. Please see the photo below for a picture of our brilliant netballers.



Here is a picture (*left*) of some of our brilliant Scientists at Winchester Science Centre. Can you tell what they are looking for?

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

EXHIBITIONS

Marriage entre la Terre et la Mer: An Exhibition by Sylviane Thomas

Sylviane is an artist living in the local area. In French her name means “from the forest”. Her mother chose her name well as she loves the forest. But Sylviane also has a deep connection to the sea. This has grown through her marriage to a marine biologist who has opened her eyes to it. Which explains why she is drawn by these two elements and why she craves to paint them.

This exhibition includes several works on forests, seascapes and animals. Sylviane's works have been created using oils and pastels.



2 April – 15 May (café area) FREE

Diary of a Nature Nerd - A Photographic Exhibition by Millie H

She's spent twenty years snapping pictures on a plethora of subjects. Now that hobby has become an all consuming passion. Clambering over brambles, under tree roots, and hunkering down in the muddiest of puddles just to get that perfect shot!

Take part in her adventures amongst the often overlooked and unassuming plants and creatures that make up our local yet stunning and awe-inspiring wildlife.

4 June – 17 July (café area) FREE

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 to take local residents to medical appointments either locally or further afield such as Basingstoke, Guildford, & Frimley etc.

The service relies entirely on volunteers & we always need more drivers & coordinators.

Coordinators take calls from clients & arrange the transport to meet their requirements. Drivers take the clients to their appointments. There is no regular commitment required as a driver; when asked you simply offer to help on that occasion if you can or decline if you cannot. You can choose to do either the longer journeys or simply the shorter ones.

Expenses are paid to all volunteers – telephone expenses for coordinators & mileage expenses to drivers.

Our clients do appreciate the help that the car service gives.

If you feel able to help as a volunteer in any capacity, no matter how little time you feel you have, it is a great way of supporting your community.

**The telephone number to contact the Binsted Bentley
 & Froyle Care Group to make a booking is
 07775458873**

**Any other queries relating to the Care Group should be
 addressed to the Secretary, Ellen Saunders on
 01420 590697**





THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Binsted Village Hall)



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

WEDNESDAYS 10am – 12noon (during term-time)

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US

COFFEE, TEA, HOME MADE CAKES ONLY £2

CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE

ALL WELCOME

WI-FI NOW AVAILABLE



ALL COVID REGULATIONS IN PLACE AT THE TIME WILL BE OBSERVED

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Our May meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 8pm as usual in the Memorial Hall Denis Smith Room. At this meeting our speaker will be Belinda Allen whose talk is entitled “Companion planting”.

There will be our usual Outside Plant of the Month competition together with a raffle.

It is hoped to have Membership cards for 2022 available at our meeting on the 3rd May giving details of the rest of the year's meetings and outings. Please also remember to bring your annual membership fee of £10.

Please remember our Plant Sale that will take place on Saturday 7th May in the Memorial Hall from 10am to 12 noon. If anyone is able to help on the day or to help set up on the Friday evening from 6pm, can they please let one of the committee know. There is a

raffle at the Plant Sale, so prizes from the members would be gratefully received. They can be brought to the meeting on 3rd May or on the morning of the Plant Sale.

Our first outing will be to the Gardens event at Newton Valence on Sunday May 29th to Newton Valence from 1—5pm. There are 6 gardens, tea and cakes, plant sales and with St Mary's church decorated. Entrance £7.50 per person (children free). We will be car sharing meeting at the Bentley Memorial Hall.

Visitors are always welcome to our monthly meetings for a fee of £2

The Gentle Alder

The common alder *alnus glutinosa* is not uncommon in these parts, especially along the Wey and other boggy areas. Conical in shape, mature trees can reach a height of around 28m and live to approximately 60 years.

The bark is dark and fissured and is often covered in lichen. Young twigs are sticky to touch-hence *glutinosa*.

The leaves are vivid green, pear-shaped, deeply veined and slightly indented at the tip.

Flowers are on catkins which appear between February and April. Both male and female flowers are found on the same tree. Male catkins are pendulous, measuring 2–6cm, and turn yellow.

Female catkins are green and oval-shaped and are grouped in numbers of three to eight on each stalk. Once pollinated by wind, they gradually become woody and appear as tiny, cone-like fruits in winter. They open up to release their seeds, which are dispersed by wind and water. They are also part of the diet of small-beaked birds such as siskin, redpoll and goldfinch.

Alder is the only British native deciduous tree to develop cones.

The green dye from the flowers was used to colour and camouflage the clothes of outlaws like Robin Hood, and was thought to also colour the clothes of fairies. When it's cut, the pale wood turns a deep orange, giving the impression of bleeding. Because of this, many people feared alder trees and the Irish thought it was unlucky to pass one on a journey.

Soft and porous, alder wood is only durable if kept wet, and its value to humans is down to its ability to withstand rotting in water. Historically, it has been used in the construction of boats, sluice gates and water pipes. The piles upon which both

Venice and Amsterdam were built are made from this wood.

Alder's natural habitat is moist ground near rivers, ponds and lakes and it thrives in damp, cool areas such as marshes, wet woodland and streams where its roots help to prevent soil erosion and mitigate flood damage.

The nitrogen-fixing bacterium *Frankia alni* forms nodules on the roots, allowing it to grow in nutrient-poor soils where few other trees thrive. With time the soil is improved enough for other trees to move in. For this reason it is often planted on former industrial wasteland and brownfield sites.

We should be planting more of these land-savers along the Wey valley.

Some alders in the UK have been infected by a type of fungus, *Phytophthora*. Sometimes known as alder dieback, the disease is more noticeable in summer as the leaves of affected alders are abnormally small and yellow and often fall early. Infected trees have dead twigs and branches in the crown. They may also bear an unusually large number of cones – a sign of stress. Sometimes the trees die rapidly and other times they deteriorate gradually. Symptoms include bleeding from the bark which resembles brown, rusty spots. When exposed, the reddish, mottled inner bark contrasts with the creamy colour of healthy bark. Please contact me at binstedtrees@gmail.com if you suspect your trees have this problem. Please collect and plant the seeds, in any case. We need more alders.



Bentley Celebrates The Queen's Jubilee



Programme for the village activities

Thursday evening, 2nd June

Lighting the Beacon at 9.45pm on Carters Meadow will be preceded by a Procession from the Memorial Hall to Carters Meadow via The Star, where refreshments may be taken.

Friday, 3rd June



The 16th annual Bentley Golf Championship takes place at Blacknest Golf Club and there will be a Garden Trail to see 5 lovely, private village gardens along with a quiz for the younger Trailers. There will be a welcome cup of tea and other light refreshments on the way round.



Sunday, 5th June

The Big Lunch starts at 2pm at the Recreation Ground. Bring your own food and drink along with your table and chairs. During the afternoon entertainment will be provided by the Ancora Choir and our own Bentley Singers. Village street signs will be displayed so that you can sit with your near neighbours and during the afternoon we hope to use a drone to take a photograph of the entire village celebrating our Queen's wonderful achievement.

You are encouraged to dress patriotically

*Please keep your eye on the Bentley Village
Events Facebook page for further details*





WICKHAM INSTITUTE/ VILLAGE HALL

NOTICE OF AGM

Wednesday 11th May 2022
@ 7.30pm

The AGM of the Wickham Institute/Binsted Village Hall will be held at 7.30pm on the 11th May. This is an Open Meeting and we would welcome attendance from any resident of Binsted who is interested in the activities of this major village facility.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!!

We are urgently looking for new committee members to help run the hall. We are currently a small friendly group that work well as a team but many of us have been on the committee for some time and we would like to welcome some new members with fresh ideas.

The commitment is not too demanding, and it is so vital that this building remains open and available for use by the whole village community. We currently have good regular bookings and are in a healthy financial state.

If you are interested, please either come along on 11th May or contact our chairman Catherine Hadfield on 01420 23146 or by email: at maxhad@aol.com or the treasurer Andrew Croom-Johnson on 01420 232157 or email at: treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk

BINSTED TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB 2022

Membership is open



Spring is here and we look forward to better weather for tennis and croquet. We will be kicking off weekly fine weather Friday croquet evenings through the summer starting from mid May for anyone interested in Croquet. Croquet coaching and encouragement is provided courtesy of current members – the wonderfully prepared croquet lawns, the beautiful views and the drinks and snacks afterwards whilst enjoying the sunset was a regular occurrence in 2021 and we look forward to doing the same this year.

The Club will welcome new members for the new membership year which commences on 1st May 2022. Tennis Membership fees remain unchanged (Amazingly Annual Tennis family membership has been kept the same as in recent years). Croquet membership has been increased to £20 for an adult member so that we can continue to invest in the croquet facilities.

You can find out more and download a membership application form from the website on

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

or you can find our contact phone numbers and emails at the back of this Parish Magazine under Binsted.

Nial Dunne

Chairman, Binsted Tennis and Croquet Club.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 7th MAY 2022

Doors open 10am until 12 noon



**COME AND BUY PLANTS
AND VEGETABLES FOR
YOUR GARDEN AT
EXCELLENT PRICES.**

Refreshments available plus a raffle
and cake stall.

All plant contributions will be very
welcome on the evening before or
on the day.



BENTLEY FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY 16 JULY

www.bentleyflowershow.weebly.com

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, join us for the fun of the flower show this year. See the classes below and visit us at www.bentleyflowershow.weebly.com for full details and to register your entries online by **6pm on Friday 15 July**. Alternatively, you can register when you bring your entries along to the Flower Show marquee on the Rec **between 8am and 10.45am on Saturday 16 July**. Entries are free this year thanks to our generous sponsor, Castle Street Flowers.



Section A Flowers

- 1 One stem of your favourite Rose
- 2 One stem of a Floribunda (Cluster) Rose
- 3 One stem of a scented Rose
- 4 A bowl of Roses
- 5 Five stems of Dahlias, one or more varieties
- 6 A bowl/vase of mixed Flowers from your July Garden
- 7 A display of Flowers, all one colour, with at least 6 stems, mixed or single variety
- 8 A vase of Sweet Peas
- 9 One stem of a Lily (Lilium)
- 10 Five stems of annuals and/or Biennials
- 11 Five stems of Herbaceous Perennials
- 12 Three tall flower spikes (eg. Delphinium Acanthus /Foxglove/Hollyhock, mixed or not)
- 13 Five stems of any other flowers not listed in this section, mixed or all one variety
- 14 Five Violas, Pansies, Pinks, mixed or all one variety
- 15 A bunch of fresh Lavender
- 16 Three stems of a Flowering Shrub
- 17 Five Clematis blooms – one or more varieties, sprays acceptable
- 18 One named flowering Pot Plant (indoor or outdoor)

Section B Floral Arrangements

- 19 An arrangement of flowers/foliage in an unusual container
- 20 An arrangement for a circular summer table
- 21 A Platinum Jubilee Arrangement
- 22 A vase of flowers from a wildflower area in your garden (must be from your garden only)

Section C Fruit and Vegetables

- 23 Display of any July Produce on a tray/trug/basket/box from your vegetable garden or allotment
- 24 A Lettuce
- 25 Three Onions as grown, washed but not peeled or plaited
- 26 Five Shallots up to 50mm diameter as grown, washed but not peeled or plaited

- 27 Seven pods of a Legume variety, mixed or not (Peas, Beans – Broad, French, Runner)
- 28 Five Potatoes
- 29 Three Courgettes – max 15 cm
- 30 A Cucumber – longer than 20 cm
- 31 Five Carrots, washed with tops left on
- 32 Three Beetroots, washed with leaves left on
- 33 Little and Large – one small, one large of the same vegetable
- 34 An unusual or exotic vegetable
- 35 Three sticks of Rhubarb, leaves trimmed to approx. 7.5 cm
- 36 Five Gooseberries – on a plate (stalks attached)
- 37 Collection of soft fruit (Quality not Quantity)
- 38 An unusual or exotic fruit
- 39 Collection of five different named Herbs – displayed in a pot or jar

Section D Produce

- 40 Your favourite Pickle or Chutney
- 41 One pot of Jam or Jelly
- 42 One pot of Fruit Curd (eg. Lemon, Passion Fruit etc.)
- 43 One loaf of Artisan Bread
- 44 One pot of Marmalade
- 45 Drink (alcoholic) – One bottle (eg. Sloe Gin or Wine)
- 46 Drink (non-alcoholic) – One bottle (eg. Elderflower Cordial etc.)
- 47 6 decorated Cup Cakes
- 48 Anyone-Can-Bake-Cake: a traditional Victoria Sponge with jam filling
- 49 A Platinum Jubilee Cake
- 50 A Tea Loaf (see full recipe online)
- 51 6 savoury scones
- 52 6 home-made biscuits
- 53 A 'Little Nest Egg' – a nicely presented nest of 6 eggs

Section E Children's Classes

- 54 Pre-School A Butterfly
- 55 Yr R Under the Sea artwork (A3)
- 56 Yr 1 Castles (cereal box size max)
- 57 Yr 2 Space rockets (cereal box size max)
- 58 Yr 3 Local art and photographs (A4)
- 59 Yr 4 A design for a Viking artefact
- 60 Yr 5 An Egyptian Style Mask
- 61 Yr 6 Pop Art (A4)



We very much enjoyed the Binsted Annual Parish Meeting, held at the Wickham Institute on 6 April. Thank you to everyone who participated. We're so lucky to have such a diversity of volunteer-led groups in the parish, and it was great to hear about their activities. It was good, too, to hear about Forestry England's Active Forests programme, from Helen Littlejohn, its local co-ordinator.

The parish council has recently been successful in obtaining a number of grants, which are enabling useful investments in projects to beautify the parish: for plants and planters, a map board outside the Wickham Institute and much-needed 'dog-poo' bins. There are also great opportunities to increase community use of the council's land at the Holt Pound Oval and at Blacknest Fields, and to bid to obtain further funding for these.

Unfortunately, the council remains critically short of councillors. We should have nine councillors, and we only have five. This is putting our existing councillors under great pressure. We urgently need help. If you would be interested in finding out what the role of a councillor involves, please get in touch for a chat.

We're also interested in hearing from you if you cannot contemplate becoming a councillor but can volunteer and help with specific tasks. For example:

- to help with transport issues: (e.g. to assist with speed monitoring, safety concerns, road condition, cycle routes and issues like aircraft noise.)
- to join Working Groups: to examine new uses for the council's historic space at the Holt Pound Oval; or to assist the development of Blacknest Fields as local greenspace and a place for nature recovery.

- to help with liaison roles: (e.g. to help us better connect with the needs of schools and young people in the parish.)
- or to help write news stories, or do some research into a particular topic ...

Last few days to bid for a community grant from us

Each year, Binsted Parish Council sets aside £5,000 to award as community grants to local organisations judged to contribute to the whole community. These may be focused on cultural, educational, sporting or wellbeing purposes, or may come from local branches of a charity.

May 1st is the deadline for applications to this year's funding. Application forms are available from our website, at [Parish Council Grants – Binsted Parish Council](#).

Binsted's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Lovely events are being planned across the parish for H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The main 'open-to-all' community event is the Jubilee Beacon event being organised at Binsted Rec on the afternoon and evening of 2 June – see details opposite. A range of smaller events are being held in different parts of the parish. For details, keep an eye on the council website, [HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Binsted Parish Council](#).

Alison Melvin, Chair, Binsted Parish Council
a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
 Tel: 07851 677 057

BOOK REVIEWS

Author of the month: Paula Gooder

Dr Paula Gooder is a New Testament Theologian who is Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

Book of the month:

“Everyday God: The Spirit of the Ordinary”, Publisher: Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2012, paperback, 139 pages.

At the time of writing, good copies are available from www.bookfinder.com from £6.00 including postage and postage and packing.

We all have to do ordinary things. They can include travelling to work, doing the weekly shopping, gardening, and many other things besides. In each of these things there is a richness and a depth of potential experience which we can encounter.

This book seeks to encounter the importance of ordinariness again, and the inspiration we can gain from a deeper and more sustained reflection on the everyday. It includes over thirty short passages from the Bible. Each is followed by an in-depth reflection.

We are reminded that God calls ordinary people, in their ordinary lives, with their ordinary skills and abilities, to act extraordinarily for him. This is the one thing of which we can be certain. God is calling all of us all

of the time. The challenge we face is whether we have enough curiosity, time and courage to listen to what he has to say.

The God who came to earth to live among us yearns to draw us back into relationship with himself and with one another. He calls us to become the extraordinary people that he longs for us to be, so that people begin to notice something of God in us.

We can then grow to become “ordinary” people who expect God to meet us while we wash up, talk to our friends or travel around. We will then be alert to the possibility that this event or that encounter might provide us with a glimpse of glory.

Happy reading!

Binsted Parish Celebrates



THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022
BINSTED RECREATION GROUND

PRE-BOOKED TICKETS*: £10 ADULTS, £5 CHILDREN, UNDER 5S GO FREE

*On the gate price £12 Adults, £7 children

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(no BBQs please)

Official Beacon Bonfire lit at 9.45pm followed by fireworks (9.45-10pm)

(free entry after 9pm for Beacon Lighting & Fireworks only)

For more information and tickets, see www.thebinstedfete.co.uk



A Chance Encounter

I looked around the room, not really able to take it all in or to believe my own eyes. I kept shaking my head, telling myself to wake up. Once again to recognise my own reality. This wasn't it.

Sitting on a low, blue chair I surveyed the bed next to me with its deep mattress, fluffy pillows and clean linen, but it was the wallpaper my eyes kept going back to. It was made up of soothing pastels and the pattern barely discernible, but it was reminiscent of my childhood room. Comforting, warm and safe. There was a bedside cabinet, on top of which stood a lamp and radio. Opposite me was an open, diamond paned window, looking out onto the garden and framed with flowery pale blue curtains, faintly billowing in the warm breeze. Earlier I had listened to gentle birdsong, which had reawakened my senses somewhat and dusk was beginning to fall.

I felt not so much confused, more bewildered, by my present situation. It was too much to take in. A lot had happened in such a short time. And it had happened to me. To me, for whom life had remained unchanged for so long. Then this.

I had even had a shower and washed my long hair. The warm water had proved a luxury beyond my recent dreams and I had stared as it had snaked its way, now scummy and changed in colour to the drain, but washing my hair had been a struggle I have to admit. A struggle but well worth it. It was now almost dry and smelling fresh. I had scrubbed and clipped my nails into the waste basket and although they looked different, much better in fact, they were still discoloured.

My clothes were his clothes. We were about the same height but although his fitted him perfectly, these hung from my meagre frame in slight folds. However, they were clean and soft and I was more than grateful for them. There were socks without holes and a warm jumper.

My mind kept returning to this afternoon when the miracle had begun. I had been sitting huddled in a new place, as I had found my usual one already occupied and I wanted no trouble. The pavement was unforgiving, despite my cardboard mat, and still a bit damp from the earlier sudden shower.

My head was down, as all I sought was invisibility. Invisibility was my friend after all. Invisible described me. That is what I was and I embraced it. I had read a story once about a man alone staring into the abyss. That was me. Loneliness. Nothingness. Oblivion. Despair. Lost in my own nightmares.

I was aware of people walking by, their eyes naturally averted. They didn't see me. They didn't want to see me. Out of sight...as they say. That, I know, is the power of invisibility.

A motorbike backfired and I looked up. That is when I saw him walking towards me. I recognised that straight back. Those polished shoes. The smartly ironed shirt and regimental tie. Something inside me stirred. Memories. Fear too but no time to get up and run. I must not look up, I thought. He must not see me. Shame filled every part of my being.

My hopes were futile, as he came next to me and bent slightly to pass me a sandwich and a bottle of orange juice from the supermarket.

"I thought you might like these," he said brightly. "I hope you like ham."

I took them gratefully but our eyes did not meet. I could not look up and willed him to get on his way but he didn't go.

"This is Elvis," he said, stroking his dog, "named after the best popular singer ever."

His black spaniel, sporting a red harness, was panting and staring intently at me. It was unnerving to say the least. Clutching my sandwich, I said nothing. In vain I sought invisibility.

He talked a bit about the weather and the town centre then he said it:

“You know, I am thinking you look vaguely familiar. Have we met before?” A moment’s pause. “We have! Afghanistan. That’s it. Richardson? No, wait a minute. It’s Robinson isn’t it? I never forget a face. Corporal James Robinson.”

The sound of my name being spoken out loud made me feel strangely weak and I found nothing to say in reply. He said a few more things, mentioning the overpowering heat, dust and noise of that far off, dreadful place. My head swimming, I heard talk of camaraderie and teamwork and, before I knew it, he was helping me up but I staggered and he held me firm. Elvis became a bit excited and started to bark.

I heard, “Come on lad. You’re coming home with me. That’s an order,” and that was it. The three of us were walking slowly along together, with me leaning slightly into him, and Elvis’ tail wagging like mad. People were staring. Invisible no longer.

That is how I came to be here. A chance encounter. I was bemused and a little afraid but the warm blanket of trust, familiarity, acceptance and care enveloping me was reassuring. And, dare I say it, there was love for a fellow human being? Those thoughts gave me strength.

There was a knock at the door.

“Dinner’s ready James. Chicken casserole. Are you ready?”

“Yes Sir. Thank you Sir,” I replied. “I am ready.”

Linda Wells

MARCH 2022 WEATHER STATISTICS

Temperature

Daytime maximum 20.2°C (23rd) to 7.9°C (2nd)
Only 7 days below 10°C

Nighttime minimum - 4.4°C (21st) to 9.2°C (10th)
15 nights below 0°C

Rainfall

Total for month 1.70 inches (43.2 mm) over 13 days

Wettest days 0.42 inches (10.6 mm) (16th)

Wind

Dominant wind direction East North East

Maximum gust 25 mph (31st)



**BINSTED
ECO
NETWORK**
LOVE YOUR PLANET

Friday 6 May, 10:00 - 12:00
Binsted Eco's 'First Friday coffees:' 'No Mow May' special

We'll be focusing on the pollinators!
Venue: Binsted Sports Pavilion,
GU34 4PB.

We'll discuss how to support No Mow May and look at councils' management of road verges of high ecological value. Do come along if you're interested in finding out more. We'd love to see familiar and new faces. No booking is needed

The Binsted Eco Network also publishes a fortnightly newsletter.

It's free, and has lots of information on local events, from seedling swaps to bat walks, biodiversity breakfasts, films, cycling events and kilo sales. Email binstedeconetwork@gmail.com if you want to be added to the distribution list or want further information.



**BENTLEY MEMORIAL
HALL 100+ CLUB**

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

Congratulations to the Winners

The winners for the May draw of the Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are:

MAY 2022

1st Prize Richard Greenway

2nd Prize Simon Harrap

3rd Prize Ann Joy

WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way network

Thanks to the largely dry weather in March and April, the footpaths and bridleways of the parish have dried out nicely and are once again a pleasure to walk along. As the weather warms up, we are expecting to see the need to start clearing vegetation again. First of all, though, the intention is to carry out a thorough inventory of every outstanding problem on the Rights of Way network, so that we have a clear picture of the work that needs to be done over the summer. This includes larger projects, such as rebuilding flights of steps, that need to be completed in conjunction with the Hampshire rangers, who have the equipment required and the skills to pass on to the volunteers. It also includes work party days where a team of volunteers gathers to clear a particularly overgrown footpath – many hands make light work!

At the recent Binsted Annual Parish Meeting, we started to gather names and contact details for people who are prepared to get involved in work parties like this. If you think that you would like to participate in such activities, you can send your details to our new email address binstedRoW@gmail.com – we will contact you when an opportunity comes up. In fact, this email address can also be used to report any particular problems that you encounter on the Binsted Rights of Way network - please give as much location detail as possible.

Alton Walking Festival

By the time you are reading this, the festival is already underway and will last from 1st – 31st May. Although many of the most popular walks are already fully subscribed and have waiting

lists, there are still opportunities to join many interesting walks. Why not take a look at availability on the Walk Alton website <http://www.walkalton.org.uk> ?

Local walking resources

Last month, I mentioned that one of the volunteer team had been very busy producing some excellent local walk leaflets. These single, folded A4 sheets have a map of the route on one side and written directions to follow on the other side, covering distances between 2.5 and 6 miles, all starting at the Binsted Inn. Well, there is now a sixth one available. They are all available free of charge from the Binsted Inn and from Mint Condition - Personal Trainers.

Team news

A major piece of news for us is that Ian Fleming, the leader and founder of our Rights of Way group, is hanging up his Binsted secateurs. Ian became Parish Footpaths Officer in 2014 and over the intervening years has built an enthusiastic, proactive team dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the 40+ miles of paths in the parish, as well as promoting and encouraging the use of them. All this without actually living in the parish – what a legend! He will continue to be heavily involved in walking matters locally, not least in his role as chair of Walk Alton. We thank him for his efforts over the years, wish him all the best for the future and promise to safeguard his important legacy here.





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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

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

APRIL 2022

1st prize Mike Christmas

2nd prize Sandie Baker

3rd prize Julie Atkinson

Details of the May 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.

MAY 2022

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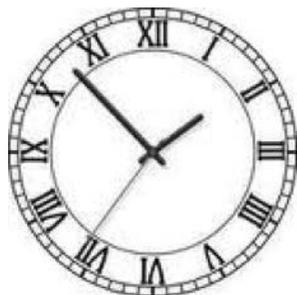


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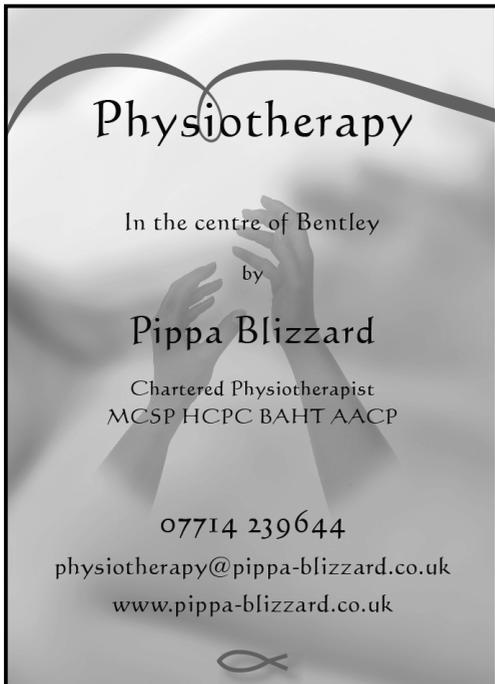


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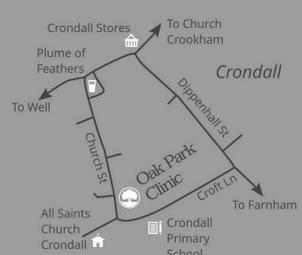


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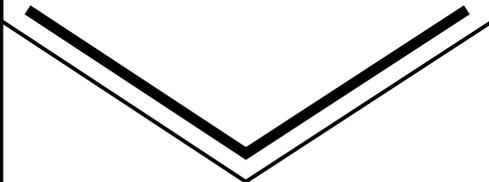
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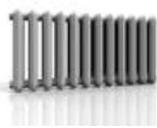
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BENTLEY

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

binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk Lisa Spindler

Tel: 01420 520692 Mobile: 07483 310631

Email: clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: 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 - Kate Ironside

ladyironside@btinternet.com

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

Growmore Club Secretary:

Reita Fisher 01483 570996

Bentley and Binsted Police

Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby

Alton Police 101

Binsted Cricket Club

Chairman: John Dineen 01420 617814

or mob: 07747878392

Binsted Football Club

Secretary: Tim Winkworth binstedfootball@gmail.com

Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

@FOBSBinsted 01420 23200 or

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

Chairman: Alice Cowie

May Services

We are continuing to provide online Sunday sermons and worship songs, uploaded to YouTube by Monday morning, and weekday Thought for the Day videos at 6:30am.

- 1st May 8am Froyle Holy Communion
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
with Children's Church
- 8th May 9:30am Froyle Holy Communion
11am Binsted Morning Worship
5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise
- 15th May 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
11am Froyle Morning Prayer
4pm Messy Church
- 22nd May 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
5pm Live@5 YumYum
6:30pm Froyle Evensong
- 29th May 11am Froyle Benefice Service

