The background of the magazine cover is a vibrant, abstract painting of a Christmas tree. The tree is rendered in shades of green and blue, with numerous glowing, multi-colored lights (yellow, red, blue, green) hanging from its branches. Small, white, glowing shapes resembling snowflakes or stars are scattered throughout the composition, creating a festive and magical atmosphere.

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

# Bentley&Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

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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@benbinfo.org](mailto:magazine@benbinfo.org))

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What will 2026 hold for us? Perhaps you have a big family event, a holiday or a significant birthday planned. But as one year ends and another unfolds, we have a natural inclination to take stock and plan how the new year will be different. The one thing that doesn't change, is that we will take ourselves into it, with all our gifts, mistakes and hopes.

We live in uncertain times, with divided communities and political weakness. At the heart of things is the question of what story do we want to be part of? Do we believe that the human race is making inexorable progress, with technologies like AI providing tools to enable us to continue to grow? Or do we believe that we have come too far, too fast and have lost ourselves in the process? As a human race we take ourselves with our gifts, mistakes and hopes into the future too.

Many people are looking afresh at what has made us as a nation and there is a desire to preserve and celebrate what has shaped us. The historian, Tom Holland argues that Christianity, more than anything else, has had the biggest legacy and impact. Christian values such as serving others, all being equal before the law and the essential value of each human being made in the image of God seem so natural, but not all cultures see the world in the same way.

The Christmas story of the birth of Jesus is at the heart of this worldview and is worth re-examining. Humans, left to ourselves, are capable of the greatest achievements and the

greatest crimes. Inside every one of us is the capacity to do good and evil. Our heroes are all flawed. Our mistakes, and the shame we carry, spoil the triumphs and peace we seek.

If our greatest need is to have good laws, Jesus would have come as a legislator. If we need education, he would have been a teacher.

He was both of these of course, but his mission was summed up by the message of the angels to the shepherds, "A Saviour has been born." We need a saviour, because we need saving from ourselves. The shame we carry needs to be taken from us and carried by someone else, so that we are free. We need someone to stand in our place in order to escape the penalty of the wrong we have done.

In Jesus, God steps into his world and lives as one of us. Experiencing life in all its complexity, glory and infamy. He steps in to lift off from us all that chains us and traps us. He knows what we face and says "follow me" and "I will give you life in all its fulness."

May I invite you to explore for yourself what this means. We have an Alpha course starting on 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm and that is the perfect place to explore and bring your questions.

May I also invite you to our busy series of Christmas services, each is different in style and we hope you will find one that suits you.

May you have a wonderful Christmas and a fulfilling New Year

Matt Boyes

*Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle*

# Children's Church in December/January

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!

**7th December**

9:30am Holy Cross Binsted

**14th December**

9:30am St Mary's Bentley

**28<sup>th</sup> December**

***Christmas Holidays - No Children's Church***

---

**4th January 2026**

***Christmas Holidays - No Children's Church***

**11th January 2026**

9:30am St Mary's Bentley

**25th January 2026**

9:30am St Mary's Bentley

[admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org)

**FREE**



**Sunday 18th**

**January 2026**

**Wickham Institute, Binsted**

**4-6pm**

**Supper included** 

Messy Church is a brilliant afternoon of fun, crafts, games, messy play, singing and stories. The whole family are invited and there is something for everyone. Come along, we'd love to meet you!

**Messy Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 4-6pm.**

It's free and we even sort supper for you!



# 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 11th December - 5-6:30pm

Thursday 15th January - 5-6:30pm

Thursday 29th January - 5-6:30pm

Bentley Church Hall

[admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org)

# four: twelve

YOUTH CLUB



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

**WHEN?** FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER - 5-6:30PM  
FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY - 5-6:30PM  
FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY - 5-6:30PM

**WHERE?** BENTLEY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL.

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

[admin@benbinfro.org](mailto: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."

# Meet the Team

Gemma



## 1. Quick-fire questions!

**Tea or coffee?** Tea, with blue milk!

**Winter or summer?** Spring, when all the flowers start to come out

**Sunrise or sunset?** Sunrise

**Sweet or savoury?** Sweet

**Apple or android?** Android

**Air guitar or air drums?** Air drums

**Movies or books?** Movies

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

My favourite way to start the day is very slowly, which doesn't happen very often! Besides that, I like to have a nice hot cup of tea and a treat for breakfast with my family.

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

I am one of two church administrators; I get to work with the lovely Lucinda! I didn't start off at BenBinFro as church admin, you will probably recall I was the Youth Worker here. When Yann hired me back in 2019, I was running youth groups, children's church, spending lots of time in our schools and filming MANY silly videos with Yann. Lots has changed in 6 years; my husband Sam is now Pastor at a church in Portsmouth so we moved there at the same time we had our little Lydia in 2024. I was actually planning to resign after



Pictured: Sam & Gemma

maternity leave but I really wanted to come back to my job which feels like a home from home, and so here I am. I wear many hats in my job - I work in the church office, and from home, to pull the parish magazine, social media and website together. I also keep the benefice running smoothly with my colour-coded rotas and spreadsheets, and I look after the safeguarding admin which keeps our church family safe and heard through DBS checks and safeguarding training. However, my main skill is to maintain the printer (if you know, you know!) – mostly by shouting at it, and if that doesn't work, call the engineers.

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

Everyone in the team knows I am filled with joy with a new spreadsheet, a new initiative, or Christmas! I love to bring colour and life to what might seem a boring job to some, but really it gives me such joy to know other people's lives are easier because I can do some organising. I do also love to design lots of our church comms, especially the Christmas card, and to communicate our Christian faith through Canva. I do also love to see people in the church office, if I can be of any help or be a listening ear, please pop in and say hello!

**5. Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about?** I am currently studying for an MA in Biblical Studies – I must be mad but I'm really enjoying it. Other than that, I am a huge McFly fan, I went to see McFly vs Busted in October which was so good. I get very nerdy about space, did you know there's a thing called the potato radius?! And I love to go to the cinema.

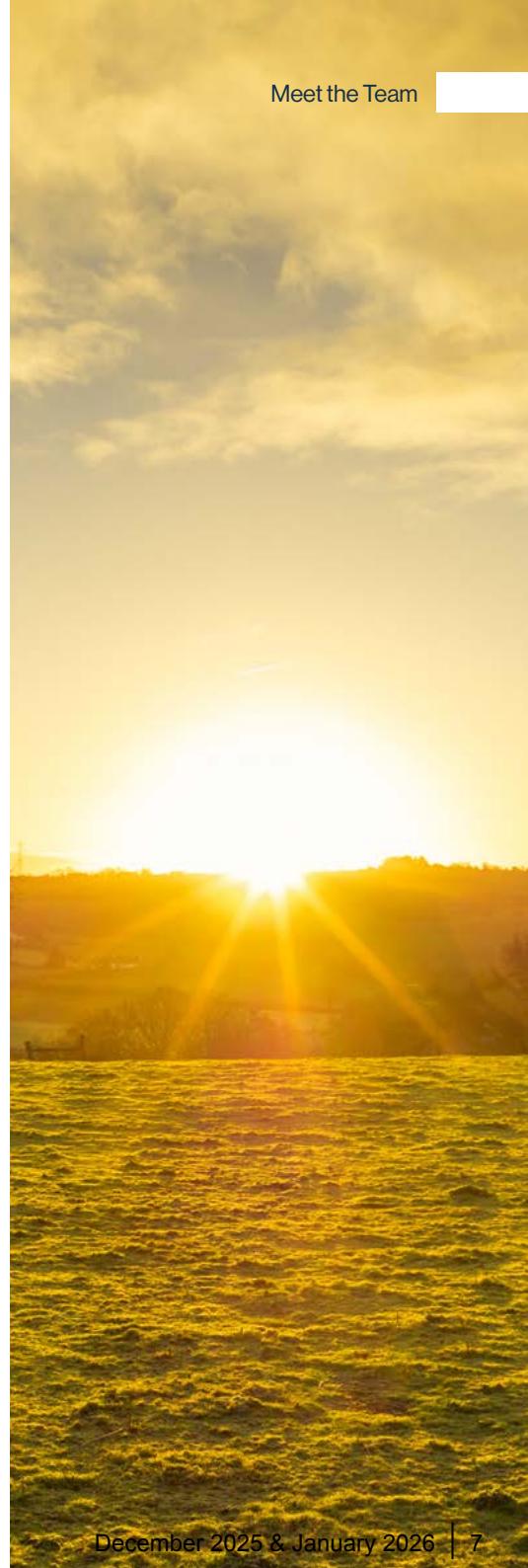
**6. What's your most embarrassing moment?**

I spend my life trying to avoid anything embarrassing so I honestly can't think of anything to share!

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

I wish I could invent a button that transports you to bed instantly. When you're ready to go to bed, but can't be bothered to get up, get in pjs, brush your teeth etc. the button will do all that and you will be in bed without the faff.

**8. To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others?** Psalm 23 – this psalm brings me so much comfort and encouragement that God is always with me and watching over me when life seems dark and tricky. I hope this brings you as much comfort as it does to me, with God you have all you need, he will lead you to green pastures to rest and to still waters to be refreshed. When you feel like you're walking through a dark valley, God will be there to protect you and keep you safe.



# *Unpack the Christian *faith* together.*

*Try Alpha.*

**Starting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>  
January 2026**

Email [admin@benbinfo.org](mailto:admin@benbinfo.org)  
for more info

[alpha.org.uk](http://alpha.org.uk)

**Alpha**



# Christmas services

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

6:30pm Froyle Advent by Candlelight

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

6:30pm Nine Lessons & Carols at Froyle

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

4pm Christingle at Kingsley

6pm Carol Service at Binsted

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

7:30pm Carols at The Star Inn, Bentley

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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



A photograph of a woman with long, dark hair, seen from the side and back. She is wearing a patterned top. The background is filled with colorful confetti falling down.

Happiness isn't  
something that  
depends on our  
surroundings.

It's something  
we make inside  
ourselves.

-Cornelia ten Boom

## 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.



## 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.benbinfro.co.uk](http://www.benbinfro.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.

# Meet the Team

*Lucinda*



## 1. Quick-fire questions!

**Tea or coffee?** Tea (decaff or herbal!)

**Winter or summer?** Summer

**Sunrise or sunset?** Sunset

**Sweet or savoury?** Savoury

**Apple or android?** Android

**Air guitar or air drums?** Air drums

**Movies or books?** Movies

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

Before I had children, it would be to go back to bed with a pot of tea and a crossword! Now it's a little bit less leisurely, but cooking up pancakes for breakfast is always a nice weekend treat.

In summer, I love to start the day outside.

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

I am one of the benefice administrators (a double act with Gemma!). I focus more on the 'Life Events' – so the Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. But it can be a bit of everything!

I started in office support roles when I was 16, in the summer holidays to earn some pennies, and have had various roles over the years. After university and travelling, I then trained to be a TEFL teacher, went



*Pictured: Lucinda*

and taught in Cambodia, before returning to do a PGCE in Primary Education. I taught for 10 years, in various roles in this country and overseas, but haven't done so since my 2nd born. I lost my job doing dull data stuff from home during Covid, and then a vacancy came up in the Church Office...the rest is history!

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

I love the variety of the role, and after three and a half years, I'm still surprised by some requests we get! It's lovely to share in the joy of planning weddings and baptisms, but also to sometimes play a small part in helping families to say goodbye to loved ones.

The best bit is the team though – just lovely, caring and supportive people to work with.

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

I love being outside, for walks or in my garden, especially in summer. I also love sewing and making things for the home. I recently discovered Willow Weaving, and I think I could get very nerdy about that!



## 6. What's your most embarrassing moment?

When I was about 14, I had a haircut at my mum's hairdressers. I'm not sure he was terribly experienced in my type of hair, and decided that short and with layers was the way to go. A week or so later, I was on my school French exchange trip, wandering round a French lycée, when a French teenage boy pointed directly at me, shouting, "ahh, Jackson Five!". Mortified.

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

A device to stretch out the weekends – they always go too quickly!

## 8. To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others? "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". (Hebrews 13:8). In an ever-changing and often challenging world, that sense of foundation and steadfastness is something to hold on to.

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Peter 5:7) It's easy to get caught up in trying to solve my and everyone else's troubles yourself, but there is freedom in handing it all over to God.

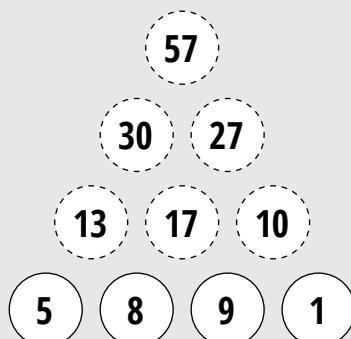
## Sudoku November Answers

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

## Number Pyramid

November's answers



# 10

# October 2025

## WEATHER STATISTICS



### Temperature



#### Daytime maximum

20.5°C (6<sup>th</sup>) to 12.4°C (15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>)  
13 days above 15°C and only 1 day above 20°C



#### Nighttime minimum

-0.6°C (30<sup>th</sup>) to 13.8°C (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
7 nights above 10°C and 1 night below 0°C

### Rainfall



#### Total for month

3.81 inches (96.8 mm) over 19 days



#### Wettest days

0.85 inches (21.6 mm) (20<sup>th</sup>)

### Wind



#### Dominant wind direction

West South West



#### Maximum gust

31 mph (4<sup>th</sup>)

*However, the data shows a figure of 116 mph @ 23.30 on the 25th, but this figure does not look right!!*

*Parish Weatherman*

Saturday  
29<sup>th</sup> November

Bijou

2pm-4pm

# Christmas FAIR

## PAX HILL RECEPTION



Christmas Gifts and Refreshments – All Welcome



### **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**

**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](mailto: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



# BRICK BUILDING COMPETITION



6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
BINSTED FAIR  
GU34 4NX  
2PM - 4.30PM

Judged by  
NO PRE BOOKING NECESSARY

ICONIC  
BRICKS  
ENGAGE, INSPIRE, BUILD



# Christingle

## ● **Sunday 21st December**

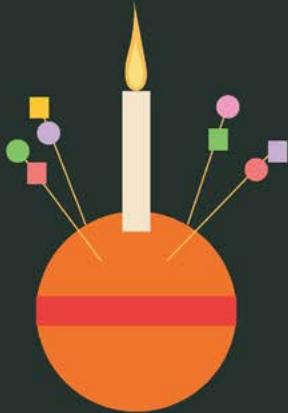
All Saint's, Kingsley

4pm

## ● **Christmas Eve**

St Mary's Church, Bentley

4pm



Come along for a family-friendly, festive hour of fun where we will be singing your favourite Christmas carols and learning the *Reason for the Season*.

You even get to take home your very own Christingle orange! Don't know what that is? Come along to find out...

We're looking forward to seeing you there





# The Real Nativity

**St Mary's Church, Froyle  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
6pm**



Come and join us and follow the Christmas story from the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to the birth of Jesus.

Wrap-up warm, wear appropriate footwear for a field and bring a torch. There'll be warm drinks and mince pies to get things started. There's plenty of parking, follow the road signs in Froyle and the Traffic Marshall's directions to the car park. It's short walk from the car park to the venue.

If you can be with us from 5:45pm, we can start promptly at 6pm and you'll be away by 7pm.

It will be an evening to get your Christmas off to a great start and a night to remember.



# Carol Singing

**Sunday 14th December**

**6:30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols  
at St Mary's Church, Froyle

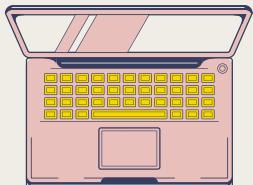
**Sunday 21st December**

**6pm** Carol Service at Holy Cross Church,  
Binsted

**Monday 22nd December**

**7:30pm** Bentley Village Carol Singing  
at The Star Inn

# 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. We have two sessions in both December and January!

"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:  
2nd December  
16th December  
13th January  
27th January

Bentley Church Hall  
Church Lane  
GU10 5NA

chat to Becky or Gemma  
or email [admin@benbinfo.org](mailto:admin@benbinfo.org) for  
more info

FREE soup lunch or order  
from Bentley Stores

Structured but flexible  
work days

Tea & coffee

WI-FI

Warm space in winter

# Benefice Weekend Away



As a church, we are so excited to be going to Horsley Towers, DeVere Hotel, in March for a weekend away! Church doesn't just happen on Sundays, we have lots going on around our parishes throughout the week, but this is an event we are all really looking forward to. We will be staying for 2 nights with lots planned including teaching from **Emmy Wilson** (bio right), worship for everyone, and some Saturday night entertainment – to be planned! Food and accommodation is included in the cost, as well as access to the leisure facilities (gym, sauna, pool).

There are some beautiful walks around the hotel grounds too.

We are already 2/3 full, so if you would like to come please let us know as soon as you can!

Email [admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org) for questions and a booking form.

**£245  
per adult**

**Horsley Park  
Ockham Road South  
East Horsley  
Surrey  
KT24 6DU**

**Kids go  
FREE!**

# Reverend Emmy Wilson

Emmy Wilson has lived in London for over 50 years. She spent 14 years training and practising as both a State Registered Nurse and a Registered Sick Children's Nurse, culminating in 4 years nursing those affected by HIV and AIDS.

In 1985 Emmy ended her nursing career when invited to join the staff at Holy Trinity Brompton. She began to help those in society whose lifestyles made them most vulnerable to this disease, working with people suffering from AIDS, as well as those caught up in prostitution, drug addiction, alcoholism and homelessness.

Emmy became involved in Prison work in 1991, helping as a part-time volunteer with the Chaplaincy at Holloway Prison, once the largest women's prison in London. In December 1994 she began taking teams to other prisons in the UK to introduce Alpha.

Since 1995 Emmy has visited prisons and spoken about her work at Alpha conferences and Alpha Prison Trainings all around the world, including Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Ireland, Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grand Turk, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, USA,



Canada, France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Russia, Poland, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Guam

She was ordained by Bishop Johnson Gakumba in Northern Uganda in 2011 as Chaplain to the Worldwide Prisons, and is based in London.

She has become involved in the fight against human trafficking - having visited brothels in Calcutta and Mumbai - and is passionate not only to raise awareness about this vital work, but to help those enslaved to find freedom.

She retired from HTB's staff on her 70th birthday in February 2023, but is keen to continue to serve the wider Church internationally whenever the opportunities arise, having been appointed as a Global Ambassador for Alpha.



# Rowans

The Rowan tree (*Sorbus aucuparia*), often known as Mountain Ash due to its preference for upland environments and its visually similar leaves, is a deciduous tree deeply woven into the natural and cultural fabric of Northern Europe. Despite its common name, the Rowan is not related to the true Ash (*Fraxinus*) but rather belongs to the Rosaceae family, making it closer to roses and apples. This elegant, slender tree typically reaches heights of up to 15 metres and boasts a life span that can exceed a century. And despite its name, it is easy to find growing wild round here; far from any mountains.

In spring and early summer, the tree is adorned with dense, flat clusters of creamy-white, heavily scented flowers. These flowers are hermaphrodite, containing both male and female parts, and are highly attractive to various pollinating insects. The leaves are compound and pinnate, generally featuring 11–15 serrated-edged leaflets on an alternating stem, which turn a distinctive rich red or yellow in the autumn.

The most iconic feature of the Rowan is its fruit. The pollinated flowers develop into heavy clusters of small, bright orange-red berries—technically pomes rather than true berries. These vivid fruits ripen in late summer and early autumn, providing a vital food source for wildlife, especially migrating birds such as waxwings, redwings, and other thrushes. These birds, by consuming the fruit and dispersing the seeds in their droppings, play a crucial role in the tree's reproduction. The Rowan's resilience is notable; it is one of

the hardiest native broadleaves, able to survive on exposed sites and tolerating a variety of soils, from acidic to alkaline, which allows it to flourish at higher altitudes than many other trees.

The Rowan's practical value extends beyond its ecological role. The wood is dense, strong, and flexible, and was traditionally used for crafting tool handles, spindles, and walking sticks.

The bright berries, despite being quite bitter raw, are rich in vitamin C and have a long history of culinary use. When properly cooked, they transform into a tart but flavourful ingredient. Rowan berry jelly is a traditional accompaniment to game meat, and the fruit is also used to make jams, syrups, and various alcoholic beverages, including wines. Historically, the high vitamin C content led to the berries being made into a drink to combat scurvy. It is important to note that the seeds within the berries contain small amounts of a compound that can produce hydrogen cyanide, making proper preparation (like cooking and straining) essential for human consumption.

Few trees are as steeped in folklore and mysticism as the Rowan, leading to common names like 'Witch Wood' and 'Wicken Tree.' Throughout Celtic and Norse cultures, the Rowan was revered as a powerful tree of protection against evil spirits, witchcraft, and enchantment.

This reputation is thought to stem from a few physical characteristics: the bright red colour of the berries, which was considered the best defence against magic, and the tiny five-pointed star—a pentagram—visible on each berry opposite its stalk, and an ancient symbol of protection. It was customary to plant a Rowan near a dwelling or in a churchyard to ward off ill-will, and sprigs were often carried as personal talismans or hung above doorways and cattle sheds. In Norse mythology, the tree was associated with the god Thor, symbolizing strength and salvation. Even today, the enduring symbolism and striking beauty of the Rowan make it a popular ornamental tree in gardens and urban spaces, ensuring its captivating story continues to be told.

Ben Hamlin *Tree warden*  
Binstedtrees@gmail.com

## Church Registers

### Bentley

Thursday 9th October 2025	Funeral and Burial of Brian Read
Sunday 12th October 2025	Baptism of William Harrap
Tuesday 14th October 2025	Funeral of Anne Delaney

### Binsted

Saturday 4th October 2025	Wedding of Lucy Clarke and Amir Sadri
---------------------------	---------------------------------------

### Froyle

Sunday 19th October 2025	Baptism of Sloane Drake
--------------------------	-------------------------



# Binsted Parish Council

## New speed limit approved for Frith End

We're delighted that Hampshire County Council last month approved a long-sought speed reduction through Frith End village. The new 30mph speed limit will apply to a 1km stretch of Frith End Road, starting 30 metres of its junction with the A325 Farnham Road, and continuing some 40m beyond the Frith End sign at the northwest end of the village.

The speed limit reduction is part of a wider traffic-calming project that Hampshire Highways is developing for the route through Frith End and Blacknest, using developers' contribution funding from Whitehill-Bordon's expansion. Installing the new speed limit signage will be followed by a second phase of further safety improvements and signage changes.

Alison Melvin, lead for the parish council's Transport Working Group, is excited that - after years of work - this traffic calming project is finally getting underway. She explains:

*"Funding for Frith End-Blacknest traffic-calming was promised way back in 2012, as one of 9 local routes affected by Bordon & Whitehill's expansion. By 2023, traffic calming had been introduced on the other 8 routes ... but Hampshire Highways had become convinced that Frith End wasn't covered by these agreements! Fortunately, we tracked down the document proving that Frith End was included and - after further lobbying - secured ring-fenced funding and agreed the project scope in November 2024.*

*It's especially exciting to secure the 30mph speed limit. Speed reductions are hard to secure: they require the approval of the police and County Councillors, followed by a six-week public consultation. Huge thanks to all local residents who responded to this speed consultation (and have supported previous consultations); to our speed watch teams who generate vital local road data; and to the Highways teams working to implement the changes.*

*Of course there's still lots to be done to make our local roads safer. In Frith End and Blacknest, we still need the road to be resurfaced and its verges repaired, and to improve HGV signage, the various junctions, and the safety of horse riders and cyclists. Elsewhere in the parish there are multiple areas where we're seeking to improve road safety, not least around the parish's two primary schools. All this will take time, but we'll keep you informed!"*

**Meanwhile, can you spare  
a couple of hours per month to  
help the volunteers who run our  
parish's Transport Working Group?  
To change the batteries on our Speed  
Indicator Devices; or to join the Binsted**

village and Rowledge/Bucks Horn Oak community speed watch teams. If you can help, please phone Alison on 07851 677057, or contact Mike our Clerk on [clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk)

# BENTLEY SANTA IS BACK !!!!

**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

**4PM ONWARDS**

**FULL ROUTE WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
EARLY DECEMBER**



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# 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](mailto:bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com).

## The Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club

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

1st Mascha Tyrell 2nd Hew & June Pike 3rd Elizabeth Roach

**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](mailto:bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com).

**For room bookings and additional information about the Hall, please visit our website  
[www.bentleymemorialhall.org](http://www.bentleymemorialhall.org).**



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



## Great Plans at Binsted Primary School

We have had a hugely successful response to our plea for support towards the Vicarage Garden project by The Holy Cross Church in Binsted. This is a fabulous chance to create something truly special in the parish and Binsted Primary is right at the heart of it. Horticulturalist Sally Turville has created a wonderful plan which includes: outdoor learning area, raised beds, worship and prayer space and an orchard. The school is collecting the details of people who can help support the project planned to begin this winter. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be involved please contact the school office on 01420 23200 and let us know.

Sporting success is never far away at Binsted and the year has begun with Basketball tournaments for the Year 5/6 team and the Year 3/4 team at Amery and Eggar's. Both teams had lots of fun and really enjoyed building their skills. There

is a fantastic picture of our Year 3 and 4 team below. It was their first experience of competitive basketball and they had a great afternoon at Eggar's.

Other wonderful events at the school this Autumn Term have been Black History Day, a lovely Remembrance service at Holy Cross Church and our full calendar of Christmas events from the Young at Heart Tea Party to Carol singing at The Binsted Inn. It has been a wonderful Autumn Term. If you have or know anyone with a pre-school child please contact the school for a tour as we are looking forward to receiving applications for places for September 2026. The school also has spaces in KS2 at the moment- it is a wonderful opportunity to join a small rural school with the children at the heart of it. The Headteacher Henry Jennings would love to show you round the school to see if we would suit your child.

# Bentley Modified Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2028)



**Bentley**  
PARISH COUNCIL

**As you may be aware, Bentley Parish Council have been working very closely with a group of residents to modify the original Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (2016).**

As the Government website states “Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area”.

The Bentley modified plan includes five new policies on community facilities, local employment, traffic impact, green infrastructure, and dark skies. It also modifies policies from the original 2016 plan, such as the need for all development outside the settlement policy boundary to demonstrate a genuine community need.

We are very pleased to confirm that this has been adopted by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC). “In accordance with the above regulations, and following a successful examination, East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) made the Bentley Modified Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2028)

on 17th July 2025. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for EHDC” (Adam Harvey, Planning Policy Manager, EHDC)

A copy of the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (2025) can be found at:

[FINAL-Bentley-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf](#)  
[bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

A big thank you to all those residents who gave their time and expertise to make this happen.

## **Chris Mace**

Parish Councillor

For further information on the parish council and parish events please go to [www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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[clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



# Bentley is under major housing development threat

EHDC plans to launch a new Local Plan to approve sites for up to 12,000 new houses along the A31.

Including, up to **900 new houses in Bentley**

We fear the consequences:

- Significant pressure on current infrastructure (e.g. roads, schools, sewage plants etc.)
- Damage to environment, rivers & biodiversity
- Ribbon development along the A31
- Loss of Jane Austen countryside and rural identity
- Planning blight

We believe these plans are *fundamentally* flawed and should be challenged

**Bentley Parish Council invites you to an open meeting at Bentley Memorial Hall on:**

**Thurs 11th December 2025 at 7.30pm**

Please come along and have your say!

# Village Advent Windows

## Bentley



### **Step Into the Spirit of Christmas with Bentley's Living Advent Calendar**

Just like the traditional advent calendar that reveals a surprise each day, Bentley's version brings a touch of magic to our streets. From 1st to 24th December, a new Christmas window will be unveiled every day, each one lovingly decorated by a local. By Christmas Eve, there'll be 24 unique festive displays twinkling around the village for everyone to discover.

- ★ A new window is revealed daily from 1–24 December.
- ★ Once revealed, each window stays on display until 1st January, so you can catch up on any if you've missed them.
- ★ You can explore the trail using the printable Trail Map or follow along on the interactive Google Map, both available on the village WhatsApp group or via our Facebook page, from the end of November.
- ★ Visitors are invited to make a donation to Phyllis Tuckwell via - [justgiving.com/page/bentley-advent-trail](https://www.justgiving.com/page/bentley-advent-trail)

**Bentley Church will feature an Advent Window from the 4th December, step inside to discover it!** 

## Binsted

Binsted village is hosting their annual Advent window displays again this year.

Binsted school are starting us off with window No. 1, and the Church porch will display window No. 24. A new window will be revealed each day through December for you to discover!

The displays are best seen when it is dark!

A map will be available.

**Binsted Church will feature an Advent Window from Christmas Eve!** 





## THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

[www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk](http://www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk)



### ***The Wickham Institute 100+ Club***

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

#### November 2025

1<sup>st</sup> prize Alan Shelley

2<sup>nd</sup> prize Jean Stephens

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Julie Atkinson

Details of the December 2025 & January 2026 draws 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](mailto:treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk)



# 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 23 October at 2pm
- ⌚ Wednesday 5 November at 2pm
- ⌚ Tuesday 11 November at 9.30am
- ⌚ Friday 21 November at 2pm
- ⌚ Wednesday 26 November at 7pm
- ⌚ Wednesday 7 January at 9.30am

Each session lasts for approximately 1 hour.

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

Visit [bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk](http://bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk) for more information or to book a session.



**Bentley CE Primary School**

School Lane, Bentley, Farnham GU10 5JP

[bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk](http://bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk)



At Bentley CE Primary School, we are passionate about caring for our wonderful world and helping our children understand how small actions can make a big difference. So far this year, our environmental work has continued to make an impact within our school community.

Empowering our pupils is a vital aspect of our eco work and this year our Year 6 Eco Council Leaders are leading three exciting new teams: Team Nature, Team Energy and Team Food. Each team is made of pupils from every class and has an important role to play in helping our school become more sustainable and environmentally aware. This term, our focus is on Team Energy, with preparations under way for our 'Switch Off Fortnight' this month – encouraging everyone to think about energy use at school and at home.

Another important aspect of our eco work is the wilding of our school grounds. Nature Guardians from Year 1 to Year 6 have been busy working with Madame Jones to continue to develop our beautiful pollinator garden, which is already flourishing. Our garden is not only going to be a beautiful habitat for wildlife, it will also help contribute to science as part of its inclusion in the National Education Nature Park. Funding from the South Downs National Park Renature fund has enabled us to begin the transformation of our garden but we are also very grateful for the kindness of members of our community as

well as Pepperpot Nursery for the generous donation of herbs. The next exciting step will be the addition of a large wooden gazebo, providing a peaceful place for children to sit, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of our garden.



Given the enormity of climate change, Bentley is grateful to be tackling it alongside other local schools as part of the Young ACAN Schools' Partnership, led by Madame Jones. This year's theme, 'Eating for Our Planet', explores how the food choices we make can help protect our world. In January, children from Bentley will be attending a special conference with pupils from other local schools to learn about food and its impact on the planet. The conference delegates will then return to school empowered to teach their peers about food to help tackle the issue of food waste at lunchtimes.

It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and care our pupils show for the environment. Their energy and creativity continue to inspire us all as we work together to make Bentley a greener, more sustainable school.

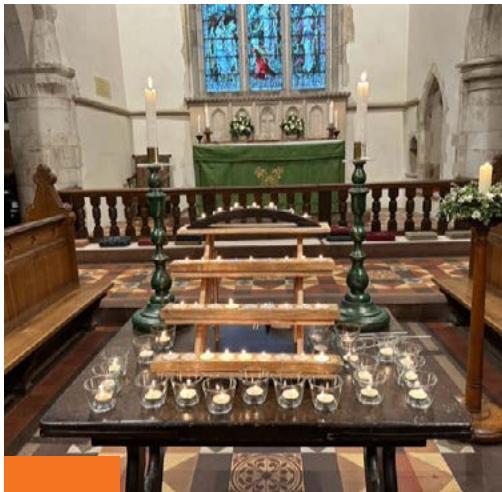
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025

# Thanksgiving Service Review

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, All Soul's Day, we held a Service of Thanksgiving and Hope at St Mary's in Bentley.

It was a service designed to give space to those who have lost loved ones in weeks, months or years past - an opportunity to give **thanks** for their lives, for the joy they brought to us and the precious memories that remain, as well as a time to remember the hope that we all have in Christ Jesus – the **hope** of eternal life promised by Him to all of us who believe.

It often feels, with the death of a loved one, that a light has gone out, and our lives, especially at this time of year, can seem darker. And so during the service, interspersed with singing, reflection, words of comfort, and prayer, there was a time to come forward and light individual candles in memory of our loved ones. Nearly 70 people attended, and the warm glow of so many candles indeed brought physical light at the end of the service to the dark autumnal afternoon, as well as a lightness to the hearts of those who were there.



The feedback was positive, with many who came expressing gratitude for an opportunity to quietly reflect with thankfulness on the lives of their loved ones, and we hope that this service will become an annual fixture within the Benefice, to be at each church on a rotational basis.

# 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](mailto: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.

# Sudoku Games

## Sudoku game EASY

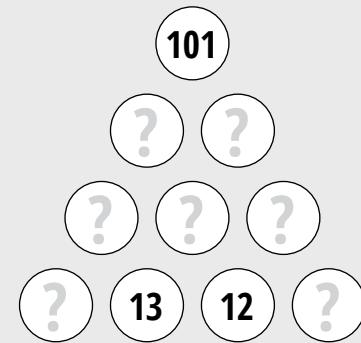
3	2			8	9			
6	8	5	2	7	3	4		
9								
4			7					
8	3	2	1	5	9			
	5					2		
			2					
2	1	4	7	8	3	5		
5	3			9		8		

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

**No prizes** – just a huge amount of satisfaction!

## Number Pyramid

What are the missing numbers?



## Sudoku game MEDIUM

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

## Sudoku game HARD

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

Sudoku game answers shall be in the next edition of the Bentley & Binsted Parish Magazine

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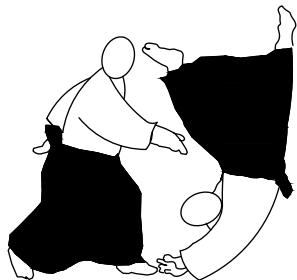
Cost is £50 for 4 hours

Contact [clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk)  
to discuss your requirements





# KI AIKIDO



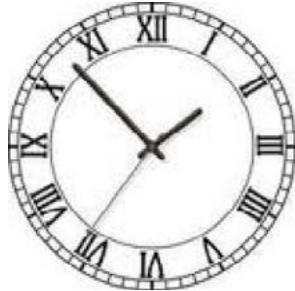
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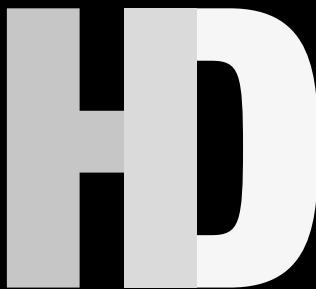
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### **The Memorial Hall**

(Bentley Memorial Hall Association):  
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Email: [bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com)  
[www.bentleymemorialhall.org](http://www.bentleymemorialhall.org)

**Badminton Club:** Martin Fox 07710 035913  
[martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk)

### **District Council**

Phillip Davies  
Email [phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk)

### **Parish Council**

Chairman: Mr John Fuller 07768 558751  
[johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539  
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### **Bentley School**

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Email: [bentleyschoolptfa@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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### **Bentley Rec Ground**

Chair: Stephen Whowell  
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### **Joint Parish Organisations**

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#### **Girl Guides** (at Holybourne)

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### **2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:**

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Treasurer: Andrew Croom Johnson - 23157

**County Councillor** Mark Kemp Gee - 01420 563550, email - [markkempgee@aol.com](mailto:markkempgee@aol.com)

### **District Council**

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### **Parish Council**

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### **Binsted School**

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### **Fête and Flower Show**

Matt Arrowsmith  
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### **Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:**

Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 451  
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### **Growmore Club Secretary:**

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### **Bentley and Binsted Police**

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### **Binsted Cricket Club**

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or mob: 07747878392

### **Binsted Football Club**

Secretary: Tim Winkworth [binstedfootball@gmail.com](mailto:binstedfootball@gmail.com)

### **Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)**

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# December/January



You can find our Christmas services inside and in the Christmas card.

7th December      **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion & Children's Church  
**11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion  
**6pm** Bentley Praise

14th December      **9:30am** Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church  
**11am** Froyle Holy Communion  
**6pm** Kingsley Praise  
**6:30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at Froyle

21st December      **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship  
**11am** Kingsley Holy Communion  
**4pm** Christingle at Kingsley  
**6pm** Carol Service at Binsted

28th December      **11am** Joint Holy Communion at Binsted

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4th January 2026      **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion  
**11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion  
**6pm** Bentley Praise

11th January      **9:30am** Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church  
**11am** Froyle Holy Communion  
**6pm** Kingsley Praise

18th January      **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship  
**11am** Kingsley Holy Communion  
**4pm** Messy Church at Binsted

25th January      **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church  
**11am** Binsted Morning Worship  
**6:30pm** Froyle Evensong

Please note, we have temporarily stopped our 8am Holy Communion services at Binsted during the winter months.