

NOVEMBER 2025

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Music Quiz Event 07

Meet The Team 10

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Parish Magazine

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The clocks have gone back and the nights are drawing in. After a warm, dry summer; winter is coming.

We are blessed to live in a part of the world with changing seasons and seeing how the miracle of life in spring builds to the thriving abundance of summer, the slow beautiful maturing of autumn and the cold and dark of winter, before the cycle starts again.

It is important to spot the seasons and live in them and learn from them. We can't expect to reap a harvest in spring or to find daffodils in autumn. Everything has a time and a place. The writer of the ancient Book of Ecclesiastes said, "There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to rebuild." Ecc 3:1-3

Perhaps some of the anxiety we feel in life, comes from expecting a result in a season that can't provide. I'm not saying that we just sit back passively and accept things. God wants us to seek him, to pray to him and ask him for things as Jesus reminds us. The farmer knows that seed has to be planted in the hope of a harvest. There are things we need to do to prepare for the hoped outcomes, but God provides the increase.

What season of life are you in at the moment? I'm not just speaking about age. You can have winter seasons in your 20's and spring in your 80's. If lots of new possibilities or opportunities are opening up for you, then you are probably in spring. If things are not growing, despite all your efforts, then probably it's winter, but spring follows winter.

The church is exactly the same. It seems that for the Benefice, we are seeing the signs of spring. New people are joining us, new projects are taking off and those who saw us through the winter season are tired from keeping the fires going and deserve a rest. It is always exciting to see the new things God is doing. Not all the seeds will grow, but spring is a season of hope and possibility. As a nation we might say we are also still in the grips of winter. But spring is coming.

Our task, in whatever season, is to watch and pray. To see what God is doing and seek to act in accordance with it. My prayer for you all, is that you will see your season and have the faith to thank God for all that he has done, and the faith to trust for all that he will do. May God make you fruitful and bless you all.

Matt Boyes

Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle



Please join us as
we remember
those we love but
no longer see
ALL WELCOME

A special service of hope and
thanksgiving

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

3PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BENTLEY

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

For further details: 01420 23339 admin@benbinfro.org

FREE



Sunday 16th November

Froyle Village Hall, GU34 4LG

4-6pm

Supper included 

Come and join our Advent and Christmas preparations! We will be making decorations, marking stir up Sunday and telling the Nativity story. And ending with a yummy hot meal.



PEACE ON *Earth*

Sudoku

Sudoku game MEDIUM

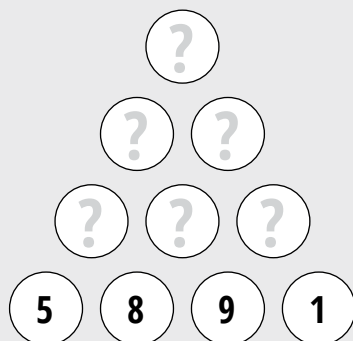
			9				6	7
	9						2	8
4	6			7	8			
3	2			9	4		7	
7			6		3			2
	1		7	8			4	3
			8	5			1	6
5		1					9	
6	7				9			

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?





Four:twelve is a great place for the young people of our villages to come together for lots of fun and games, plus crafts and snacks! It is a youth group run by the church so we love to encourage the young people with a short bible teaching, which very often helps them in their day to day lives.

Take a look at what we get up to! The photos below show some of our outfits made up with scraps of fabric for our 'fashion show' – this is a favourite among the group!

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

WHEN? FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER - 5-6:30PM
FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER - 5-6:30PM

WHERE? BENTLEY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL.

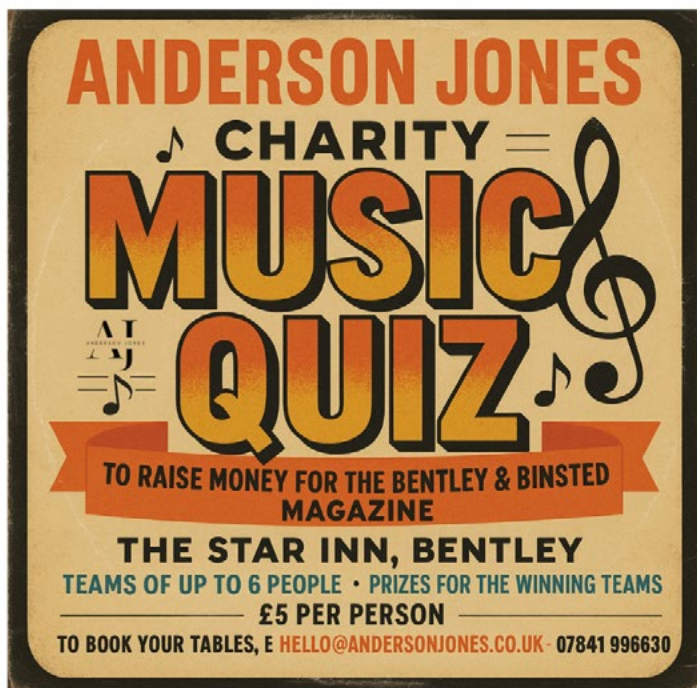
WHAT? FUN & GAMES, SHORT BIBLE TEACHING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, TUCK SHOP.

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."

Pop an email to the church office to find out more!
admin@benbinfro.org





To help raise some much needed funds for the magazine, our local estate agents Anderson Jones are holding a music quiz at The Star Inn.

It is on **Wednesday 12th November at 7.30pm**. Adrian will be asking questions on lyrics, intros, songwriters and other topics with Candice keeping a close eye on the scores. The questions will be across all decades of popular music but the majority will be from a time when we all bought our music on vinyl, cassette or CD.

Teams of up to 6 people with prizes for the winning teams. It is only £5 per person and will really help to support the magazine going forward and have a whole load of fun doing it. So, get your music head on, find some friends who know a thing or two about music and join everyone on the night.

To book your table email hello@andersonjones.co.uk call **01252 988488** or pop into The Star.



Saturday 11th October 2025

Licensing Service at Winchester Cathedral

More than 30 people from across the diocese were licensed during this service, called to work in various roles including worship, youth and children, pastoral care and Licensed Lay Ministry. Our very own Steve Fice was licensed as Lay Minister, and Jill Kiely received her Bishop's Commission for Mission for completing the 'Church Beyond Walls' programme.

The cathedral was full of family, friends and supporting clergy, and was led by the Bishop of Winchester. It was a wonderful service of celebration, followed by lots of photo opportunity!

A huge well done to Steve and Jill.



Advent by Candlelight

St Mary's Church, Froyle
Saturday 29th November
6:30pm

Come along to mark the beginning of Advent, the season where we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. With beautiful choral performances, advent hymns, and readings, this will be sure to get you in the spirit of Advent.



Meet the Team

Christopher



Pictured: Kathy & Christopher

1. Quick-fire questions!

Tea or coffee? Tea

Winter or summer? Summer

Sunrise or sunset? Sunrise

Sweet or savoury?

Both but if I have to choose savoury

Apple or android?

Apple, have had Macs since 1992

Air guitar or air drums? Air guitar

Movies or books? Movies

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

I walk the dogs in the quiet of the dawn.

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

When I moved from Hertfordshire as I took a new job with De Beers based in Ascot I was able to come and stay in the family home in Mill Court. When my time at De Beers ended and after many years of not listening to my calling I applied for ordination. I was accepted and as a Non-Stipendary Ordinand I was able to stay at Mill Court. After my curacy I was licensed as the Associate Priest in the Benefice.

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

I really enjoy the variety of things I do as a priest; preaching, leading services, youth work, Bible Study and the occasional offices; weddings, funerals and baptisms. In any way if I can get people to wrestle with the reality of God and the Bible that is what I look forward to the most.

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

My big passion has to be surfing, not that I am able to do it that often. I also thoroughly enjoy time spent in the wild watching wildlife especially raptors.

6. What's your most embarrassing moment?

As a teenager I was offering to syphon petrol from my father's car for a friend only to find that my father was listening.

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

A device that would not let me get fat from eating cake.

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

John 3:16
It reminds me that I am loved as I am and always. It is the salvation plan for anyone. It is as though there is always an open channel to God for anyone at anytime.

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 13th November – 5–6:30pm

Thursday 27th November – 5–6:30pm

Bentley Church Hall

admin@benbinfro.org

Children's Church in November



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!

2nd November

9:30am Holy Cross Binsted

BRAND NEW!

9th November

Remembrance Sunday - No Children's Church

23rd November

9:30am St Mary's Bentley

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9th November 2025

Services across our benefice:

Bentley

Church service at 10am, before moving to Bentley Memorial Hall for an Act of Remembrance.

Binsted

Act of Remembrance at 10:50am at the War Memorial outside the church, before moving into the church for a Remembrance service.

Froyle

Act of Remembrance at 10:50am at the War Memorial , before moving into the church for a Remembrance service.

Kingsley

Act of Remembrance at 10:50am at the War Memorial outside the church, before moving into the church for a Remembrance service.





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday 29th November

6:30pm Froyle Advent by Candlelight

Sunday 21st December

4pm Christingle at Kingsley

6pm Carol Service at Binsted

Monday 22nd December

7:30pm Carols at The Star Inn, Bentley

Tuesday 23rd December

6pm Real Nativity at Froyle

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle at Bentley

5:30pm Crib Service at Froyle

10pm Froyle Late Night Holy Communion

10pm Oakhanger Late Night Holy Communion

11:30pm Bentley Midnight Holy Communion

11:30pm Binsted Midnight Holy Communion

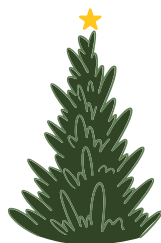
Christmas Day

9:30am Bentley Holy Communion

9:30am Binsted Holy Communion

11am Froyle Holy Communion

11am Kingsley Holy Communion



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

The Allen Gallery in Church Street, Alton was successful in receiving funding from multiple sources, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council for a redevelopment. The redevelopment project started in May 2025 and the project team at Hampshire Cultural Trust are now planning for the scheduled capital works to begin in early 2026.

This ambitious project will transform the Allen Gallery into a more welcoming, accessible and inspiring space for everyone, with new displays, a dedicated community area, and a programme of ceramics-inspired creative workshops and activities for all ages.

The schedule of capital works being undertaken will mean **a period of closure** for this work to be carried out which will be as follows:

- **End of December 2025: The Allen Gallery closes to the public**
- **Throughout 2026: work is carried out at the venue**
- **Early 2027: The gallery will reopen to the public.**

During the closed period there will be a range of community programmes and creative activities, much of which will take place at the **Curtis Museum** and other local venues. These will include family workshops, volunteering opportunities, and special events designed to bring people together and celebrate Alton's heritage.

To find out more about this programme and to keep up to date with the project please visit Allen Gallery | Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Volunteer opportunities

Now the nights are drawing in and outdoor pursuits don't seem quite so attractive as they did during the long, hot summer; why not become a volunteer at the Curtis Museum? It's indoors, you meet some really nice people, and you can learn a bit of local history at the same time. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing Allen Gallery Project (see above). Training will be given for helping to pack, move and catalogue the collection. And eventually to re-site the artefacts once the Gallery is up and running in its new form.

Once a week, once a month or just occasionally, - we would love to hear from you.

For more details, please contact manager Ian Grierson on 01420 82802 or ian.grierson@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or drop in and have a chat with the volunteers on duty.

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

Mediaeval Women, by Caroline Stapleton, 13th November; 7.30pm, Allen Gallery.

FREE. donations welcome.

Next year; talks will be held in the Community Centre.

CURTIS MUSEUM

Saxons v 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.

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

Mediaeval Christmas

We're travelling back in time this Christmas, to mediaeval Alton. From the Saxons to the Normans, discover the origins of many of the traditions we still do today. Join us for a free activity trail, make and take crafts, and a communal Christmas decoration.

2nd December-3rd January, 10am - 4.30pm.

Christmas Craft Club

17th and 31st December, 11am -3pm
(drop in). Festive make and take crafts

£2 per child, 5th craft free.

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.



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





September 2025

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

26.4°C (19th) to 14.3°C (26th)
12 days above 20°C



Nighttime minimum

-0.9°C (23rd) to 15.2°C (18th)
2 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

3.27 inches (83.0 mm) over 19 days



Wettest days

0.86 inches (21.8 mm) (3rd)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

West South West



Maximum gust

21 mph (14th)

Parish Weatherman

Binsted Church Needs Your Help



Become a Friend of Binsted Church and help maintain the heritage of our village.

The Church of the Holy Cross is a beautiful, mainly Norman church with 13th-15th Century additions. It is a Grade-1 Listed building and a fine example of this country's architectural history with many unique features and an especially fine interior.

However, the task of maintaining the fabric of the building and the churchyard has become very challenging. Members of the congregation continue to look for ways to manage repairs effectively, reduce costs and boost income by holding fund-raising events. Nevertheless, this is not proving to be enough.

A group of us, who are all local residents but are not regular churchgoers, have become concerned and realise the maintenance costs cannot continue to be met primarily by the congregation. We know we are fortunate to have such a significant and historic church in our village. We also like to hear the church bells or simply show it to our visitors, including the grave of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

We therefore believe we should help in the upkeep of the church and have established The Friends of Binsted Church. Our purpose is to help towards the maintenance costs only of the building and not anything connected to the church services or its administrative costs.

We do hope you feel the same way because we would like you to become a Friend of Binsted Church and sponsor, for one day (or days) a year, the upkeep of the building and the churchyard. This currently amounts to £35 per day.

You may like to select a day (or days) marking the anniversary of a wedding, baptism, birthday or some other day of special significance to you or your family. We will record names and dates in the Book of Friends which is permanently displayed in the church. A candle next to the Book will also be illuminated to recognise the occasion.

Please join us and help keep our historic and beautiful church a central part of our village and community. A sponsorship form to become a Friend of Binsted Church is available online via the QR code or email friendsofbinstedchurch@gmail.com and we will post one to you.

**We look forward to welcoming you
as a Friend of Binsted Church.**



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

Lots of stalls both inside the Wickham Hall and the Church and the sale of the famous Christmas Wreaths

Santa's Grotto will be inside Binsted Church

New this year ...

A brick building competition for children & adults



CHRISTMAS FAIR AT BINSTED CHURCH & WICKHAM INSTITUTE

GU34 4NX

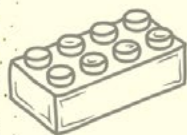
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

2PM - 4.30PM



BRICK BUILDING

Competition for
adults & children
Age related prizes.



Pre booking not necessary.

Judged by

**ICONIC
BRICKS**
ENGAGE, INSPIRE, BUILD

SANTA'S GROTTTO

To meet Santa Email
fobs.binsted@gmail.com



+ Bauble decorating,
Refreshments, Cake
stalls, Jewellery, nearly
new gifts and
Merriment.





LUMINOSA
OUTSTANDING CHOIRS

RUTTER **MASS OF**
THE CHILDREN
VIVALDI **GLORIA**

WITH FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR
SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7PM

St Thomas on the Bourne,
Frensham Road, Farnham, GU9 8HA

TICKETS: £16 (Children £9)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/luminosa-music

Box Office: boxoffice@luminosamusic.com

luminosamusic.com

GET TICKETS



BENTLEY BONFIRE NIGHT

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

CARTERS MEADOW

GATES OPEN FROM 6PM FOR BBQ & BAR

SHOW STARTS FROM 6.30PM

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 Whisperer of the Woods

The European Aspen, *Populus tremula*, is one of the most widespread and ecologically significant deciduous trees across the cooler temperate zones of Europe and Asia. Instantly recognisable by its distinctive, shimmering foliage, it was well known to Shakespeare, who wrote in *Henry IV p2*:

*Feel masters, how I shake...
Yea, in very truth do I,
An 'twere an aspen leaf.*

I don't see many round these parts. The soil is not ideal. But I did take shelter under a fine specimen when I visited the botanical marvels of Polesden Lacey at the very height of this summer's heat wave.

Aspen gets its name from its remarkable leaf movement. The nearly circular, coarsely-toothed leaves are attached to the branches by long, flattened leaf stalks. This unique structural feature acts like a hinge, causing the leaves to flutter, tremble, and quake in the slightest breeze, producing a soft, constant rustling sound that gives the aspen its popular epithet, the "Whisperer of the Woods."

It's a fast-growing tree that typically reaches a height of 25–30 meters.

The leaves emerge a coppery-bronze colour in spring before maturing to grey-green. In autumn, they turn a brilliant golden-yellow before dropping.

The trees are dioecious, meaning male and female flowers (catkins) appear on separate trees in early spring before the leaves.

However, often its primary method of propagation is vegetative reproduction via root suckers. The tree forms extensive, interconnected underground root systems that can span large areas. New stems, or ramets, sprout directly from these roots, resulting in genetically identical individuals that can form vast clonal colonies.

While the aspen also produces a prodigious amount of tiny, wind-dispersed seeds, its vegetative cloning capability is what allows it to quickly colonize and dominate disturbed ground, securing its long-term presence on a site.

The European Aspen is referred to as a keystone species due to the sheer number of organisms that rely on it. As a fast-growing, light-demanding pioneer species, the aspen is perfectly adapted to colonise clearings left by wildfires, tempests, or clear-cutting. Its rapid growth and suckering ability help stabilize disturbed soil and provide quick cover, creating the necessary shade and soil conditions for less tolerant, longer-lived climax species (like spruce or beech) to eventually establish underneath.

Aspen supports a massive web of life. It is considered to host more species-specific invertebrates and fungi than any other tree, providing essential food and habitat for a high diversity of insects, mosses, lichens, and birds.

Like its North American relative, the aspen is highly resilient to fire. While its thin bark

makes it easily top-killed, the massive underground root system is protected and quickly responds to the fire by sending up a huge flush of vigorous suckers, ensuring the stand's immediate renewal.

Historically, the European Aspen's wood was not prized for structural use due to its relative lightness and softness. However, the wood is favoured for the pulp and paper industry, especially for producing high-quality writing paper, due to its low lignin content and easy bleaching. Its light colour, lack of odour, and small shrinkage make it suitable for manufacturing matches, lolly sticks, and veneer.

Its rapid growth rate and ability to regenerate quickly make it a strong candidate for biomass and bioenergy production.

Despite the rise of commercial hybrids in forestry, conservationists are focused on maintaining the genetic integrity of native *P. tremula* populations.

Ben Hamlin *Tree warden*
Binstedtrees@gmail.com

Church Registers

Bentley	
Saturday 6th September 2025	Wedding of Harriet Ranger and Cameron Saunders
Binsted	
Wednesday 24th September 2025	Funeral of Susan Barclay Brown
Sunday 28th September 2025	Baptism of Romy Richards
Froyle	
Sunday 21st September 2025	Baptism of Otto Hatcher



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.

On a bright September day Beech class set off on their school trip to Butser Ancient Farm as part of their topic on Stone Age to Iron Age. We spent the morning traveling through the amazing selection of replica buildings. We all sat around the fire and listened as our guide explained the significance of this period of history. It was fascinating to hear how creative and artistic the Stone



Age people were. We began with the earliest stone age buildings discussing the features and design and the use of different materials. We also talked about how farming changed how people lived. One of these changes meant that pottery became important for storing and preserving the crops which are harvested. Beech Class enjoyed forming and making their own clay pots and the final products were impressive. As we moved towards the bronze age and iron age, we noticed

how the buildings became stronger and more secure, with the addition of metal cooking pots and accessories.

During the afternoon the children tried out spinning using wool from sheep farmed by the stone age people and jewellery making from metal. The children made their own bronze ring using ancient techniques. Jewellery was significant for the bronze age people who were also creative and artistic. We finished the day by ending our journey at the Roman Villa, complete with grape vines and roman toilets. The children loved sitting on the toilet and were amused by the roman alternative to toilet paper!



Despite coming home like we had spent the day around a campfire, we all had a very engaging and fun day with lots of learning thrown in.



Binsted Parish Council

News

Autumn's always a busy period here at the Parish Council, particularly at the Recreation Ground where there's a lot of work involved in moving from the cricket and croquet season into the football season- cricket square repairs, marking out the football pitches, moving equipment around, cutting back vegetation, hedge cutting and clearing leaf-fall. Although the Rec isn't as big as we'd like for all the activities that take place on it, which sometimes requires a level of compromise, it's great to see so many people using the facility and for such a wide variety of sports and leisure activities.

On the subject of the Recreation Ground, we're also planning some refurbishments to the pavilion, which is showing some signs of wear and tear- particularly on the more heavily used interior spaces such as the kitchen, and the exterior of the building that takes a battering from Binsted's wind and rain!

In other news we would like to say a huge thank you to Jenney de Sousa who has decided that after several years it's time to stand down as a Parish Councillor. Jenney's expertise has been particularly valuable in helping the Council communicate more effectively online, shaping the Parish Survey and our response to the EHDC Local Plan consultation, and turning our Annual Parish Meeting and presentations into something far far more professional than we'd have achieved without her!

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in joining our friendly Parish Council team for a few hours a month, either as a councillor or to help on the many and various community projects we've got on the go, or if you have specific skills in "behind the scenes" activities (such as web and IT). We'd also love to hear from you if you live in out of the outlying hamlets or areas such as Bucks Horn Oak and Rowledge where we don't currently have a councillor, to help us better connect with your community. Please contact me at clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk if you'd like to have a chat about what's involved.

Mike Mordecai, Parish Clerk

Help raise funds for Blacknest Fields conservation work when you are doing your christmas shopping this year!



www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/blacknest-fields

Register using the website or QR code to get raising money for conservation projects at Blacknest Fields every time you shop online with hundreds of retailers, all without costing yourself a penny!



easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us



BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS
BECAUSE IT IS IN THEM THAT YOUR
STRENGTH LIES.

MOTHER TERESA



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 October draw of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

1st Ann Joy 2nd Helen Curwen 3rd Bruce & Lizzie Powell

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.

FROYLE WILDLIFE

**Beaver and Water Vole
Reintroduction talk on
Tuesday 25th November
Froyle Village Hall.**

David Elliott, the National Trust's Lead Ranger for the South Downs West, will give a talk on beavers and water voles and their return to the landscape. He will give an update on the progress and work of the River Wey Water Vole Recovery project, and will also talk about where we are currently at with regard to the return of the Beaver, locally and nationally, as well as discussing their

respective ecology and why they are such important species to consider when thinking about the future of our wonderful local rivers. He will be happy to take questions and participate in discussion.

All welcome, Froyle Wildlife members free, non-members £3, teas and coffees, talk starts 7.30pm at Froyle Village Hall.



BENTLEY SANTA IS BACK !!!!

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

4PM ONWARDS

FULL ROUTE WILL BE ANNOUNCED
EARLY DECEMBER



Phyllis Tuckwell®
Hospice Care

Sudoku October Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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

Autumn Thoughts

As I've grown older, I've become more and more aware that many of us, myself included, tend to view the approach and arrival of autumn with some trepidation – I confess that I personally haven't always felt ready for the impending bareness of trees as they shed their leaves, or the letting go of the joys of long days, and I've been known to complain to anyone who would listen when the end of summer came! I used to see autumn, and of course the approach of winter as an interruption to life, and I often resented the necessity of letting go of the 'fun' of summer.

And yet, maybe because I've grown older, I welcome this season more willingly now. To me it's become a special season with a mystery all of its own, as life around us changes, moving on into new forms and shapes, in nature dying that it may live again. Macrina Wiederkehr wrote, "*Autumn, with its unforgettable face of both acceptance and surrender, ushers in the sacrament of absence.*" And she goes on to say that this absence can be a blessing – our lives so easily become cluttered with many things, and this is the season that invites us to let go, to evaluate what is good to keep, and what perhaps we could relinquish in our lives.

There are so many forms of letting go that emerge out of our autumn surrenders – so many "falling leaves" that we seem to have to deal with. I think of parents letting go of their children as they head off to uni, or move away from home, entrusting them into Hands greater than their own; I think of for some the relinquishing of a lifestyle, and the

necessity that comes to slow down; I think of letting go of unhelpful patterns of thinking that can cripple us and hold us in places where we have no hope of growing.

In John 12 : 24 Jesus tells us, "*The truth is, a kernel of wheat must be planted in the soil. Unless it dies, it will be alone – a single seed. But its death will produce many new kernels – a plentiful harvest of new lives.*"

It reminds me of the story of two little girls who were helping their mum do some gardening and planting seeds. As they dug the holes, the younger girl said to her sister, 'I hate planting seeds. It reminds me of digging graves and burying people.' And her sister replied, 'Oh I don't think of it like that – I look forward to the time when they wake up and grow into beautiful flowers.'

During this season of autumn, I wonder what would be revealed to us if we were to look within both our cupboards and our hearts to see what we could discard, what we might live better without, and what we could perhaps let go of, or bury, in order to create space and opportunity for something even better, more beautiful, to grow in the spring?

Be blessed this beautiful autumn season of reflection!

Fran

Anna Chaplain

Mobile: 07765 058593

Email: annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

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!

We were ready to give thanks at the end of the journey of the repair and restoration to the East Window. In 2019 the condition of the window was giving cause for concern and a report commissioned from Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass confirmed that the glass, the supporting leadwork and surrounding masonry were all in need of urgent attention.

Research began into identifying grant bodies which might be willing to give us a grant towards the costs. We held a number of fundraising events at which the church and village communities

gave generously towards the costs. In conversation with specialised grant bodies we began to appreciate that we were extremely fortunate to have a window by Capronnier in our rural parish church.

The East Window is dated 1875 and is the work of a

Binsted is in distinguished company. At the Paris Exhibition in 1855 he won the only medal awarded for glass painting. He was awarded prizes at a number of prestigious international exhibitions and was also an entomologist specialising in Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). He was instrumental in the revival of the art of glass painting and his name is inscribed at the base of the central portion of the window.



Belgian stained glass painter Jean-Baptiste Capronnier who is still well respected by experts. He created windows for churches in Brussels, Bruges, Amsterdam, France and Italy, so Holy Cross,

The window commemorates two ladies: Henrietta Standen and Emily Andrews. They both had local connections - Henrietta's son William was an alumnus of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and in

1862 he left the curacy at East Worldham to become the curate at Holy Cross, Binsted where he remained until 1870 which was also the year of his mother's death. Following a period of time at Sheet, he became Vicar of Long Sutton where he remained in office until his death in 1902.

Emily Andrews was the daughter of John and Ann Vamdell, the miller at Groveland Mill near Bentley. In 1852 Emily married Frederic Andrews in Bentley. Frederic was a tenant farmer and hop planter at Roxfords, Binsted and Frederic was churchwarden from 1859 -1892. Many of the Andrews family are buried in Holy Cross Churchyard. Emily died in 1872 aged 47 and was laid to rest in Holy Cross Churchyard.

It is tempting to conjecture that the Rev William Standen and Frederic Andrews might have jointly sponsored the East Window but to date, no firm evidence has been found either to confirm or refute this. However, we were delighted to have a direct descendant of Emily Andrews in the service on Sunday and she is researching family papers which appear to indicate that the funds for the window were in part "a thanksgiving gift" from the church and village community. That sounds very "Binsted" but there's more to be discovered about that!

There is a small display in the church which highlights the timeline of the repairs and restoration from 2019-2025. The glass has been restored, cleaned and repaired by Dan Humphries Stained Glass of Glastonbury. We were delighted to have him and his wife Sue, who is also part of his team, with us in the service on Sunday and they appreciated seeing the window back in its rightful place. We are also grateful to Danny Rushman of Traditional Stone Restoration of Rudgwick who worked on the surrounding masonry.

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".

Over refreshments at the end of the service, it was really interesting to note how many people, many of whom have been worshipping in Holy Cross for several years, have commented on the new vibrancy of the colours in the East Window. Many of us have noticed details not seen before the restoration. The expressions on the people gathered at the foot of the cross remind us all of the impact Jesus's crucifixion must have had on those who were close to him. Some of us were drawn to the distant views, the trees on the far hill whilst others noticed the richness of the colours in Joseph of Arimathea's red and gold coat. He is said in the Bible to be a rich man but it was he who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus after the crucifixion so he could provide a proper burial in his own new tomb.

There are so many details to absorb in Capronnier's wonderful window. The sun shone through the glass during the service and Ollie Porter has taken some stunning photos of the service.

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.

Bentley Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 19th July - Carters Meadow - Bentley

2025 saw another very successful Bentley Flower and Produce Show, judging by the feedback both on the day and after the event.

There was a record number of entries across a wide range of flowers, fruit, vegetables, home baking, chutneys, jams and drinks as well as lots of children's entries. The quality of the entries was very high, meaning the judges were really tested when deciding upon the winners.

The committee would like to thank all who entered and encourage even more people to participate in 2026, because this is at the heart of the Flower and Produce Shows' success.

The committee also extends our thanks to our sponsors, Castle Street Flowers and The Saturday Café, who continue to generously support the event.

In addition, we very much appreciate the efforts of the Fete Committee members and helpers, all of whom worked tirelessly to manage the late notice that the Fete would be moving to Carters Meadow. There is no doubt that those efforts contributed to our overall success, and we have recognised this and want to pass on our thanks to the team.

Finally, we could not succeed without the help of the Flower and Produce Show volunteers. Thank you, and we hope you will be able to help us again in 2026.

Cup Winners 2025 Flower and Produce Show:

<u>Cup</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Class</u>
Sherfield Cup	Lucille White	Best Exhibit in Show
Lady Baden-Powell Cup	Mascha Tyrrell	Most points overall in Show
Mr and Mrs Powell Cup	Mascha Tyrrell	Section A Flowers
Sir William and Lady Pike Cup	Aspen Salisbury	Section B Flower Arrangement
Henry Thompson Cup	Bill Whitfield	Section C Fruit and Vegetables
Mrs Coke Cup	Charlotte Lucas	Section D Produce
Dick Holmes Cup	Sue Chissell	Best Bowl of Roses (Class 4)
Mrs J.C. Holcroft Cottager Cup	Peter Scott	Best Allotment
Jack Bowyer Award	Tony Wright and Stuart Maclean	Runner-up at the Allotments
Frank Joy Cup	Eva Meneghetti	Best Cake in Show
Bentley WI Cup	Clementine Kirkpatrick	Best entry in Year R
Paul Barron Cup	Heidi Thompson	Best entry in Years 1,2 and 3
Mrs Thompson Cup	Benedict Meagher	Best entry in Years 4,5 and 6

Best wishes
Bentley Flower & Produce Show Committee

The Bentley Fete 2025

Having been involved with the Bentley fete since I moved to the village in 1998 I thought I had seen it all. Over the years we have had heavy rain on a few occasions and gale force winds, but the fete has always gone ahead. I think it has been warm and sunny on about 80% of the fetes I have participated in.

This year was something different. The Bentley Archers cricket club were getting the recreation ground resurfaced and 4 new wickets were being laid. This work was going to be done 3 months before the fete to allow the grass to recover and be walked upon by mid July. The early summer drought meant the grass seed didn't germinate and at the beginning of July the grass was at best sparse with large bare patches. Then someone noticed that there were

pieces of glass on the ground and we realised that the outfield had been covered with topsoil contaminated with glass and that this was over the entire recreation ground.

So two weeks before the fete we realised that it could not go ahead on the recreation ground and we had to find another venue. Despite a very kind offer from Froyle to hold it on their recreation ground we were very keen to hold it in the village. We had a look at Carters meadow, next to School Lane, and thought we could hold it there. However, we had a problem with the size of the ground. We used about 8000m² of the recreation ground for the fete and Carters meadow was 2600m² and an awkward shape. Plus the grass was long and there were brambles all around the edges of the meadow.

Matt Leward came to the rescue with his agricultural mower to cut the grass and then Sophie, his partner, cut the meadow twice with their lawn tractor and collected all the grass trimmings. The rest of us on the fete committee set about cutting the brambles back at the edges of the meadow to maximise

...article continues on the next page



the available area. We also had to level the area where the bonfire is held and managed to collect about 75kg of nails from old pallets that we had burnt there.

We managed a plan for the fete that was compact to say the least, but we fitted a marquee, all the stalls and the food and drink area onto the meadow. There was no space for the central arena but we still managed a tug of war, until the rope broke! The final piece of the jigsaw was the car show and we held this on the Fox Hall lawn together with a prosecco stand.

All we then needed was good weather and in the driest summer for many years we woke up to rain on the morning of the fete. Luckily it all stopped by mid morning and the rest of the day was dry and not too hot. Perfect for a village fete.

We finally finished the preparation for the fete at 12.55 for a 13.00 start. Down to wire or what!

How did it go? Feedback from our emergency fete has been universally positive and the smaller area worked well with a few caveats. Moving the fete from the recreation ground meant we needed to hire a big generator, metal fencing to secure the area and needed a bigger marquee so the teas could be accommodated. I think we have learnt a lot about how to lay out a fete which we can use to plan when the fete hopefully moves back to the recreation ground.

See you all in 2026



WHY DO I WEAR A POPPY?

Why do I wear a poppy?
I'll tell you if I may,
Because I believe remembrance
Is not only for one day.

I wear it for the fallen,
And for those falling still.
For those who come back broken
In body or in will.

For the parents, spouses, siblings
Where bereavement takes its toll.
Whose pain will never leave them,
It eats into their soul.

For the wino on the corner,
Of his old life nothing's left.
Now he wishes when in battle
He had died a hero's death.

For the lad who loved a kick-about
In the park with all his mates,
But now his legs are held together
With pins and metal plates.

For the selfless men and women
Whose final journey home
Is in a Union flag-draped coffin
On comrades' shoulders borne.

For all those marching proudly
In Remembrance Day parades.
My poppy's worn in gratitude
For the sacrifice they made.

Anne Starr



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www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the
October 2025 draws:

October 2025

1st prize Helen MacDonald

2nd prize Graham Jones

3rd prize Judith Stephens

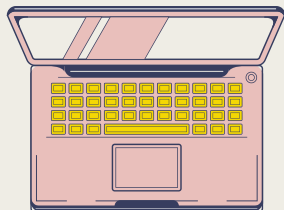
Details of the November 2025 draw will appear
in the next magazine.

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

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. Our first session in October was a huge success with places booked for November already!

"The work from home session was really well organised, with 'quiet and chatty' sections and tea breaks and lunch at set times. It was lovely to meet new people in the breaks, nicer than working alone. There was no cost and no need to book. Lots of desks were available and each had a plug socket and comfortable chair. The hall is a beautiful building and there are lovely views to the garden at the back, which was an added bonus! None of the distractions of home were present which meant that I got lots of work done and left after lunch ready to tackle the next part of my day."

Jenny



Drop in
9am - 5pm

Dates:
18th November
2nd December
16th December

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School News – Bentley CE Primary

Our youngest pupils in Year R have taken their learning outdoors, exploring shapes and numbers in the fresh air. Across the school, the colder but bright weather has meant that children have been able to make the most of our wonderful outdoor spaces. Our Nature Guardians have been working alongside Madam Jones in the Nature Reserve, taking real responsibility for caring for the environment and discovering more about the plants and wildlife that share our grounds.

Harvest time has also been a real highlight. Children enjoyed apple picking and are now looking forward to turning their fruit into delicious crumbles – a tasty celebration of the season and a reminder of how lucky we are to learn and grow in such a special community.

There has been plenty of culture as well as nature: Year 5 and 6 were recently visited by a Shakespeare company, who brought *Romeo and Juliet* to life through drama and storytelling. The children were enthralled, throwing themselves into the performance and discovering the power and excitement of Shakespeare's words.

Looking ahead, we are very pleased to be holding our **Open Day sessions** for families considering Bentley for their child's education. These events are a wonderful opportunity to tour the school, see lessons in action, meet our staff and pupils, and get a real sense of our values of love, courage

and community in everyday school life. If you know of anyone with a child due to start school in September 2026, please do encourage them to come along – we would be delighted to welcome them.

Book your place today!

Come along to our Year R open sessions

We are excited to announce the following sessions for any children looking to join us in September 2026:

- Thursday 21 October at 3pm
- Friday 21 November at 2pm
- Wednesday 5 November at 2pm
- Wednesday 26 November at 2pm
- Tuesday 11 November at 9.30am
- Wednesday 3 January at 9.30am

All sessions for approximately 1 hour.

Bentley provides the highest quality education which challenges and nurtures each and every child. Our children also benefit from after school clubs, wraparound care, forest experiences, residential visits, sporting fixtures and much, much more!

Visit bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk for more information or to book a session.

Bentley CE Primary School
School Lane, Bentley, Parnham LL40 1PH
bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk

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2nd Bentley Scouts

- Thank you!

Bentley Scouts would like to thank everyone for their kind donations for our September Jumble Sale at the Scout hut (Kingsmill pavilion).

The weather forecast on the day was for rain and, we did have a couple of short showers as we were setting up, making us scramble for ground sheets to cover the donations. The weather definitely put people off attending, but despite the lower number of customers and the weather we still managed to raise £1564.

The money raised pays towards the activities for the youngsters and allows us to offer a great and varied programme for our young members, whilst keeping subscriptions accessible to all.

We would like to thank everyone who helped collect donations, setting up, selling on the day and those that came along at the end to help clear up. Few of our helpers still have children in Bentley Scouts, but they continue to kindly give up their time to support us, however we are desperately in need of additional help on the day, so, if you are able to help please email mike@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk or contact one of the leaders (details at the back of the parish magazine).

What you may not realise is that we must pay to dispose of everything that is left, and these costs have risen significantly in recent years. We have

therefore, reluctantly decided that, after 10 years of keeping the entry fee at 50p, we will be raising the cost of entry to the jumble sale to £1 to cover our additional costs. Under 16s will continue to be free.

**The Jumble Sales
for 2026 will be:**

**Saturday 16th May
at 2:00pm**

**Saturday 19th September
at 2:00pm**

We look forward to your continued support for our jumble sales.

Mike Ellis – Group Treasurer.

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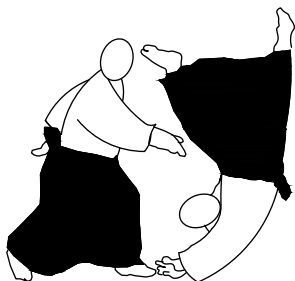
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Contact clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
to discuss your requirements





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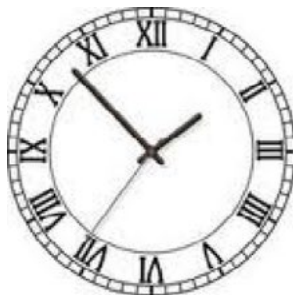
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www.bentleymemorialhall.org

Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913
martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk

District Council

Phillip Davies
Email phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk

Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Fuller 07768 558751
johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539
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Bentley Memorial Hall, Hole Lane,
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Parish Office Hours
Monday to Thursday 9am to 3pm

Bentley School

Headteacher: Vicky Hallett 01420 525010
Email: bentleyschoolptfa@gmail.com

Childcare

Dottie Tots: Karen 07387 576 307

Fête Committee

Chairman: Hugh Chissell, Greystones, Bentley
01420 23117

Flower and Produce Show

Contact: Pamela Green-Wright 07720 633 943

Phoenix Group: Linda Fuller 07891 825410
email: lindafuller1105@gmail.com

Bentley Rec Ground

Chair: Stephen Whowell
stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Joint Parish Organisations

Care Group (car service)

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Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

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2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk 07974377736
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BINSTED

Website: binstedparishcouncil.com

The Wickham Institute

Chairman: Graham Jones 07825 201451
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Bookings: Ann Mann 07854130955
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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
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Binsted School

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Fête and Flower Show

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Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

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Bentley and Binsted Police

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Secretary: Tim Winkworth binstedfootball@gmail.com

Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

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SEE YOU IN

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& Children's Church

11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

6pm Bentley Praise

9th Nov 10am Bentley Remembrance Service

Remembrance **10:50am** Binsted Remembrance Service

Sunday **10:50am** Froyle Remembrance Service

(See inside for **10:50am** Kingsley Remembrance Service

more details) **6pm** Kingsley Praise

16th Nov 9:30am Froyle Morning Worship

11am Kingsley Holy Communion

4pm Froyle Messy Church

23rd Nov 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
& Children's Church

11am Binsted Morning Worship

6:30pm Froyle Evensong

Sat 29th Nov 6:30pm Froyle Advent by Candlelight

30th Nov 11am Bentley Benefice Holy Communion

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