

OCTOBER 2025

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

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Cover Image © Ollie Porter

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Parish Magazine

Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to Gemma Ball on the **5th** of the month, by email (magazine@benbinfro.org)

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I love the old TV show Father Ted. It's observation of the stresses and strains placed on a bumbling and inept priest are hilarious and many within the church can see themselves in the characters and situations. At one point Father Ted says, "That's the great thing about Catholicism – it's very vague and no one knows what it's all really about!" Change the word Catholicism for Christianity and you get a very common response to church and faith today. Many people have a deep question regarding the church, what is it all about?

Many have fond childhood memories about church, singing hymns at school, remembering some of the Bible stories, like Noah's Ark or Daniel in the lion's den. But what is it all about? Looking at the Church of England, there are churches in every village and town and every square inch of the country is covered by parishes. Everyone, whether you believe or not, is entitled to call on the local church for weddings and funerals, or other life events. Churches are places of beauty and oases of quiet in a rushing world which many enjoy visiting. What is it all about?

Wherever you go around the world, if you see a Starbucks or a McDonalds, they will look the same and have similar layouts and menus. If you go into a church, there may be some things in common, but each church is individual and you may have a service with an organ, or guitars, with robes, or casual clothing. There will be prayers and music and a sermon, but it will feel different from place to place. Churches are not uniform but have some things in common. What is it all about?

Is Father Ted right? That the church is very vague and no one knows what it's all really about?

Christianity is ultimately not about a faith, a system of belief or it's buildings and art. It is about a person. Jurgen Moltmann became a Christian while he was a prisoner of war in the Second World War in Scotland. He was impressed with the love he received from the local people who gave him a German Bible to read. He became an influential theologian and thought deeply about evil and suffering. He concluded,

"Where Jesus is, there is life. The sick are healed, saddened life is given fresh heart, marginalised life is accepted, captive life is freed. The movements of Jesus are nothing other than movements of healing, of liberation, of righteousness and justice. Jesus didn't bring a new religion into the world. What he brought was new life."

Our society, culture and nation need new life. We need hope and something worth living for. We need a purpose and direction. When you lose something, you don't just carry on. You retrace your footsteps until you find what you lost. It is time for all of us to stop and go back and rediscover God's rescue plan for humanity. Father Ted was wrong. Christianity isn't vague. Faith in Jesus, and the life he offers, is true. He alone can give us a fresh start. I invite you to reconsider Jesus and his truth for yourself. May God heal our hearts and our land.

Every blessing to you and yours

Matt Boyes

Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle



SAVE THE DATE

Real Nativity

This year the Real Nativity will be happening in Upper Froyle.

**Do come and join us at
6pm on Tuesday 23rd
December.**

Everyone's welcome for an exciting hour of Christmas revealed!

FREE



We are so looking forward to welcoming you to Messy Church this October! This month we are looking at the life of St Francis and his love of birds, animals and the environment.



Sunday 19th October

The Wickham Institute

Binsted, GU34 4NX

4-6pm

Supper included



four: twelve

YOUTH CLUB



WHO? OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOL YEARS 4-6.

WHEN? FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER - 5-6:30PM

WHERE? BENTLEY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL.

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

admin@benbinfro.org

1 Timothy 4:12 - "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."

UPAGEAR

Youth group

School years 7+

A welcoming and fun space for young people to gather, to build friendships, and explore Christian faith and values with significant snacks!

Thursday 2nd October - 5-6:30pm

Thursday 16th October - 5-6:30pm

Bentley Church Hall

admin@benbinfro.org



Meet the Team

Steve Fice



Pictured: Steve & Brigid

1. Quick-fire questions!

Tea or coffee? Tea, not too strong, with milk no sugar

Winter or summer? Autumn!

Sunrise or sunset? Sunrise – the birdsong is amazing

Sweet or savoury? Savoury

Apple or android? Apple

Air guitar or air drums? Air drums

Movies or books? Books

2. What's your favourite way to start the day?

An early morning cup of tea with Brigid, so much more relaxing than rushing off to catch the 6:19 train!

3. Tell us more about your role at Benbinfro and how you ended up here?

We moved from Rowledge to Bentley in 2010. Although I was working in London, I soon became an active member of the church and later got involved in the wider village life, helping with the fete, fireworks and the Memorial Hall. Since 2017 I have been the voluntary Operations Manager of the church, helping Matt run the Benefice. On 11th October, after two years of training, I will become a Licensed Lay Minister.

4. What things in your role do you look forward to the most?

I'm transitioning away from my operational role into a ministry role. My new role is to work alongside and support the clergy, being a bridge and helping them with their ministry in our villages. I really look forward to being part of the ministry team in leading services and funerals, preaching and helping take some of the load from Matt, Christopher and Fran.

5. Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about?

I love the wilderness of Dartmoor in Devon which I have visited every year of my life. It feels my spiritual home and a few days on the moors always refreshes my soul and recharges my batteries. I also have a keen interest in old planes, especially those from the 1940s to the 1960s. One of the most exhilarating things I've experienced was a flight in a two-seat Spitfire at Goodwood. And like Matt, I am a lifelong supporter of Southampton FC, which helps me to understand life is full of ups and downs.

6. What's your most embarrassing moment?

I can't think of anything, other than scooping the ball over the bar from almost the goal line in the under 14s quarter final of the Surrey Schools Football Cup. I was never allowed to forget that!

7. If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why?

Right now, some hi-tech speed-reading glasses. I've collected a large library over the course of my training, but I feel I have only scratched the surface of what's in the books and I don't think I'll ever read them all

8. To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others?

Proverbs 3:5 *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."* It's taken me a long time to fully understand this, but it's what I have finally learnt to do, and when I do I know I can achieve so much more. And so can anyone

BENTLEY HARVEST SERVICE



You are warmly invited to come and celebrate Harvest and give thanks for our farming communities.

St Mary's Church, Bentley
Sunday 12th October, 9:30am

Donations of tinned and dried foods for Alton Foodbank would be much appreciated.

Details of what they are currently in need of can be found here:
<https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Join us afterwards for a light brunch.

Children's Church in October



A friendly and fun group for children during the Sunday service. With stories, games, songs, and crafts, children learn about God in a way that's easy to understand and enjoy. All ages are welcome – come and join us!

5th October

9:30am Holy Cross Binsted

BRAND NEW!

12th October

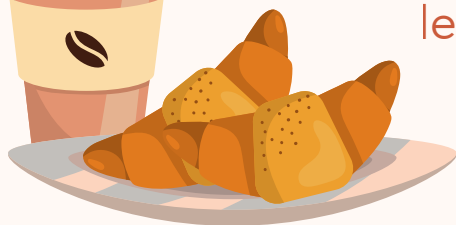
9:30am St Mary's Bentley

26th October

9:30am St Mary's Bentley



GOOD MORNING



let's have breakfast



introducing

MATT'S CHATS

Good food and meaningful conversation.

A relaxed hour with our vicar, exploring Christian ideas from the big to the small. Open to all whether you're a lifelong believer or just curious.

9:30am

18th October 2025

**The Anchor Inn, Lower Froyle
Breakfast provided**

Bring your questions, Bring a Friend and Bring an Appetite.

Pop us an email to let us know you are coming so we can provide enough food -
admin@benbinfro.org

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

The parish magazine for Bentley & Binsted is distributed to all the houses in our two villages. Most of the costs for producing the magazine come from advertising revenues, in 2024 we had a shortfall of over £3,000, which Bentley and Binsted PCCs need to cover.

It costs us around £1 to produce each copy of the magazine and we publish 10 editions per year. If you feel that you are able to contribute towards the costs of producing the magazine, please contact the magazine treasurer at bentleytreasurer@benbinfro.co.uk or you can donate online by either:

- scanning the QR code below
- or go direct to our donations page at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tv9rtxu>.



Thank you for helping us keep the magazine as something for everyone in Bentley and Binsted.

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

[Please note the Gallery and Museum will be closed on Sundays until further notice]

ALLEN GALLERY

Ceramicus

The Allen Gallery is delighted to welcome back Ceramicus from October 4th to 31st. This talented group of local potters is based in the Surrey and Hampshire area. They come together to exhibit their work, which covers a wide range of throwing, hand building and sculpting methods with various types of clay. Followed by a spectrum of glazing and firing techniques - wood burning kilns, "raku" methods and traditional gas and modern electronically controlled kilns. Come and browse, perhaps choose some early Christmas presents! FREE entry.

Adult Well-being Workshop.

FREE but booking essential See website.

Calligraphy and Origami

Tuesday 22nd October, 10am - 4pm

Age: 18+.

Talks sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery.

Bees by Lesley Ann Morris. 9th October, 7.30pm.

Mediaeval Women, Caroline Stapleton, 13th November, 7.30pm.

All talks are in the Allen Gallery. FREE. donations welcome.

CURTIS MUSEUM

As a follow-up to our recent Anglo-Saxon theme -

Saxons vs Vikings - Follow our **activity trail** with two routes, Saxons or Vikings? Choose a side and join its boot camp on this fun family trail.

Make a Shield to blend in with your chosen team. Only £2 per shield with craft materials provided.

2nd September - 24th October,
10am - 4.30pm.

4th November - 29th November,
10am - 4.30pm.

Half-term Fun in the Curtis and Allen

The Curious Case of the Haunted Exhibits

Can you uncover the mystery of the Haunted Exhibits this October half-term? Join us on this spooky self-led activity trail around the Curtis Museum.

There is a mission for our younger visitors - we have clay ghosts hidden around the Museum, can you find them all?

Pumpkin Spotter Trail

- can you find all the hidden pumpkins round the Allen Gallery?

**Communal Craft:
The Ghostly Gathering -**

you can decorate and add a ghost to our communal mural! (Curtis).
25th October - 1st November;
10am -4.30pm, (drop in).
£2 per trail, to include Hallowe'en prize.

Clay Ghost Workshop

(Allen Gallery)
Make your own spooky (or silly) ghost from air-dry clay. All ages welcome.
28th October 11am - 3pm. (drop in)
£2 per child, 5th craft free.

Make your own Ectoplasm. Slimy gooeey fun with our own Museum "ectoplasm" mix. (Curtis Museum)
30th October 11am-3pm (drop in)
£2 per child, 5th craft free.

Museum by Torchlight

(Curtis Museum)
Keeping the creepy theme, dare you come on the Hallowe'en torchlight trail? Spooky storytelling, Hallowe'en challenges.
31st October, 5.30pm - 7.30pm.
(drop in) £3.75 per chid, adults free.

Spooky Film Night (Allen Gallery)
Family-friendly Hallowe'en film. 6pm,
29th October. Ticketed. Details on website or at venue.

Dotty the Dodo's Autumn Fact Hunt -

a free Family Trail. Dotty has hidden some more facts from the natural world around the Curtis Museum.
Can you find them all and earn your Dotty the Dodo sticker?
2nd September - 29th November.

Sudoku September Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



Binsted Parish Council

An update

In April's edition of the parish magazine I mentioned the grants available from the Parish Council for local organisations and projects that contribute to the life of our community and people living in the parish.

I'm pleased to say that this year we received more applications than in previous years, and from a wide range of organisations seeking funding for a diverse range of activities. Whilst the funding pot available in any year is never big enough to fund every project in full, we were able to provide grants to all of the groups who applied, including the work of Citizens Advice East Hampshire; projects run by the two Home-Start charities in our area and Bushy Leaze Children and Family Centre that support local families; equipment for Rowledge and Binsted Primary School; maintaining the grounds at Holy Cross Church; new facilities for pickleball at the tennis club; and youth activities run by Hive Helpers, a local organisation that works to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of adults and children in the local community through beekeeping and nature conservation.

As well as these grants, the Parish Council also has access to other funds such as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy from the District Council and South Downs National Park that can be spent on projects to improve local infrastructure, facilities and services. And we are also able to provide help, advice and useful contact points for other grants and support available from the likes of East Hants District Council and Hampshire County Council.

We are also keen to support local organisations, clubs, charities, and businesses in other ways- whether that be using the facilities at the Binsted Recreation Ground and Pavilion, or promoting your organisation, events, and fundraising activities via our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/BinstedParish/>), website, or parish noticeboards. Please feel free to contact me (clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk) if you think we can help in any way.

Mike Mordecai



Binsted Fete

The Fate of Binsted Fete is in your hands

The Binsted Fete is a much-loved local tradition. It only happens by the efforts of the wonderful community of volunteers who step up. This year, we're looking for a **brand new Committee** to help keep the Fete alive and allow it to thrive into the future.

After 7 years of organising and running the fete and dog show, Matt, Alix, Sarah & Kim, feel that now is the time to step down and allow a new team to take over and breathe fresh life into this fabulous community event.

Since 2018, the current committee have worked hard to bring Binsted a fun, traditional Village Fete with fun activities for all of the family to enjoy. We are also so proud that we have been able to donate over £18,400 to local good causes and charities during our tenure. New committee members will benefit from support from the outgoing committee, but also there's plenty of room to bring in your own fresh ideas!

What the new Committee might look like...

- **Chair** – Lead the team, keep things on track, and be our MC on the day.
- **Marketing Coordinator** – Spread the word with posters, website updates & social media.
- **Stalls Coordinator** – Plan and organise stalls and layouts, liaise with volunteers.

- **Sponsorship & Raffle Prize Secretary** – Secure local sponsors and raffle prizes, lead the team running the raffle on the Fete day.
- **Treasurer** – Keep track of fete finances (some Excel/ Google Sheets skills needed).
- **Flower, Produce & Craft Coordinator** – Oversee competitions & judges.
- **Dog Show Coordinator** – Organise classes, trophies & judges.

We have added further information about these suggested roles to the Fete website, under the 'About Us' section.

Why Join?

- Keep a wonderful village tradition alive... if no one steps forward, the Binsted Fete **WILL NOT** go ahead in 2026
- Make a difference in your community
- Gain new skills & friendships

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you!

info@binstedfete.co.uk

call Matt to chat - 07717 750035

www.binstedfete.co.uk

This year's Binsted Fete AGM will take place on Friday 21st November 2025, 7pm-9pm at the Binsted Rec Pavilion. Ideally this is when we would like to vote in the new committee and discuss the 2026 fete strategy.

SAVE THE DATE...

Saturday 6th December 2025

2.00pm – 4.30pm

Binsted's Annual Christmas Fair

In the Wickham Institute and Holy Cross Church, Binsted

More volunteers, donations and ideas needed. Please get involved with this community event. Thank you. Contact Angela

angela1dunne@sky.com

I look forward to hearing from you



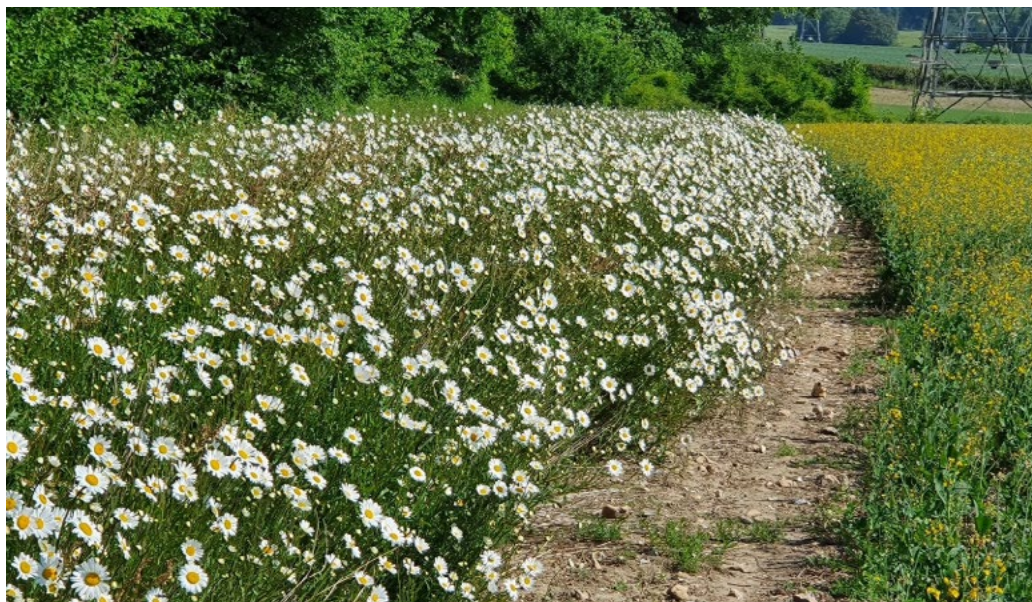
FROYLE WILDLIFE

**Regenerative Farming talk,
Friday 24th October 2025,
Froyle Village Hall.**

Simon Porter will be explaining how Regenerative farming has the potential for the first time to produce the needed quantities of high-quality food to feed the world, whilst reducing inorganic sprays and fertilisers. At the same time, Regen farming can successfully store atmospheric carbon in the soil, improve wasteful water runoff and reduce harmful leaching of pesticides into our water supply. Regen farmers are also seeing a return in the numbers of beneficial

insects and red-listed birds. Sounds too good to be true? Come and find out how it has been working successfully on a nearby farm for over 20 years. There will be time for your questions during the talk.

All welcome, Froyle Village Hall doors open 7pm, a brief Froyle Wildlife AGM starts at 7.30pm followed by the talk, entrance free for members, £3 non-members, teas and coffee.





A Huge Thank You !

Wheatley House open garden
week-end 16th/17th August
Sadly the final one.

I am so very grateful to Nick Carter and
the team of bakers and helpers who have
provided wonderful cakes and teas on each
occasion over so many years.

It was a wonderfully successful week-end
with a huge number of visitors and record
funds were raised for Binsted Church and the
National Gardens Scheme charity.

The perfect conclusion to all the years
of open gardens week-ends.

Susannah Adlington, Wheatley House

SAVE THE DATE

BENTLEY BONFIRE NIGHT

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

CARTERS MEADOW

MORE DETAILS AND TIMINGS TO FOLLOW

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR POSTERS & FLYERS
AROUND THE VILLAGE & ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Saturday Café



Bentley Memorial Hall

Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30pm

Coffee, tea and cakes



We look forward
to seeing you for
a catch up and
lively chat.



On most Saturdays.
Look out for the
banner outside the
Hall.



The bush with a bang

We're talking about Buckthorn, in its two closely related manifestations; and their lively chemistry!

I'm prompted to write about them as I have followed the progress of a group of Alder Buckthorn in Alice Holt through this year. They are said to be fussier than their cousin about where they thrive, and these all sit beside a path and close to a drainage ditch, enjoying the open air and the damp. Just like their namesakes the Alder tree *Alnus cordata*.

More of the chemistry later, but first, let me talk about the beauty of our two native species. They both bear delicate white flowers in May. These develop into berries no bigger than elderberries, and progress in colour from green, through yellow to red to deep purple, as the months pass. Come September the ripe fruit is starting to be sacrificed to the grateful birds. But don't be tempted to follow their example, at least not until you have read to the end of this.

The leaves are similar in shape, and the brimstone caterpillar makes no distinction, feasting on both.

The outer bark is dark brown, but the inner bark is bright yellow when exposed. A yellow dye is obtained from the leaves and bark. It is used in Russia and turns black when mixed with salts of iron. A green dye is obtained from the unripe fruit, and a blue or grey dye from the ripe berries.

But the trees are best known for their pharmaceutical benefits. The dried bark and the fruit was once used as a laxative due to its 3–7% anthraquinone content which stimulates the colon. Beware; the effects are explosive! The cousin that is easiest to distinguish by its thorns is called Purging Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*. Cathartic by name, cathartic by nature! Cousin Alder Buckthorn *Frangula alna* is hardly less dangerous. John Gerard wrote in his *Herball*, in 1597, that the medicine should only be administered 'to young, strong and lustie people of the Countreie, which do set more store of their money than their lyves'.

My favourite story concerning this aspect is that of the Benedictine monks of St Albans Abbey, who consumed Purging Buckthorn berries on a routine basis; whether this was for health reasons or religious penance remains unclear. The evidence for this emerged in the 1920's, when the abbey's ancient latrine pits were excavated and great numbers of buckthorn seeds were found. What more quintessential devotion could there be to evidence-based research, than that of the hero(ine) who did the counting.

And the fireworks don't end there. Alder buckthorn charcoal is prized in the manufacture of gunpowder and is regarded as the best wood for the

purpose. It is particularly valued for time fuses because it has a very even burn rate. If only I had known this when, as a lad, I was conducting my own experiments with gunpowder, I could have done some real damage! The light, flammable charcoal was still much in demand for fuses during the Second World War, when the Women's Timber Corps was charged with locating natural stands of Alder Buckthorn in the countryside. The quantities to be found to this day in the New Forest were achieved through supplemental planting by the WTC.

Ben Hamlin *Tree warden*
Binstedtrees@gmail.com



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

ALL WELCOME

(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI





NEED A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPT 2026?

Binsted CE Primary School

Join us for a tour of our lovely village school, where our community feels like family. We are a small rural primary school with small class sizes and strong Christian ethos, based on our school values of Faith, Hope and Love.



Dates

Monday 29th September 2025

Monday 13th October 2025

Wednesday 12th November 2025

Wednesday 26th November 2025



Tours at:

9:30 - 10:30 or 11:00 - 12:00



Location

Binsted CE Primary School, Church
Street, Binsted GU34 4NX

Contact the school office on
01420 23200 or
adminoffice@binsted.hants.sch.uk
to book your place!

We look forward to meeting you
soon!





School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

We are so excited to be back to school and are settling well into the new term. It has been wonderful to catch up with all of the pupil's news and to hear about their adventures over the summer break.

Our amazing FOBS (Friends of Binsted School) team have spent the last year or so raising money for a huge IT upgrade here and thanks to their tireless work, we were able to go ahead with that over the summer holidays. We are so thankful to our supportive community for their help in realising that target and are enjoying getting to grips with the new technology.

We are delighted to welcome 11 new starters in our Oak Reception class along with a couple of older children starting with us in Key Stage Two. We extend a very warm welcome to them and their families and hope that they feel a valued part of the school already.





August 2025

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

34.1°C (12th) to 20.3°C (30th)
3 days above 30°C



Nighttime minimum

1.2°C (22nd) to 15.3°C (18th)
5 nights below 5°C

Rainfall



Total for month

1.09 inches (27.6 mm) over 11 days



Wettest days

0.43 inches (10.8 mm) (29th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

West South West



Maximum gust

16 mph (4th)

Parish Weatherman



Binsted Church needs your help.

Help preserve the building for generations to come.

Become a Friend of Binsted Church and...

HELP provide essential funding for the maintenance of this historic building

HELP preserve the church for generations to come

HELP retain the character and heritage of our village

Your friendship will enable you to...

- ✦ Sponsor the cost of maintenance of the building and churchyard for a day, currently £35
- ✦ Choose a day of special significance to you and your family
- ✦ Have your chosen name and day recorded formally in a Book of Friends kept permanently displayed in the church, next to a lit candle

For more information and a sponsors' form, please visit www.benbinfo.co.uk or scan the QR code.



The Friends of Binsted Church is under the jurisdiction of Binsted PCC, a registered charity in the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Cross, Binsted, Hampshire.

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The perfect venue for celebrations, children's parties, meetings, exercise classes or exhibitions. The Hall is conveniently located in the centre of the village and has kitchen facilities and ample car parking.

Downstairs accommodates events for up to 100 people across two rooms.

Upstairs accommodates events for up to 20 people and is ideal for meetings.

Your Hall Needs You



We are always looking for new Trustees to help run the Memorial Hall. Without new blood, the existing Trustees will wither away with age and the Hall will die.

If you want the Hall to continue to be part of village life, please consider becoming a Trustee.

For more information, please contact
bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

The Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club

The winners of the September draw of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

1st Simon Harrap 2nd Ann Joy 3rd John Goodyear

Congratulations to the winners.

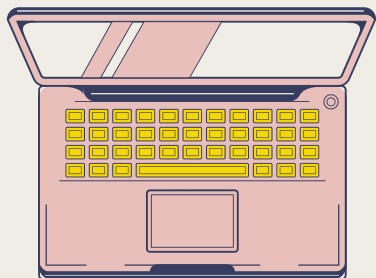
We welcome new members to the 100+ Club. Each number costs £12 per year (£1 per month) and there are three prizes every month! 50% of membership fees go to the 100+ Club prize fund while the remaining 50% goes to the Memorial Hall to help with our running costs. The more people who join the 100+ Club, the more money paid out in monthly prizes.

To join the 100+ Club, please e-mail a request to bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

For room bookings and additional information about the Hall, please visit our website
www.bentleymemorialhall.org.

Work from home

at Bentley Church Hall



Come along to our 'working from home' sessions at Bentley Church Hall. We will have structured days with quiet times for focussed work through the day and the opportunity for a social lunch to beat the loneliness, share ideas, and cheer each other on.

9am - 5pm

Dates:

21st October

18th November

2nd December

16th December

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for more info

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WI-FI

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school times

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FROM GRETA GERWIG
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Bentley Memorial Hall Association Presents

Little Women (Brilliant new 2020 version)

Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Meryl Streep

Fri. 10th October, at the Memorial Hall

Doors/bar open 7.15.

Film starts at 8pm

Buy tickets at the door, £7

Steve Fice

Licensed Lay Minister

If you have read the Meet the Team article about me, you'll have learnt that on 11th October I will become a Licensed Lay Minister at a service in Winchester Cathedral.

The Church of England website describes the role of Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), which is also known as a Reader, as a leadership role in the church serving alongside clergy to support people in faith and enable mission.

After a 37-year career working in IT, I retired early from full-time paid work after being treated for prostate cancer. I sensed God calling me to do something else, something better, with the rest of my life. So, I became Operations Manager for the Benefice in 2017 and I thought helping Yann and then Matt run the Benefice was what God was asking me to do.

But constant prodding from God, plus prompts from many other people, encouraged me to attend a Vocations Day run by the Diocese. When I heard them describing the role of a Licensed Lay Minister I felt immediately this was what I was being called to do.

It takes a while to become an LLM. First there is a short period of discernment and a selection panel involving one of the Bishops from the Diocese. Once you been accepted, there follows two years of training.

I have had the joy of being part of a small cohort being trained by the Mission and Ministry Team at Winchester Diocese. During term time, I have had weekly training. It's either on Zoom on a Thursday

evening or in-person at Old Alresford Place on a Saturday. Those leading the training, Amy, Helen and Will, have been amazing and they have taught me so much. The training has covered a broad range of subjects from the Bible, through preaching skills, theological study, leadership, pastoral care and mission.

Much of the training has focussed on our personal formation, building on the formal education we've had with practical experience and helping us in our spiritual and character development. I've enjoyed it so much that I've even signed up for an optional further third year of training, which I started in September.

It has been quite a journey for me. I have learnt lots of new things, I've discovered so much about myself and built lifelong friendships with those I have been training with.

I now look forward to helping others on their journeys of faith, enabling the mission of the church in the everyday activities and leading, both in church and beyond.

And in case you are wondering, I have robes I will wear on occasion. So you may see me in them in church. I'll be wearing a blue scarf over my cassock and surplice. Please do come and say hello.

Holy Cross Day

Sunday September 14th 2025

HOLY CROSS CHURCH BINSTED

This was a very special Benefice Service, gathering together to mark Holy Cross Day, commemorated since the 7th Century, where the significance and power of the cross in our Christian faith is celebrated.

Everyone had pulled together to spruce up the church following the works on the East Window and the surrounding stonework. The wonderful cleaning team had dusted and polished, and the flower team

had created beautiful arrangements which mirrored the colours in the East Window -and amazingly the weather stayed dry!

Matt preached, emphasising that the picture of Jesus being taken down from the cross on our East Window is not the end of the story. We rejoice in the Easter story of the Resurrection which gives us eternal hope. The service ended with the hymn "Thine be the glory,

risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won".

If you haven't yet seen the East Window restored, do please take a moment to pop up to Holy Cross Church and see it for yourself. If you visit on a Wednesday morning between 10.00am-12pm in term time, do pop into The Wickham Institute for coffee/tea and cake before you leave.





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
September 2025 draws:

September 2025

1st prize Helen MacDonald

2nd prize Graham Jones

3rd prize Judith Stephens

Details of the October 2025 draw will appear in the next magazine.

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

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

If you would like to participate an application form can be obtained
from Andrew Croom-Johnson on 01420 23157 or email a request to
Andrew at treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk



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we remember
those we love but
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3PM

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lighting of candles, join us to thank
God for the lives of those we miss.

Halloween and All Souls' Day

Each year during October, for as long as I can remember, two traditions have emerged side by side generating much discussion and sometimes very strong opinions! They are, of course, Halloween on 31st October, and All Souls' Day, celebrated on 2nd November, and the debate usually centres around whether the two could ever be compatible, so maybe a helpful starting point would be to know the origins and something about each of the festivals.

Halloween started over 2 000 years ago with the Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer, the gathering in of the harvest and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on 31st October, the veil between the world of the living and the spirit world was at its thinnest, and that on this night the spirits of those who had died could cross, or come back, into the world of the living. And so early Halloween traditions included the lighting of bonfires to penetrate and ward off the darkness, the wearing of costumes, often animal heads, to protect themselves from wandering ghosts, among other things. Today Halloween is often seen simply as a time to dress up, go trick or treating, carve pumpkins and decorate homes, but still, under the costumes and decorations lies something deeper – our natural fascination as humans with life, with death, and with what happens after death. And so even if Halloween has become perhaps in some ways more 'light hearted' if one could call it that over the ages, it's important that we not lose sight of its origins, and the fact that it focuses on the dark side of death, using skeletons, ghosts, tombstones and the afterworld in a way that makes a mockery of death, portraying it as something scary.

And that's where the contrast with All Souls' Day comes in. Originating in the 10th century in a French monastery, All Souls' Day also invites us to think about life, and death, and what lies beyond, but in an entirely different way. All Souls' Day isn't about fear, horror, ghosts and darkness; it's about love, connection and the hope that we have in Christ Jesus. It's a day that is set aside to think, with gratitude and thankfulness, of those who have died, and to remember that life doesn't end with death. For Christians, it's a reminder that there is a bigger story out there, and that physical, or earthly, death is not the end, but that God's love and our eternal life extends way beyond death. And for those for whom faith feels distant, there's still something deeply moving in taking time to remember and celebrate the people who influenced our lives as All Souls' Day invites us to slow down and reflect on the deeper mysteries of life.

And so are the two compatible? The short answer would be no, and to that end many churches and communities these days hold events on 31 October which offer an alternative to the sinister darkness of Halloween by focusing on positive themes rather than fear, with things like light displays and events that provide a safe and inclusive way to celebrate the season. And then All Souls' Day invites us to go deeper, providing us with an opportunity to honour the people we've loved, to reflect on what's truly important, and to open our hearts to the mystery of faith and eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Fran Harrison
Anna Chaplain

Church Registers

Binsted

Monday 4th August

Burial of Ashes of Michael Nicolle

Thursday 7th August

Burial of Brian Pennicott

Thought for the Month

Strive not to
be a success,
but rather to
be of value

Albert Einstein

Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

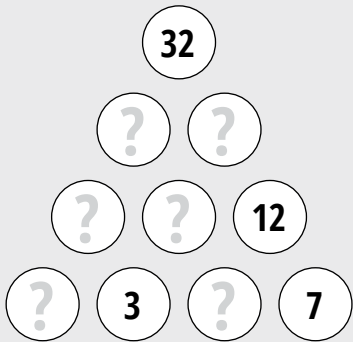
		1	2		7		9	
	9				8		4	
				9		3		
		9	1			4		
		3	6		2	7		
		8			4	2		
		4		3				
	2		4				6	
	6		8		9	1		

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!

Number Pyramid

What are the missing numbers?



Sudoku game MEDIUM

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

Sudoku game HARD

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

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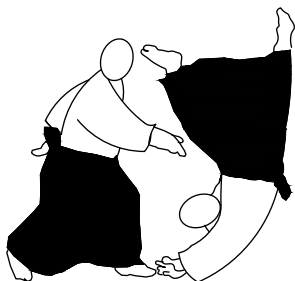
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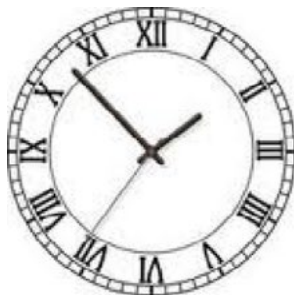
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Email phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk

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Chair: Stephen Whowell
stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.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: Graham Jones 07825 201451
email: graham.jones666@gmail.com
Bookings: Ann Mann 07854130955
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

David Ashcroft, 07966 511 868.
Email DavidAshcroft@easthants.gov.uk,

Parish Council

Chair: Dominic Hearne, 07886 581 906
d.hearne@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Vice Chair: Jason Lock, 07500 898 387
jason@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk Mike Mordecai
Email: clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: Binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Facebook: [@Binstedparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Binstedparishcouncil)

Binsted School

Headteacher: Henry Jennings 01420 23200

Fête and Flower Show

Matt Arrowsmith
thebinstedfete@gmail.com

Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 451
Website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/btcc/>

Growmore Club Secretary:

binsted.growmore.secretary@gmail.com

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)

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

SEE YOU IN

ALL ARE WELCOME

October

5th Oct **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion
& Children's Church
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion
6pm Bentley Praise

12th Oct **8am** Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
& Children's Church - **Harvest**
11am Froyle Holy Communion
6pm Kingsley Praise

19th Oct **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
4pm Binsted Messy Church

26th Oct **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion
& Children's Church
11am Binsted Morning Worship
6:30pm Froyle Evensong

www.benbinfro.co.uk
admin@benbinfro.org
01420 23339

