

MARCH 2023

BENTLEY AND BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

I love reading a good crime thriller, especially if it comes out of Scandinavia. There is a theory that the safest countries have the darkest thrillers, as the contrast between fantasy and real life is greater. In the UK, hundreds of thousands tune in to watch the season finale of series like “Happy Valley” and “Line of Duty”. Perhaps, like me, they enjoy the delicious anticipation of the evil genius finally being unmasked against incredible odds, and the characters we have grown to love, having the chance of living a happy life (although that would make poor TV!).

This strong sense of justice runs through all of us. In prison, huge problems can arise from someone feeling that they didn't get what they felt they deserved and were “violated”. The usual response is often violence. The irony that they themselves are perpetrators of injustice against their victims, is often ignored or not even considered.

In the Old Testament, the Law enshrined the concept of proportionate retaliation. Famously described as “an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth”. The problem with this is that it leaves a society scarred and lessened, by the strict application of justice. As someone said, “in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.”

However, alongside justice, the Bible also attributes mercy as a key aspect of God's character. Mercy sounds a much weaker word in English, yet it is central to the good news of God.

“Then Jesus told this story to some who had great self-confidence and scorned everyone else:

“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest tax collector. The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: “I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don't sin, I don't commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of my income”

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But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, "O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner." I tell you the truth, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For the proud will be humbled, but the humble will be honoured." Luke 18:9-14

We all need mercy. If we were to receive the just desserts for all our wrongdoing, and Jesus includes our thoughts and fantasies in the list, what would anyone of us have left? Mercy cannot be coerced from God. It is his to dispense as he wills and he promises that he will not despise a broken heart. Genuine remorse for wrong done, or good left undone, is the precondition for mercy to be granted. The Bible calls this repentance and results in a turning around of our lives.

Mercy is a word we rarely hear outside of church services, but I think we need to treasure it more than we do. As the Roman Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft says, "It is mercy, not justice, or courage or even heroism, that alone can defeat evil." God's mercy promises our slates being wiped clean and a chance to start again (and again). Without it, we face cold unbending justice or vicious greedy injustice without any hope that things can be any better.

In this season of Lent, may the God of mercy draw close to you and breathe his promise of a new life into you, as you examine your hearts and prepare to contemplate in the Easter story. The price God paid to set the guilty free.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Church Register

Bentley

Thursday 5th January 2023 Funeral and Burial of Maxine Cashmore

Binsted

Monday 23rd January 2023 Funeral and Burial of Tim Kent

Tuesday 31st January 2023 Thanksgiving service and Interment of Ashes
of Barbara and Antony Taylor

Tuesday 31st January 2023 Interment of Ashes of Richard Cobbold

Youth & Children at BenBinFro

February has been a brilliant month in the world of youth and children's work in our benefice. Starting from the beginning of the month, our children learned about the story of God choosing David to be king at Children's Church. They realised that it was easy to describe a person by looking at their appearance, but couldn't tell what they were like on the inside from just a picture. David was the youngest brother, and didn't look very kingly from the outside, but God saw him differently and chose him to be king. God still sees everyone differently, and knows what everyone is like on the inside and thinks we're very special. We made medals to show how much God values each one of us – there was glitter everywhere!

With our older teenagers, we toned down the glitter and took them to a church in Guildford to get away from the village bubble, to worship together and experience 'church' in a different way. They loved meeting new people and feeling like grown-ups!

At four:twelve on the 10th February, we spent the evening wrestling with newspapers to build bridges, seeing how much weight each one could hold. It was a test of creativity and engineering! On the 24th February, it happened to be the same week as Shrove Tuesday, so naturally we spent the evening making and eating pancakes, all while learning about key events in Jesus' life as we head towards Easter.

On Fridays, I spend my lunchtimes with the year 6s at Bentley school. This month they have been obsessed with a game called Yetti. 'Yetti' means 'seven', and funnily enough there are seven ways you can use the cards in the box from silly games to creating meaningful conversations about faith. It's been so fun to try a different game each week and have conversations that wouldn't normally happen. After half term, I started spending my Thursday lunchtimes with year 5 and 6 at Binsted school and I'm really looking forward to seeing how these lunchtime groups grow and develop.

February is also the month of our annual weekend away to the Isle of Wight. On the 11th-13th Feb we took 24 young people from across BenBinFro, Alton, Four Marks, and Odiham to Ryde to have a whole lot of fun together. We watched films, played lots of games, went swimming and built our own catapults! In amongst the fun, we also spent lots of time learning about our faith and worshipping God. We looked at the phrase 'Belong, Believe, Behave' in our sessions – learning what it means to become a follower of Jesus and a member of the church family. We're looking forward to next year!

February was a full-on month, but there's lots to come in March...

Gemma Ball

Pastoral Assistant (Youth) & Administrator

gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

Youth & Children at BenBin Fro

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5 9:30am Bentley Worship with Children's Church (age 0-11) 6:30pm Upgear Youth (year 8+)
6	7	8	9 12:30pm Binsted Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	10 12:30pm Bentley Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve youth club (year 5-7)	11 5pm Upgear Youth trip to Soul Survivor (year 8+)	12 5pm Bentley Live@5 Big Praise (family friendly)
13	14	15 12pm Binsted School Lent Lunch with Gemma and Matt (in school)	16 12:30pm Binsted Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	17 12:30pm Bentley Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	18	19 4pm Messy Church at the Wickham Institute Binsted (family friendly) 6:30pm Upgear Youth (year 8+)
20	21	22	23 12pm Bentley School Lent Lunch with Gemma and Matt (with school)	24 12pm Bentley School Lent Lunch with Gemma and Matt (with school) 5pm four:twelve youth club (year 5-7)	25	26 5pm Bentley Live@5 YumYum (family friendly) 6:30pm Upgear Youth (year 8+)
27	28	29	30 12:30pm Binsted Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	31		

Contact Gemma for more details:

gemma@benbinfro.co.uk





Bentley & Binsted Lent Lunches 2023

This year Bentley and Binsted are joining forces to hold weekly Lent Lunches, of soup, bread and cheese. There will be a plate for donations which will go to the Alton Foodbank.

Thursday 23rd February, 12:30 - 2pm, Bentley Memorial Hall, Bentley

Thursday 2nd March, 12:30 - 2pm at the Wickham Institute, Binsted

Thursday 9th March, 12:30 - 2pm at Bentley Memorial Hall, Bentley

Thursday 16th March, 12:30 - 2pm at Kathy & Christopher Ogilvie Thompson's
home: Mill Court House, GU34 4JF

Thursday 23rd March, 12:30 - 2pm at the Bentley Memorial Hall, Bentley

Thursday 30th March, 12:30 - 2pm at the Wickham Institute, Binsted

There is usually a selection of 3 soups and different types of bread and cheese.

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

Any questions or directions to any of the venues please speak to:

Cathie Weldon: 07828 083535 or email: binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk

Jill Kiely: 01420 22735 or email: jilliankiely@btinternet.com

We also need helpers to be part of the Lent Lunches Team. We need people to welcome and look after our guests, to help providing soups, breads and cheeses – and to join in the fun! We'd love to hear from you - please contact Cathie or Jill.



Sunday 19th March

4-6pm

Binsted Village Hall

(Wickham Institute)

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of all age arts and crafts, activities, stories and songs. Be prepared to get messy!

Supper is provided.



William John Retallack

It is with great sadness that we announce that William John Retallack, a well-known Binsted farmer, died peacefully on the 1st February 2023.

John was born in Binsted to the Retallack farming family in 1944. John lived in Binsted all his life farming at Place Farm, growing hops, vegetables and latterly sheep farming and cereal crops. Although John never married, he was a much-loved brother, uncle and great uncle. John served on the Binsted Parish Council for over 50 years and was also a stalwart committee member of Binsted Growmore Club, serving in several offices for the Club over 50 years.

In his youth John was a talented cricketer, turning his arm for the Alton and Binsted Clubs as well as enjoying playing football for Binsted. John's great sporting enthusiasm was horse racing, about which he was very knowledgeable.

After a fall on the farm in August last year John was moved to a nursing home, where his quiet dignified demeanour was noted by his carers. Sadly John passed away on his 79th birthday.

Easter at BenBinFro



At BenBinFro, we're busy preparing our hearts and minds for Easter. Throughout March, there are Lent Lunches across the benefice and with the schools, and our Sunday sermon series is following the theme of Lent. Why not join us at any of our services in March?

But we're also preparing practically - take a sneak peek at our Easter services coming up in April. We can't wait to welcome you!

Maundy Thursday

5:30pm Froyle Choral Reflection Service

 **7pm** Bentley Passover Meal at Bentley Memorial Hall

Good Friday

11am Kingsley Good Friday Prayer

12 noon Binsted Good Friday Meditation


Come along for all or part of this 3 hour vigil

Easter Saturday

 **11am** Froyle Easter Garden Making for Families & Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

5:45am Bentley Sunrise Service followed by breakfast

 **9:30am** Bentley Family Easter Sunday Holy Communion & Easter Egg Hunt

9:30am Binsted Easter Sunday Holy Communion

11am Froyle Easter Sunday Holy Communion

11am Kingsley Easter Sunday Holy Communion

Family Friendly

Children, young people and families are welcome to all of our services at BenBinFro. However, the egg indicates where services are especially tailored for children, young people and families this Easter.



Items needed

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meat (hot dogs, stewing steak, corned beef)
- Rice
- Tinned potatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned rice pudding
- Sponge puddings (long life)

- Tinned spaghetti
- Chocolate spread
- Peanut butter
- Hot chocolate
- Toilet rolls
- Cleaning spray

Above is the list of items the foodbank is currently asking for.

We have collection points in Bentley and Binsted churches, there is also a collection point in Froyle village hall, or you can take your donations to Alton Maltings where there is a drop box outside the main door.

If you are in need yourself, please do visit <https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/alton-get-help/> where there is advice on how to get help.



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

@ THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX)



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

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US

COFFEE, TEA and HOME-MADE CAKES ONLY £2

ALL WELCOME

(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI



BBF Worship



Worship at BenBinFro continues to encourage me, with more people joining our team and a brilliant time of feedback last month. We had some great ideas and have a few exciting plans in the works.

We are looking for more people to join our team and serving in worship is far more than just playing the guitar or organ at the front of church and we have a brilliant team of people volunteering in a range of different ways, musical and non-musical.

If you are passionate about worship (whatever the style), you can get involved! You don't have to play an instrument or be a technical wizard.

So, if you are interested in serving in any way or have any questions about what's involved, please chat to me, or email me at sam@benbinfro.co.uk

We have also introduced some fantastic new songs at our Live@5 services and one of the members of our team had the idea to create and share a Spotify playlist with a selection of these songs. These are great songs on their own and I hope they will encourage and inspire you, but having them all together in one place will mean we can get to know them a bit better too. Scan the QR below using your phone or tablet and it will take you right to the playlist!

Sam Ball

Pastoral Assistant (Worship)



**Scan me to listen to
some of our favourite
worship songs**





BINSTED TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB 2023



New membership year
starts on April 1st

Slowly but surely, spring is on its way and Binsted Tennis and Croquet Club is starting to plan for the new membership year which commences on April 1st. So what's on offer?

- The club will be open for new members – tennis or croquet or both. Membership rates for the new club year will be published in March but will, as always, be kept as low as possible. As a reference point, tennis membership for a family of four has been £50 in recent years and croquet membership is currently £20 (with all croquet equipment supplied)

- Access to the tennis court (for tennis members)

- Regular croquet evenings throughout the summer, including coaching for those who would like to give it a try. The evenings always end up in a social, whether at the pub or around the picnic tables on the recreation ground

- There is a men's tennis doubles group who meet regularly on Tuesdays and the hope is that we'll get a ladies' group going too

You can find out more and download a membership application form from the website below, although please note that 2023 membership rates will be published later in March and I will be emailing existing members with all the details as soon as they are confirmed.

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

Alternatively, you can find our contact phone numbers and emails at the back of this parish magazine.

Look forward to seeing you.

Nial Dunne

Co - Chairman, Binsted Tennis & Croquet Club



THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the February 2023 draws:

February 2023

1st prize Helen Macdonald

2nd prize Chris Beare

3rd prize Cathie Weldon

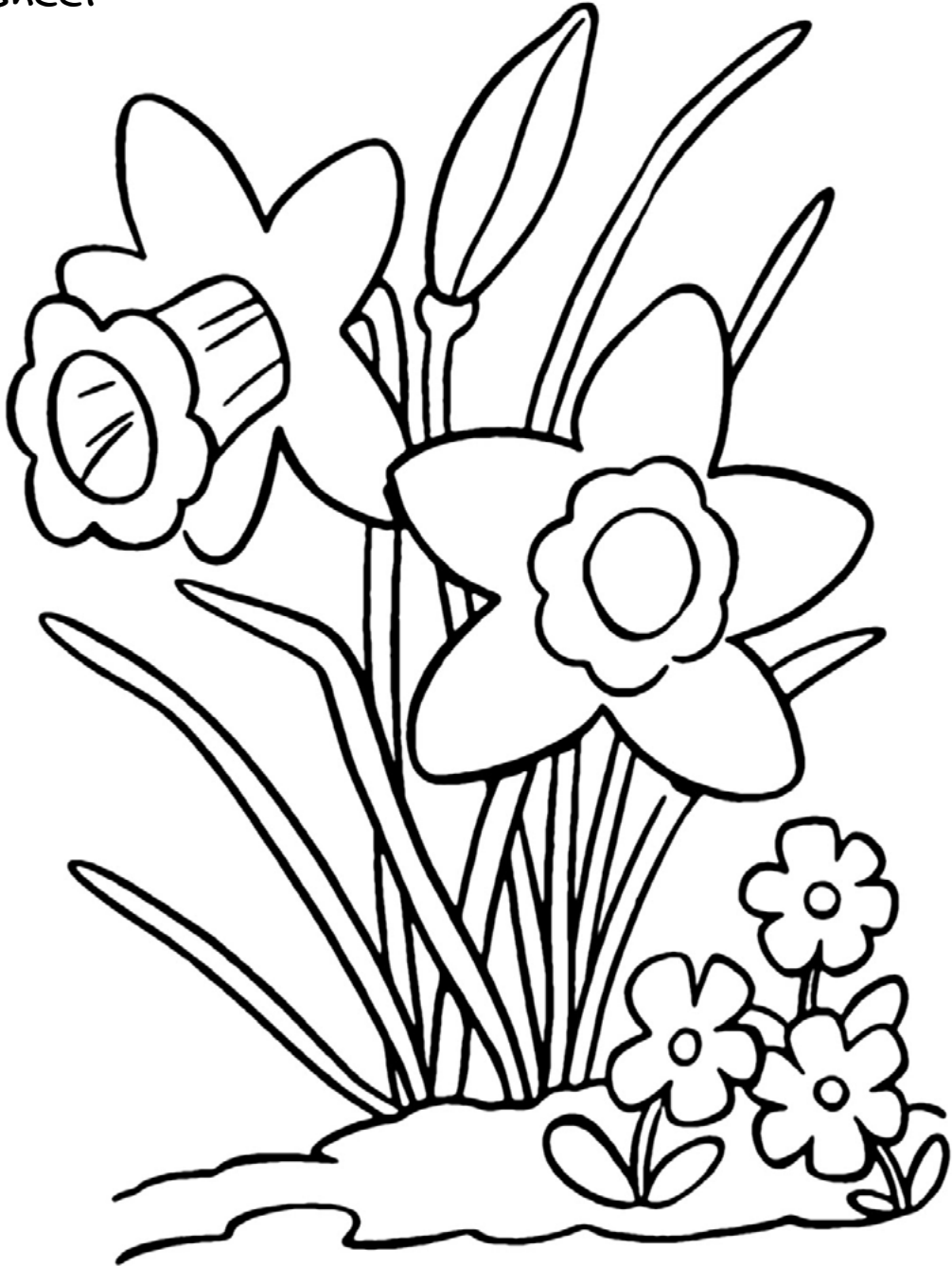
Details of the March 2023 draw will appear in the next magazine.

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.

Colouring
sheet



Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

3		2					8	9
	6	8		5	2	7	3	4
		9						
4					7			
	8	3	2	1	5	9		
			5					2
						2		
2	1	4	7	8		3	5	
5	3					9		8

All you need to do is to fill in all of the squares in the puzzle so that each column of 9, each row of 9 and each 3 x 3 square includes every number from 1-9.

No prizes – just a huge amount of satisfaction!

Sudoku game MEDIUM

	3	5	6	7				
4			8	2	9	5		
	8				3		6	
	2				5	8		7
8			2		6			5
3		1	7				2	
	4		9				7	
		2	4	8	7			6
				5	2	4	9	

Sudoku game HARD

5			8				2	
		7	5		2	8		1
		2	9				4	
	2	4					3	8
			3	2	4			
3		6					4	7
	9				6	7		
7		3	2		8	9		
	6			9				5



BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 100+ CLUB

The next draw for the 100 Club will be after the March renewals have taken place as we have requested the members to transfer their standing orders to the bank account for the Bentley Memorial Hall Association, the new charity now running the hall.

So draws for March and April will be in the next magazine. Thank you to all those who support the hall through the 100+ Club.

If anyone is interested in contributing regularly towards the running of the Bentley Memorial hall, with a chance to win prizes every month, you can join the 100+ club. Please contact us on bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com for further information.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Tuesday 7th March 2023

Our next regular monthly meeting is on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at our new time of 7.30pm in the Denis Smith Room at the Bentley Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Patrick Elkington, who will be giving a talk entitled "Humour and Wisdom in the garden".

At this meeting we will have our usual outdoor flower of the month competition as well as a raffle.

If you were not able to be at the February meeting, you will also be able to pay your annual subscription of £10.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come.

This meeting is also open to non-members at a cost of £2.

Date for your diary – Tuesday 4th April 2023

At this meeting, also at 7.30pm, in the Denis Smith Room at the Bentley Memorial Hall, we will be having our Spring show.

The classes will be:

1. 5 miniature daffodils, same or mixed variety
2. 5 daffodil or narcissus, same or mixed variety (not miniature)
3. 5 different spring flowers (not daffodils or shrubs)
4. 3 Hellebore flower heads floating in water
5. A stem of a flowering shrub
6. A spring flower arrangement, maximum width 18 inches



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

Spring is springing

Binsted's children are getting very excited to be spending more time outdoors. We've noticed bulbs shooting up in the playground and the grass looking – just a little - greener!

In Oak Class this half-term we have started learning about Mary Anning and her fascinating fossil finds! We have looked at different feelings you can get from music, including the difference between Jurassic Park and Jaws; using our bodies to show how the music feels. We have also been looking at watercolours in art and how they can be used to create colourful backgrounds for our pictures.

Our children got stuck into the learning by going fossil hunting on their days off and sending in some marvellous pictures of their finds. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged in the learning and taking it into their own lives outside of school, what a fantastic class!



Miss Webb



Role Profile - Binsted CE Primary

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

Role profile for Breakfast and After School Club Leader

Duties

1. Leading activities and clearing away safely at the end of the session.
2. Ensure children use play equipment safely.
3. Be aware of any medical condition of any children in attendance.
4. Maintain effective working relationships with parents, carers when responding to queries raised.
5. Manage children behaviour problems in line with the school behaviour policy.
6. Adhere to the schools equal opportunities policy.
7. Supervise children basic hygiene arrangements.
8. Be punctual at all times.
9. Attend any training as appropriate.
10. Making breakfast (toast/ porridge) and afterschool snacks (Toast/ pasta/ beans/ fruit etc)

Person Specification:

1. Kind, caring, calm and empathetic towards the children from Year R up to Year 6.
2. Enthusiastic and energetic as part of the role is playing outdoors with the children.
3. Able to work under own initiative
4. Reliable, punctual and trustworthy. Confidentiality is crucial to the role
5. Ideally first aid trained (this can be arranged in school)

We can offer:

1. Training and support
2. A friendly, caring working environment
3. Professional development
4. Term time only
5. Hourly rate £10.95 (hours – Breakfast club from 7.45am to 8.45am After school Club 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Monday to Friday term time only)

Start date: March 2023



January 2023

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

13.6°C (5th) to 0.0°C (17th)

12 days above 10°C and 5 days below 5°C



Nighttime minimum

- 10.1°C (23rd) to 10.8°C (4th)

14 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

3.10 inches (78.8 mm) over 19 days



Wettest days

0.66 inches (16.8 mm) (14th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South West



Maximum gust

28 mph (11th)

Parish Weatherman

Bentley Memorial Hall Association

Presents

Mrs Harris goes to Paris



A feel good comedy/drama

Friday 24th 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



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

What's happening in Bentley and Binsted over the next few months?

The best part of local village life is when people come together to organise community events. Over the next few months, our parishes have some great events coming up - a nice mix of informal fun ones, and more formal occasions.

Annual Assemblies and Parish Meetings in April: Parish councils must by law hold an annual assembly / parish meeting, to give all residents the chance to have their say about parish matters and to hear what's happening in local organisations. All parish residents are invited to attend. This is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when local councils didn't exist, and local decisions were made by meetings of the whole community. Full details of these meetings will be in the next Parish Magazine, but save the dates, which are:

Binsted's Annual Parish Meeting:

at the Wickham Institute, Wednesday 5th April, 7.00 pm

Bentley's Annual Assembly:

at the Bentley Memorial Hall, Tuesday 25th April, 7.30 pm.

Celebrating the Coronation: As this edition of the parish magazine goes to press, local Coronation plans are starting to take shape. Do keep us posted on your community's plans, especially if you're getting involved in the Coronation 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 7th May, or in the 'Big Help Out' on Monday 8th May. In Binsted, the parish council is hosting an afternoon tea event on Sunday 7th May at the Recreation Ground, with a Brass Band.

July's the time for summer Fetes: Binsted's Fete is on Saturday 8th July; and Bentley's is on Saturday July 17th.

We're also gearing up for local elections. By law, District Councillors and Parish Councils are subject to elections every four years. This year, it's East Hampshire's turn, with elections due to be held on Thursday 4th May. It's obviously important to have councillors that properly represent the demographics of the local area, and this is a good opportunity to take stock. Many parishes across the UK struggle to recruit councillors, and Bentley and Binsted count ourselves fortunate to currently have a committed cohort of councillors, who we hope will continue in post to provide continuity and experience. However, new blood is always welcome, and if you want to stand to be a councillor, now is a good time to consider whether you could be interested to join the local parish councils' teams.

Parish Councils are places where ordinary people come together to make decisions about issues they care about: improving local services, protecting the environment, keeping facilities in good repair, and so forth. Unlike District Councillors, parish councillors have no party affiliation - they're simply (unpaid) volunteers, willing to serve their community. Our topics rarely make headline news, but the discussions feel human and grounded.

It may be stating the obvious, but it's only when parish councils have sufficient capacity that they can take forward more exciting new projects or tackle the more taxing projects.

So we'd love your help and involvement. Let us know if you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, or in helping out with a specific Project, Working Party or with communications - for example, we currently need help with social media and school liaison.

For any of this, the first step is to contact your Parish Clerk for a chat:

Emma Wadey (Bentley Parish Clerk) clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lisa Spindler (Binsted Parish Clerk) clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

Elections and parish councils

Do you want to make a difference to your local area?

Can you spare a couple of hours per month to attend a Parish Council meeting? Do you work from home; are a Mum who's recently given up work; or can contribute a few hours to the local community? Do you feel you'd like to get involved, but don't know where to start?

Parish Councils aren't just scenes from The Vicar of Dibley or Handforth Parish Council Zoom meetings. They're an opportunity to have your voice heard and shape YOUR area. Don't worry if you don't know what's expected by the role - we can send you on training courses (paid for by us, of course). It's always important that the councillors elected fairly represent the local demographic, so we always need people just like you.

Local parish areas in East Hampshire are based on civic boundaries, not Anglican church ones. District, parish and town councils are subject to elections every 4 years and all Councillors will need to go through an election process in order to stay in council after May 2023. This year polling day is on **Thursday 4th May 2023**.

Standing to be a Councillor

1. Get a nomination form

Please contact your parish clerk (details below) or EHDC for your nomination form.

2. Complete your nomination form

Including your personal details and two people supporting your application.

There are some criteria that must be met:

- ✓ Aged 18 or over
- ✓ A British citizen

You must comply with **one** of the following:

- Registered as a local government elector for the parish
- Occupied for the whole of 12 months preceding the date of nomination as owner or tenant of land in the parish
- Your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the parish
- Resided in the parish or within 4.8km (3 miles) of it

However, you should **not** have been:

- Declared bankrupt
- A paid employee of the council that you are standing for
- Convicted of a crime and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than three months within five years before the day of the election
- Disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices

3. Return your completed application form

Don't forget to send your form back by the deadline time and date!

What do parish councils do?

Parish Councils are the first tier and most local form of government. The main role of Parish Councils is set out in law and includes spending money from the Precept (paid for out of part of your council tax).

We work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Our activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.

Through an extensive range of discretionary powers local councils provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, community transport schemes, community safety and crime reduction measures, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, public toilets, planning, street cleaning and lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures, village greens and youth projects.

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for your parish: Bentley or Binsted. Please email your Parish Clerk for further information.

Please also remember to vote on **Thursday 4th May 2023, 7am-10pm** - and don't forget to bring photo ID with you to the polling station, or register to get a postal vote.

For further information, please contact your Parish Clerk:

Emma Wadey (Bentley) clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lisa Spindler (Binsted) clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Also, for further information: look at www.local.gov.uk or www.nalc.gov.uk.

Facebook is always our most immediate way of communicating to residents about local news, so please sign up to our pages.

Acts of kindness

In January this year, the Guardian published 52 Acts of Kindness in an article entitled 'how to spread joy in every week of 2023'. As they pointed out this doesn't mean giving money but is about giving your time, support, empathy and thought, finding ways to help people around us. Likewise, they highlighted that research shows that being kind makes us happier – so you can help others and feel better yourself all at once.

Here are just a few of their suggestions – so the challenge is pick one each week during Lent and put this into practice. If none of those below float your boat, as the saying goes, you can find all 52 at <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/jan/03/52-acts-of-kindness-how-to-spread-joy-in-every-week-of-2023>

1. **Donate to a foodbank** – there are collection bins in both Bentley and Binsted churches and a list of items that are needed can be found at <https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> or there are usually drop off points in the local supermarkets.
2. **Pay a compliment to somebody** – it might just make their day!
3. **Litter pick** – join an organised litter pick or organise your own with a few friends or just yourself, head out with a bin bag, gloves and if you have one handy, a grabber.
4. **Drive kindly** – if you're sure it's safe, flash your lights or wave your hand at someone waiting to cross the road in front of you.

5. **Buy a Big Issue when you can** – but take time to talk to your seller- it could be as simple as asking how their day is going. No local Big Issue seller – you can subscribe and receive copies by post, visit <https://subs.bigissue.com/TBI/WEB21/?msclkid=dcb16d98e01d15b9669f0e472bf232d1>
6. **Give blood** – each donation can save up to three lives and you get free biscuits. Most people are eligible, sign up at <https://my.blood.co.uk/>
7. **Give a coat to Calais** – warm winter coats are needed for refugees in northern France where 2,000 plus sleep rough. They are also helping newly arrived refugees in Home Office accommodation in the UK. Drop off points can be found at <https://care4calais.org/coats4calais/>
8. **Be a bin hero** – take a bin out or bring it in for a neighbour, it can't get easier than this!
9. **Hit the apps** – apps and sites such as Next Door, But Nothing, Freecycle and Olio are easy ways to give away stuff you don't need but others in the area might. People also post requests for things they need or for other assistance and don't forget the Bentley WhatsApp Group, contact Sue Chissell to be added on 07890 524033.
10. **Join the Binsted Eco Network** – okay this isn't one of the 52 mentioned in the Guardian but it does encompass a couple of their suggestions around nature and wildlife. Head to <https://binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/about-us/binsted-eco-network> for more information.

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Sunday

Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY EVENTS

In collaboration with the **Memories of the Palace Cinema Project** we will have our first Film Showing on Saturday 11th March. Please see Allen Gallery website for details. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

28th March - 18th April (Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery): Join us for an **egg hunt** with a twist! We have 8 eggs hidden around the Allen Gallery and 8 around the Curtis Museum. Using your trail sheet you will match them to 8 British bird species which are unique to each site. Once completed your spotter sheets can be used to watch birds at home or at your local green space.

4th April: **Adventures in Clay** - two family clay sessions 12.00 - 1.30 and 2.00 - 3.30 pm, creating projects inspired by animals in the museum and gallery collections. Please book via the website. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Monday mornings throughout March & April: a new **creative and well-being programme for older people**. A series of free creative workshops delivered in partnership with Dementia Friendly Alton and a local primary school. Please email allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk for more information.

In order to keep these activities running, we would love to hear from anyone with creative skills who could volunteer some time, however occasional, to inspire and teach others their skills - whether it's knitting, pottery, drawing, woodworking or flower arranging. Contact 01420 82802 or website as above.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

A selection of plant studies, drawings and paintings, by renowned landscape artist **W H Allen** from the collection in the care of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Allen (1863–1943) is best known for his evocative watercolours and chalk and pencil sketches of the landscapes, traditions and people of West Surrey and North-east Hampshire.

As with most professional artists his sketchbook was never far from his side. For a landscape artist, developing the skill instantly to capture changes in the natural world, from season to season, often minute to minute, was essential. These studies allowed Allen to create a body of work that he could reference, and seek inspiration from, when developing the landscape paintings he is most famous for.

While these studies aren't intended to be detailed botanical illustrations, they do successfully convey the character and appearance of plants you may well have glimpsed over a garden wall, as you strolled the quiet country lanes of Hampshire in the early 1900s.

4th March to 23rd April FREE

Study of pink and white blossoms





Our Gambian Friends

We have a very special school 'twin' with Sitahuma School in The Gambia. Like us, they are a village school but in very different circumstances, both geographically and financially. Over the last five years we have linked in learning and our pupils have benefitted hugely from this partnership work. We are very excited that Mrs Pinchess, our Headteacher, is going back to visit The Gambia at February half term. She will deliver resources and donations from our school to theirs and will find out how they are. Each Bentley pupil has created a special postcard to be given to a child at the school to share our ideas and offer friendship.

We have learnt about The Gambia as a country and think about what is the same and different between our two village schools. Our children were shocked to hear that many children in the village schools, like Sitahuma, may only have one meal a day and that is their school lunch. Sadly, funding for these school lunches can be removed or run out and this means some children are hungry. We found out that one school lunch in Bentley costs £2.80 but this amount will feed a child in The Gambia for 30 meals (a whole half term of 6 weeks)!

Our pupils really want to help their friends in The Gambia and we have some exciting plans this term to raise funds and to deepen our connection with Sitahuma School. Our main focus is on forging links with others and finding out more about

the world we live in. Staff have noted children developing empathy and being more aware of how lucky they are through this important work.



Bentley CE Primary



- **Everyone can learn more about the Kaira Konko charity** and longstanding link between Bentley and Soma
<https://www.facebook.com/kairakonko>
- Purchase a beautiful **Kaira Konko greetings card** to support projects and learning for either £3 or £5. Send in your donation in cash (and let us know how many cards of which value you would like to purchase!) with your email so we can let you know when to pick them up from school.
- Make a donation to support projects directly to <https://www.kairakonko.com/donate/>
- Support the Bentley Scout Explorers who will be going out to Soma this summer.

In school we;

- had hot chocolate one miserable, chilly January playtime to raise money
- donated a pencil (or more) to gift to a child at school
- sold beautiful charity cards
- had a pop up shop
- had a colourful dress up day to celebrate our partnership work

We hope that lots of children, families and local community members may wish to support our chosen charity and donate.

Here is how you can get involved;

Mrs Pinchess looks forward to reporting back on how our donations will be used when she comes back. We hope the children and families will be pleased to hear all about Bentley and look forward to catching up on the Sitahuma news! You can read all about this on our school website; <https://www.bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=International&pid=131>

Thanks for your support!





What's happening locally about sewage?

It's 33 years since the charity 'Surfers Against Sewage' (SAS) started campaigning for improved water quality. Yet, despite excellent campaigns by SAS, the Rivers Trusts, anglers and environmentalists, the pollution of England's beaches and rivers continues to rise.

Shockingly, there's not a single river in the whole of England that's in good overall environmental health. The sheer volume of sewage and agricultural run-off entering our waters means the UK now ranks last amongst EU countries for bathing water quality. A top UK professional windsurfer cited frequent gastroenteritis and other water-acquired infections as the reason for her recent move from Hayling Island to Spain. Wildlife is suffering too.

The River Wey isn't faring well. Spills occurred at all its local pumping stations last year. The Northern Wey, a rare chalk stream, is in worse condition than its Southern counterpart. Its invertebrate life is seriously damaged. The Bentley plant, which also treats sewage from Binsted and Froyle, caused 129 spills in 2022, with raw sewage discharging for a total of 804 hours. A new surge tank will be operational at Bentley by May, but this won't resolve all the plant's pollution problems, and the river authorities also recognise a need to improve the local catchment map. Improperly managed septic tanks also cause significant pollution locally.

What can we do about it?

- (1) **Be vigilant.** No-one wants to spend their spare time fighting to fix a problem that simply shouldn't exist in the first place. However, until the sewage crisis is resolved, we must all be vigilant and speak up for our beautiful local rivers. Check what's happening on **Thames Water's real-time map** www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map, particularly if any **storm overflows occur in dry weather**. Suspiciously, 'storm overflow' discharges do occur in prolonged dry spells. As I write this (25 January), Selborne's sewage treatment plant is amongst 13 Thames Water plants discharging after 10 days of dry weather (see the double 'exclamation marks' on the map in Figure 1 below.)
- (2) **Switch to low-phosphate dishwasher tablets.** 55% of rivers fail water quality because of excessive phosphate levels. Eutrophication, caused by high levels of phosphates and nitrates in wastewater effluents, results in low oxygen levels, algal blooms and harm to fish and wildlife. Most mains sewage treatment plants don't remove sufficient phosphate and many septic tank systems don't remove any phosphates. Check the label when you buy dishwasher tablets - a phosphate level under 1.6% is considered low and many eco-friendly brands are phosphate free. Eco-friendly dishwasher tablets are much more powerful at cleaning than they used to be.
- (3) **If you have a septic tank**, check that you're not polluting the waterways, by getting your system regularly serviced, and calling in an expert if your system starts smelling or causing foam or scum. Hampshire's 'Septic Smart' project (www.hiwwt.org.uk/septicmart) has more info.
- (4) **Join a local citizen science water quality monitoring initiative.** We hope a new citizen science initiative will be getting underway on our local section of the Northern Wey in 2023. If you'd like to get involved with this, email binstedeconetwork@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with the people involved. Or join an already-active local group: In Guildford, the '**Water Rangers' group** (www.facebook.com/waterrangers/ for details) works collaboratively with the River Wey Trust and other environmental groups to test local water and fill data gaps. In Alton, the '**Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature' group** (part of Alton Climate Action Network) works with the Wildlife Trust to protect the River Way in Alton and runs monthly 'Riverfly' testing sessions (email AltonClimateNetwork@Gmail.com for details.)

- (5) **Write to your MP.** This is a problem which needs government action. There's widespread concern about several issues, including: that the Environment Agency has too few staff to properly investigate and prosecute pollution incidents; that water companies continue to pay large bonuses to company bosses and high dividends to shareholders, expecting to fund infrastructure improvements from customers' household bills; and that politicians failed to strengthen targets for river pollution and in December moved the original 2027 'clean-up' deadline for agricultural and sewage pollution back to 2063.

Let's take action to get this problem fixed.

Stay informed about local wildlife and environmental events, by subscribing to Binsted Eco Network's free fortnightly newsletter. Simply email binstedeconetwork@gmail.com to join. Love your planet!

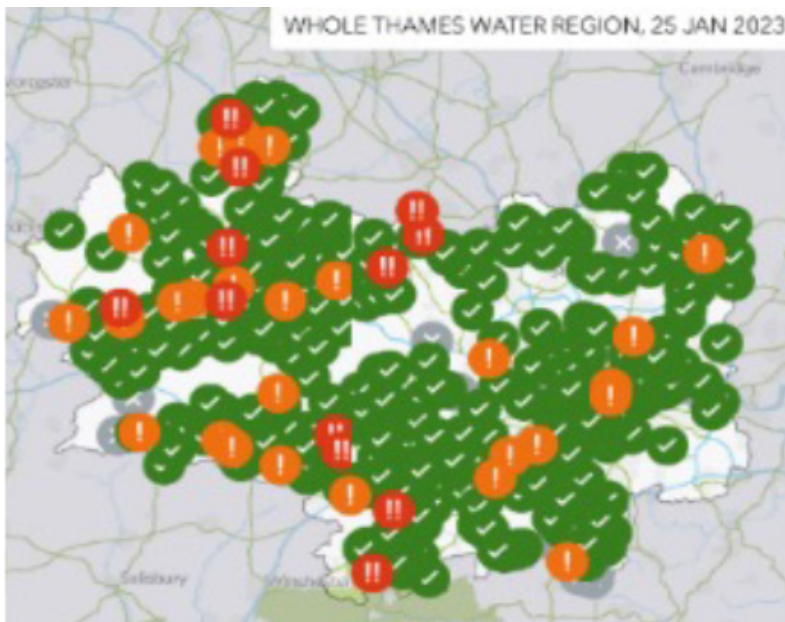


Figure 1: The double exclamation marks shows which of Thames Water's sewage treatment plants were actively discharging raw sewage on 25 January 2023. This was after a significant period of dry weather. Source: www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map_

Blackthorn

William Cobbett, famous son of Farnham, wrote this:

It is a memorable fact that there is always, that is every year of our lives, a spell of cold and angry weather just at the time this hardy little tree is in bloom. The country people call it the Black Thorn winter and thus it has been called, I dare say, by all the inhabitants of this island, from generation to generation, for a thousand years.

The Woodlands, 1825

Now, in this age of meteorological uncertainty, it's less easy to predict whether and when we may have a blackthorn winter, and the *prunus spinosa* may become as confused as we are as to when it should bloom. But bloom it must, and brighten up the drive from Farnham to Four Marks.

It's a delightful mixture of sweetness and menace. You might be tempted to sink your face into that wonderful fragrant blossom, but watch out for the vicious thorns. There are good examples of self-grown blackthorn in the Bentley butterfly meadow, nurtured there by the Conservationists because of the trees' attraction for some of our rarer butterflies. And go back again in autumn to collect the sloes, after all it seems we can't leave a good gin to its own devices these days!

There in the butterfly meadow you can see that an individual tree can grow to four metres, but it is more usual to find them living alongside hawthorn and dog rose in most country hedgerows. Order mixed whips

from a nursery, as we did for the new hedges at Blacknest and these three are bound to be included. Just as oaks may be the most beneficial tree for biodiversity, so blackthorn bushes offer sustenance in the hard times of early winter, when birds need to be building up their sugar reserves, as well as offer guardianship for the small creatures who live close to the ground, and also nestling those butterfly eggs.

There is one, particular use of a blackthorn bush that I have never personally come across, but I believe to be true, and that is that shrikes will impale their prey – small rodents, reptiles and beetles – on the thorns, leading to their alternative name of butcher birds. Please let me know at binstedtrees@gmail.com if you ever come across such a sight.

And humans have weaponised blackthorn as well, as the boughs have been found to be most useful as an offensive weapon. *Sail eille* in Irish, shillelagh to you and me. The wood is dense and heavy. A piece cut just below the root will have the form of a knobby handle, or a club head when required. Though still quite fragile as cut, the implement could be cured by burying it in a dung heap, then placing it in the chimney. Nice! Little wonder then that even ghosts and goblins were reputed to be warded off by them. Even less that Harry Potter should have chosen it as material for his wand.

There's plenty of magic in them thar woodlands, and nowhere more so than around the thorny plum bush, *Prunus spinosa*.

Luminosa's Spring Concert is a Message of Light and Hope

Sergei Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* is a haunting cornerstone of the choral repertoire, and an overwhelming listening experience. Alton-based choir, Luminosa, is delighted to be performing this work, along with Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and Michael Higgins' *O Salutaris Hostia* at All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm.

The *All-Night Vigil* is an incredible work, and arguably Rachmaninov's finest achievement, written within

two weeks during the First World War in early 1915. He was looking to write something more introspective than usual: not for liturgical use but as a war benefit concert.

The *All-Night Vigil* asks the congregation to contemplate the light of the coming dawn as emblematic of Christ's resurrection. Rachmaninov followed the church's tradition of basing ten of the fifteen sections on chants, with the remaining five being more free form. In particular, the 'Kiev' chant resonates most poignantly today. The whole work is full of exquisite harmonies, ranging from top soprano to bottom bass, full of light and shade: a radiant masterpiece.

The first performance took place in March 1915, when it was warmly received by critics and audiences alike. However, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the rise of the Soviet Union, led to government condemnation of sacred music. Consequently, no other composition marks the end of an era so completely as this quiet, reflective and deeply moving work.

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RACHMANINOV: ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

LAURIDSEN: LUX AETERNA

CONDUCTOR: Rebekah Abbott
ORGANIST: Michael Higgins

All Saints Church, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1LZ
Saturday, 25th March 2023, 7.00pm

TICKETS: **£15**
www.ticketsource.co.uk/luminosa-music
Box Office: boxoffice@luminosamusic.com
luminosamusic.com

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The concert will also feature Luminosa Chamber Voices who will perform Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Written in 1997 following the death of his mother, this beautiful work explores music's power to preserve and remember, and the depth of human capacity to love. Lauridsen presents sacred Latin texts in five movements with luminous shifting harmonies, perfectly expressing a timeless sense of serenity.

Michael Higgins will provide sensitive, atmospheric piano accompaniment. Luminosa is also honoured to be performing his exquisite *O Salutaris Hostia* (an arrangement of Elgar's *Nimrod*) which he composed during the Covid lockdown.

Conducted by their dynamic artistic director, Rebekah Abbott, Luminosa will perform this exceptional music with the textual variety and sustained luxuriance of sound for which Luminosa is now well known. There will be also a surprise addition to the concert experience which will enhance the evening's message of hope and light.

If you love choral music and appreciate compositions that lift you from the mundane, you should not miss Luminosa's spring concert at the beautiful All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm. Generous support from Luminosa's sponsor, Hattingley Valley Wines, allows tickets to be available at just £15 for adults (under 12s-£5), available on Ticketsource www.luminosamusic.com



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1	6	8	9	5	2	7	3	4
7	4	9	8	1	3	6	2	5
4	2	5	6	9	7	8	1	3
6	8	3	2	4	1	5	9	7
9	7	1	5	3	8	4	6	2
8	9	7	3	6	5	2	4	1
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3	5	1	7	4	8	6	2	9
5	4	3	9	6	1	2	7	8
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4	6	8	7	9	3	2	1	5

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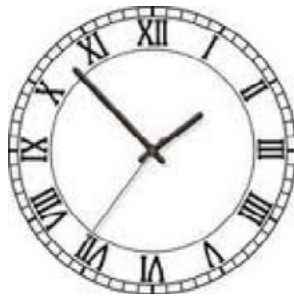


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Garden Club Chairman

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Treasurer Patricia Cardy Tel: 01420 22325

District Council

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Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Fuller 07768 558751
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Bentley School

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Childcare

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Fête Committee

Chairman: Hugh Chissell, Greystones, Bentley
01420 23117

Flower Show

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Phoenix Group: Linda Fuller 07891 825410
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Bentley Rec Ground

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Binsted School

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March Services

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11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

12th March **9:30am** Froyle Holy Communion
11am Binsted Morning Worship
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19th March **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion
Mother's Day **11am** Froyle Morning Worship
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26th March **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion
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