

PARISH MAGAZINE

BENTLEY & BINSTED

JULY & AUGUST 2026

07

Bentley Fete

12

Binsted Fete

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Bentley Green

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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)

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Fifty years ago was the amazing summer of 1976, one of the longest droughts in the UK in recent history. Temperatures reached as high as 38.5 degrees in Cheltenham. I remember being in North Wales and seeing the results of the wildfires scorching the hills. As I write, it is a wet June day after a couple of weeks of sunny weather. The summer of 1976 seems a long time ago from where we are this year. I love the sun and hope we will have a decent summer this year and for the farmers to have the right balance of water and sun to have a successful harvest.

As we move into July we get to celebrate the strength of our communities with our Village fetes. (Froyle 4th July, Binsted 11th July, Bentley 18th July and Kingsley 5th September) We are so grateful to the armies of volunteers who plan, organise and run these celebrations for us. I know they are always looking for more help, so don't hold back!

Summer fetes have a long history and have always been a celebration of villagers coming together and sharing their gifts and talents to help cement the community identity and what we all see as being important. Likewise our church services are adjusted to fit with this season. We don't run as many services, as so many of our people are busy being part of the fetes. Instead we have the Pet services in Froyle on 5th July and Binsted 12th July and we run an informal celebration service

in Bentley in one of the Marquees. Please do come along and enjoy these wonderful different services too.

In a society where divisions seem to be deepening and multiplying, rural communities go against the trend. We do not have the resources of towns and cities, and what services we do have, are under constant strain. So coming together to celebrate the life, artistry and joy of our villages is so vital. We together make this corner of Hampshire, the wonderful place to live in, that it truly is.

Rural communities are more connected to the landscape and the changing seasons and this is good for our mental and emotional health. Having a community around us also helps us to be resilient and to share the highs and lows of life. The church is at the heart of this too. We believe in a God of love who creates all that is beautiful and life affirming. We believe He calls us to be a community of love, set at the heart of things and sharing the depth and joy of living a life of faith.

May we have good weather for our fetes, long hazy summer days and the joy of being together. May God bless us and reveal more fully his love for us. Maybe not a drought like 1976, but a summer of ice cream sounds great!

Matt Boyes

Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Meet the Team

Kay Hunter Johnston



Pictured: Kay Hunter Johnston

1. Quick-fire questions!

Tea or coffee? Only coffee.

Winter or summer? Definitely summer (or spring). I want to hibernate after November.

Sunrise or sunset? Sunset. I am always asleep at sunrise.

Sweet or savoury? Savoury. It's a family joke as Andrew is always sweet.

Apple or android? Apple. Especially as my Android computer has a mind of its own.

Air guitar or air drums? Too shy for either

Movies or books? Both

2. What's your favourite way to start the day? With a cup of coffee, which Andrew very, very kindly brings me.

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

Currently on Binsted PCC, administering the Binsted church reordering project and helping on the comms working party for the Single Parish. I'm happy to be a jack of all trades wherever I can be helpful.

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

Having loos and hot water in Binsted church.

5. Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about? Tennis, horses and dogs. Gardening - but only in summer. Greek and Roman architecture (otherwise known as my old stones fixation!).

6. What's your most embarrassing moment? So many that are too embarrassing to recall. All in the "can't bear to open" box!

7. If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why? A time travel machine so I could go back to classical times especially when Jesus was alive.

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. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".*
It encapsulates the Christian faith and our hope for the future in one wonderful sentence.



The Bereavement Journey

We are currently nearing the end of the 7-week Bereavement Journey, and it's been incredibly helpful to those who are dealing with bereavement, both in recent months and going back years. Because it's been so well received, we're going to offer it again in the Autumn.

The Autumn course will begin on Thursday 5th November and will be held at Mill Court, starting at 12.30 with a soup lunch before going into each session, ending at 2.30. The course duration is 7 weeks, but we may combine 2 of the weeks, meaning it would end on Thursday 10th December.

If you are interested in doing the course but unable to attend a daytime, midweek course - please get in touch with Fran.

We are already beginning to think of dates and times for the beginning of 2027!

Fran Harrison on 07709 569262

or Kathy OT on 07710 623784

We look forward to our next Bereavement Journey together.

Church Registers

Bentley

Monday 16th March 2026	Funeral of Peter Hurley
Sunday 5th April 2026	Baptism of Elsa Harrap
Thursday 16th April 2026	Interment of Ashes of Veronica and Bill Osgood
Tuesday 21st April 2026	Funeral of Charmian Sneath
Friday 1st May	Interment of Ashes of Bernie Wilde
Sunday 3rd May	Baptism of Lewis
Friday 15th May 2026	Thanksgiving service for Anthony 'Jumbo' Fuller

Binsted

Wednesday 11th March 2026	Funeral of Sarah-Jane Mayhew
Saturday 16th May 2026	Wedding of Helena and Joss

Froyle

Friday 29th May 2026	Funeral of Barbara Starbuck
----------------------	-----------------------------

Confirmations by Bishop Kelly at St Lawrence, Alton

Sunday 24th May 2026

Lewis, Julia, Jenny, Evie-May, Eddie & Harriet

THE BENTLEY FETE & FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

1 PM - 5 PM

THE REC, SCHOOL LANE, BENTLEY, GU10 5JA

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON PACKED WITH
EXCITEMENT FROM 12.45PM AT THE
MEMORIAL HALL FOR THE START OF THE
PROCESSION & CAVALCADE!

🌸 FLOWER SHOW

🐾 DOG SHOW

🎪 GUEST STALLS

🚗 CLASSIC CAR SHOW

🏆 EXCITING NEW EVENTS IN THE ARENA

👤 PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW

🍔 BBQ, PIZZAS, BAR & REFRESHMENTS

ENTRY BY DONATION
SUGGESTED DONATION £10 PER FAMILY



WWW.BENTLEYFETE.CO.UK

July & August 2026 | 7

BINSTED BENTLEY AND FROYLE CARE GROUP



Community is at the heart of our villages,
and you are a part of this.



If you have a few hours to spare whenever you are able to, could you drive a client to a medical appointment to help to make their life a little easier? It is more than just taking them: it is chatting with them, connecting with them, enabling them to leave their home, seeing the outside world for a few hours.

If you could do this, please contact the Care Group secretary, Ellen, on 07740203796

The process to become a driver as part of our Care Group team is not arduous and is very rewarding.

Thank you for caring about your community.





July & August

Village fetes and events

Sunday 20th September, 4–6pm Harvest

Wickham Institute, Binsted, GU34 4NX

Sunday 18th October, 4–6pm

Froyle Church, GU34 4LB

Sunday 15th November, 4–6pm Advent

Wickham Institute, Binsted, GU34 4NX

December

Christmas events

Messy Church celebrates faith with creativity and hospitality.

We deliver Bible stories and crafts for all generations to enjoy together.

A loving and fun atmosphere that includes a shared hot meal.
(No cost, just rock up, advance notice of special dietary requirements is appreciated!)

Monthly sessions, 4-6pm, on the third Sunday of the month,
alternating between Binsted and Froyle.

All families are welcome!



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 40 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 June draw of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

1st Helen Curwen 2nd Helen Curwen 3rd Christine Goodyear

Congratulations to the winners.

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

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

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



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 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.



Binsted Fete

11th July 2026

12-4pm

Many thanks to the sponsors of this year's Binsted Fete:

George Moor Transport, Cedar Vets, Mint Condition,
Stubby's Chimney Sweeping and Martin Cashmore Fencing.

This years Fete is full of all your favourite children's activities,
bouncy castles, face painting, food, music, beer, tea, cake,
wine, artisan stalls, ice cream, raffle & tombola, animals from
Jet Equine Therapy and much more. Everyone can get involved
by entering one of our competitions; flower, photography, dog show
and bake off and there's easy classes for the kids.

We have spaces for more 'Young Entrepreneurs', under 16's stallholders.

We need prizes for our raffle and tombola.

Would you like to sponsor one of our dog show classes?

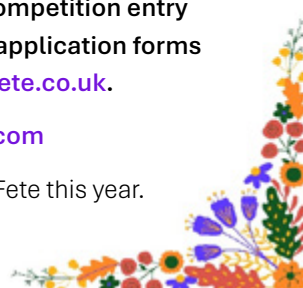
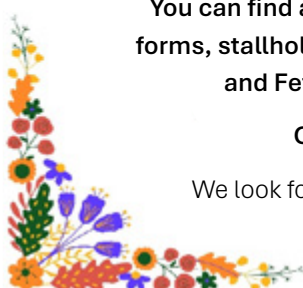
Can you volunteer to help raise the marquees on the Friday or spare an hour
to help rattle a donation bucket at the Fete?

**You can find all our sponsors details together with competition entry
forms, stallholders, Young Entrepreneurs stallholder application forms
and Fete details on our website www.binstedfete.co.uk.**

Or get in touch, the binstedfete@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing everyone at The Binsted Fete this year.

Lisa Wright & Jonny Green.





Binsted Fete

11th July 2026

12-4pm

Competition Categories

Dog Show Classes	Bake Off
Pedigree Classes; Best Puppy, Best Sporting Dog or Bitch, Best Non-Sporting Dog or Bitch, Junior Handler, Veteran and Open. Fun Classes; Gorgeous Girls & Gorgeous Boys, Golden Oldies, Musical Sits Don't Eat the Sausage! Scruffiest Dog, Waggiest Tail And Best Rescue.	Cupcakes. 6 beautifully iced cupcakes. Cookies. 6 cookies, any variety. Loaf Tin Cake. Any variety. One Big One. One big round cake. Favourites. Any bake that is your friends and family's favourite. Junior Chef. Any bake that's been made solely by an under 16.
Flowers & Produce	Photography
Best Roses All One Colour The Big One Wonderful Fragrances Wild and Beautiful 5 Best Veggies Fruit Salad World Cup	Go Wild Best of Binsted Portraiture It's all Black and White Sport Dusk 'till Dawn How Does Your Garden Grow? Funny



Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

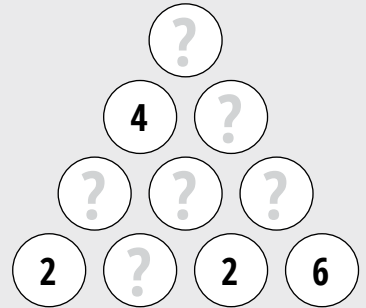
2		5			9			4
						3		7
7			8	5	6		1	
4	5		7					
		9				1		
					2		8	5
	2		4	1	8			6
6		8						
1			2			7		8

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

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

Sudoku game HARD

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



How Many Elements Do You Know?
Scan to play the prototype game.

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

*A cheerful
heart is good
medicine*

Proverbs 17:22



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





Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

Bentley Green: *Moving Forwards!*

In our last update, we shared the exciting news of the official birth of Bentley Green - the consultation, surveys, and vision. Since taking over the management of the Old Rec, we have been absolutely buzzing with activity. Here is a look at what we've been up to:

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

We have officially formed our Steering Group, with a fantastic team of volunteers stepping up to form our sub-groups. From the Orchard and Ecology teams to Fundraising and Events, there is a lot of dedicated passion driving this project forward.

Fun, Fundraising & Community Spirit

We've hosted a wonderful array of events that have not only brought us together but also raised vital funds through your generous donations. Highlights include:

- The Hidden Gems of Bentley Walks
- Celebrating International Dawn Chorus Day
- Grass and Pollinator Survey Training



We are also delighted to be named the beneficiary of this year's Anderson Jones Music Quiz at The Star, with all proceeds generously pledged to support the Bentley Green project.

Our Bentley Station Café is also up and running! We are serving tea, coffee, and pastries to commuters three days a week (Tuesday to Thursday, 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM), with all proceeds going toward the project via donations.

We also want to extend a massive thank you to Mascha Tyrell for kindly hosting a plant sale for us, and to everyone else who has donated their time, skills and money in other ways. Speaking of which, we are selling beautiful greetings cards and post-cards featuring key places, people and wildlife of Bentley. You can get yours by emailing bentleywildlife@gmail.com.

Checking in on Local Wildlife

On the ecology front, The Ecology Works has been helping us survey the site. They have set up reptile mats and dormouse tubes to see exactly

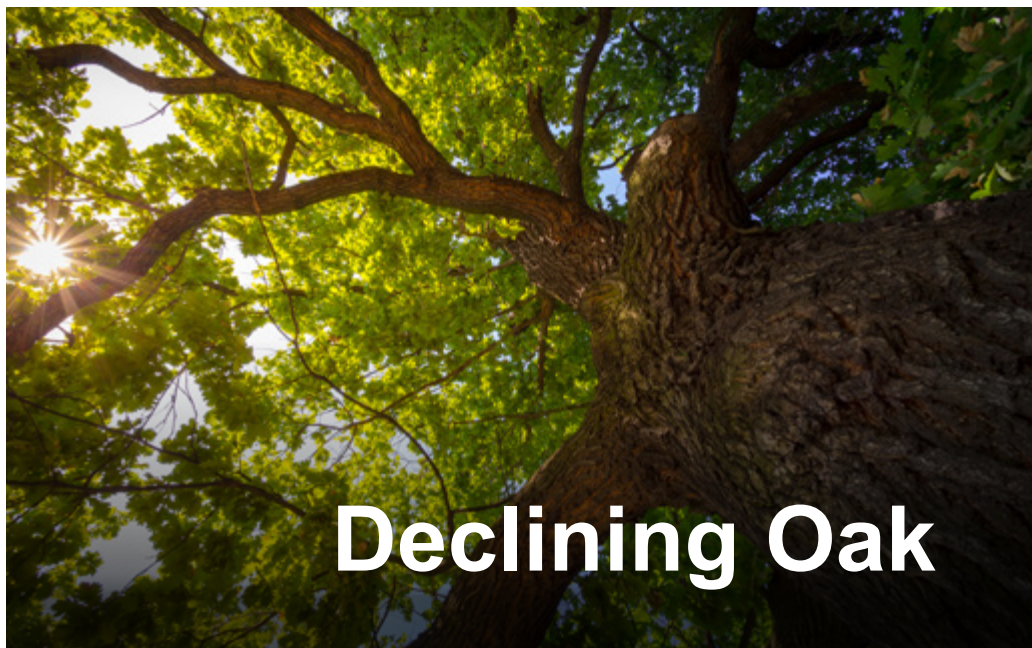
who is visiting Bentley Green. Gordon Jackson, our Ecology Lead, has also installed hedgehog survey tunnels to see whether these prickly mammals are present on site. Meanwhile, our Orchard sub-group is busy drawing up an exciting design for Bentley Green, which we hope to share very soon, and we've been applying for grants to fund everything from an accessibility gate to fruit trees.

Get Involved!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone for their support to date. This is a community project, and we would love for you to be a part of it. Whether you want to get your hands dirty volunteering, or simply want to stay in the loop, please get in touch!

Stay Connected: Email bentleywildlife@gmail.com to join our mailing list for progress updates and news on forthcoming events.

Thank you for helping us make Bentley Green a haven for wildlife and people alike!



Declining Oak

Oak trees are deeply connected to the history of Britain; the Magna Carta was written in oak gall ink, King Charles II reputedly hid in an Oak tree following the Battle of Worcester (as a result The Royal Oak is one of the top three pub names in England, incidentally Charles II's birthday is commemorated by Oak Apple Day on May 29th), and 'Heart of Oak' is the official anthem of the Royal Navy. Oak has also been one of the most important broadleaf timber trees grown in Britain, particularly for use in buildings like Salisbury cathedral, and ship building. Henry VIII's warship, Mary Rose is estimated to have used timber from 600 mature oak trees sourced from across southern England. The path that runs from Bentley to Portsmouth is called The Shipwrights' Way to commemorate the connection.

Britain has two native species; pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and sessile oak *Q. petraea* as well as the hybrid between the two *Q. x rosacea*. Other oak species

have been introduced over the years, the most often seen are Turkey oak *Q. cerris*, holm oak *Q. ilex* and red oak *Q. rubra*. All belong to the Fagaceae family along with

beech *Fagus sylvatica* and sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, characterised by catkin-like male flowers and nuts contained in a cup-like structure. Oaks are the most numerous Genus in the family with around 600 species currently described.

Acute oak decline (AOD) is a complex condition affecting oaks over 50 years old and is caused by a combination of bacteria, the oak jewel beetle *Agrilus biguttatus* and environmental stress such as drought.

The bacteria work together as part of a pathobiome (a community of host-associated microbes causing reduced health in the host) which becomes more pathogenic in the presence of the oak jewel beetle larvae. Although tree death can occur 5-6 years after symptoms first appear it is not a foregone conclusion; bleed sites on around 40% of trees affected by AOD callus over and the trees appear to recover.

Of the species commonly seen in Britain and Ireland pedunculate and sessile oak are the most commonly affected but Turkey and red oaks have also presented with symptoms. As of March 2026 most cases have been found in south-eastern, central and eastern England, the Welsh Borders and south-east Wales. It hasn't yet been reported in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

The most visible indicator for AOD is the presence of multiple vertical cracks in the bark and associated bleeds of dark fluid which can appear anywhere along the whole length of the trunk. Individual bleed points are not linked and can occur around the entire girth of the tree or restricted to one or two sides. The activity of bleeds appears to be seasonal and they can dry up, sometimes callusing over completely.



There is also a strong association with the D-shaped exit holes of the oak jewel beetle which are often seen in close proximity to the bleeds. Canopy dieback can also follow where stem bleeds are widespread, disrupting water and nutrient movement in the tree.

As ever, there is no economic cure for the disease, if it overcomes the oak's own resources.

Seriously though, isn't *Agrilus biguttatus* a great name? And given that it's our species that comes up with the names, couldn't we have done better than *Homo sapiens*!

Ben Hamlin

Tree warden

Binstdtrees@gmail.com



Binsted Parish Council

New Speed Indicator Devices appearing across the Parish

Fourteen locations in Binsted Parish are now formally approved by Hampshire Highways as Speed Indicator Device sites; and Highways' long-awaited work to increase the height of the posts has also now been completed, so the Parish Council's team of volunteers is finally able to deploy our four Speed Indicator Devices more widely across the parish.

Excess speed remains one of the biggest risks to road users. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are vehicle-activated signs that identify and display the speeds of approaching vehicles, to encourage drivers to keep within speed limits.

Rotating SIDs across different locations is recommended to achieve the greatest reductions in driver speeds. Best practice guidance suggests keeping a SID in one location for about a month, followed by an absence of at least

a month. These changeovers, combined with keeping the SID batteries charged and collecting and analysing the traffic data, create quite a significant workload for the volunteers. To support the expanded operations, additional SID volunteers have been recruited and will be trained during the Summer.

Road safety remains one of our top local concerns. Recently published Department of Transport figures show that the number of people killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads increased by 4% in 2025 (compared to 2024). On average four people lose their lives on the roads every single day. Tragically, collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality than collisions in urban areas.

If you can spare a couple of hours a month to help the parish's SID volunteer team, please email Alison: a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.



THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the June 2026 draws:

June 2026

1st prize Keith Mentzel

2nd prize Georgina Beare

3rd prize Catherine Hadfield

Details of the July & August 2026 draws will appear in the September magazine.

REMINDER TO TICKET HOLDERS: A few ticket holders who do not pay by standing order will have needed to renew their subscriptions in June and should have received details by email or in the post. If you still wish to participate and have not yet returned the renewal form, please do so as soon as possible so that you can be entered into the next draw.

Thank you to those that have renewed their subscriptions.

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



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

The children at Binsted C of E Primary School have enjoyed a memorable and enriching last few weeks, taking part in a range of exciting learning opportunities both in and beyond the classroom. There have been many sporting events, classroom enrichment activities, Poetry performances and gardening events as we look to develop and improve our lovely school.



Our Outdoor Learning Week was a particular highlight. Pupils explored the beautiful flower meadows at Blacknest Fields, discovering local wildlife and learning about the importance of caring for God's creation. Children also visited Alice Holt Forest, where they enjoyed nature trails, woodland activities and team challenges that developed confidence, curiosity and teamwork.



Meanwhile last term, Silver Birch Class had the exciting opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster. During their trip, pupils learned about democracy, how laws are made and the important work carried out by Members of Parliament. The visit brought their classroom learning to life and inspired many thoughtful discussions about citizenship and serving our communities.

These experiences have provided valuable opportunities for our children to learn, grow and reflect on their place in the wider world. We are grateful to all the staff, volunteers and parents who helped make these visits possible.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." (Psalm 24:1)



OUR south east water CHALLENGE PROGRESS

WHAT YOU can do to help us.

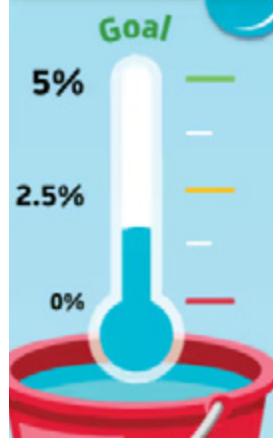
In just the first month, our collective efforts have already resulted in an 0.92% reduction in water demand!

This means Binsted is well on track to achieving the final target.

It's so inspiring to see the whole village pulling together. We've already had 47 pledges from residents, community groups and businesses. Join in and make your pledge if you haven't had a chance, add your support today:

(It doesn't cost anything!)

Binsted
Track your progress



www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/save-water/binsted-water-saving-challenge

Binsted, what a fantastic start!

We are one month into the Binsted Water-Saving Challenge, and we're thrilled to see the community coming together to support Binsted School.

As a reminder, if the village **reduces its water use by five per cent** by 30 September, the school will receive **£5,000** for new outdoor wooden storage lockers.

If you hit the halfway milestone of a 2.5 per cent reduction by 30 June, we'll immediately release £2,500!

south east water





COME AND SAY HELLO

We are excited to meet you at the church stall at each of our village fetes this year - come and say hello!

The stall will have a prayer tree, face painting & crafts - all free!
And there will be plenty of information about our churches, services, events & groups. Chat to some friendly faces and get stuck in!

Saturday 4th July - Froyle Village Fete

Saturday 11th July - Binsted Village Fete

Saturday 18th July - Bentley Village Fete

Every Sunday following the fetes we run a special service in each village, it would be great to see you there!

Sunday 5th July, 11:15am - Froyle Pet Service on the Rec

Sunday 12th July, 11am - Binsted Pet Service in the Church

Sunday 19th July, 11am - Bentley Marquee Service on the Rec





**May
2026**

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

33.7°C (25th) to 13.5°C (11th)
5 consecutive days above 30°C
and 16 days below 20°C



Nighttime minimum

- 3.3°C (12th) to 12.9°C (28th)
3 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

0.69 inches (17.6 mm) over 8 days



Wettest days

0.33 inches (8.4 mm) (19th)

INTERESTING FACT

When compiling this article @ 8pm on 2nd June, we had received 40 mm (1.57 inches) of rain in 24 hours, this was more than the amount of rain received in the whole of April & May which was only 29.4 mm (1.16 inches)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

West South West



Maximum gust

18 mph (13th)

CURTIS MUSEUM

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday
10am – 4.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

Forthcoming events

We have plenty going on during the

Festival of Archaeology - 18th July - 1st August.

The Time Detective Agency Fact Trail

Step into the shoes of a Time Detective and uncover the clues hidden in the past! Join us at the Curtis Museum for an exciting, interactive family event where young explorers and grown-ups work together to solve historical mysteries through play, puzzles and discovery. Packed with creative activities and archaeological challenges, The Time Detective Agency invites families to investigate, build and dig their way through history. What's in store?

3D Pot Puzzles

Become a finds specialist and reconstruct broken pots using three-dimensional puzzles, just like real archaeologists do in the lab.

All materials provided

Explore real archaeological techniques in a fun, creative way

Create your own layered stratigraphy jar to take home

Perfect for curious minds, young explorers, and budding archaeologists!

Thursday Craft Club – Soap

Knapping 23rd July. Step back into the Stone Age this Thursday at Craft Club and discover how early humans shaped tools from flint and stone! Using bars of soap instead of sharp flint, children can safely try their hand at “knapping” - carefully carving and shaping their own prehistoric-style tool to take home.

This hands-on activity explores one of the oldest skills in human history and is inspired by real Stone Age artefacts in the Curtis Museum collection. Perfect for curious young archaeologists, crafty makers, and anyone who enjoys getting creative with history.

What to expect:

Learn how prehistoric people made tools and weapons

Create your own soap “stone tool” to take home

A fun, hands-on introduction to archaeology and ancient craftsmanship

All materials provided

Craft Club costs £2 per child, and your 5th craft is free

Thursday Craft Club – Stratigraphy

Jars 30th July. Become an archaeologist for the day and discover how layers of soil can reveal clues about the past! At this week's Craft Club, children will create their own colourful “stratigraphy jar” using different



Soap Knapping

layers of sand, soil, and materials to explore how archaeologists read the ground like a history book.

Inspired by real archaeological digs, this hands-on activity introduces the fascinating idea of stratigraphy - the study of layers that helps archaeologists understand what happened long ago and when.

What to expect:

Learn how archaeologists uncover history layer by layer.

There will also be **Dig Pits** for children to explore, and a **Fossil Handling Box** - an opportunity to handle replica fossils and learn about real ones.

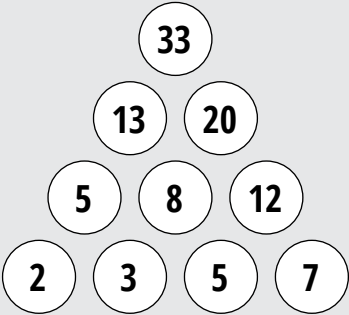
Sudoku May Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Number Pyramid

What are the missing numbers?





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BENTLEY FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

Please visit our **website www.bentleyfete.co.uk** to register your entries online by **8pm on Friday 17 July 2026**. You can also register in person at Saturday Café on Saturday 11 July **between 1030-1230**. There is no charge for entries. Please sign in and bring your exhibits to the Flower & Produce Show marquee on **Saturday 18 July 2026 between 8.00-10am**, when the tent closes for judging. Tent reopens at **1pm**. See full schedule for all details – available locally.

Section A Flowers

- 1 One stem of your favourite Rose
- 2 One stem of a Floribunda (Cluster) Rose
- 3 One stem of a scented Rose
- 4 A bowl of Roses
- 5 Five stems of Dahlias, one or more varieties
- 6 A bowl/vase of mixed Flowers from your July Garden
- 7 A display of Flowers, all one colour, with at least 6 stems, mixed or single variety
- 8 A vase of Sweet Peas
- 9 One stem of a Lily (Lilium) or Day Lily
- 10 Five stems of annuals and/or biennials
- 11 Five stems of Herbaceous Perennials
- 12 Three tall flower spikes (e.g. Delphinium/ Acanthus /Foxglove/Hollyhock, mixed or not)
- 13 Five Violas, Pansies, Pinks, mixed or all one variety
- 14 A bunch of fresh Lavender – tied, no vase
- 15 Three stems of a Flowering Shrub
- 16 Five Clematis blooms – one or more varieties, sprays acceptable
- 17 A succulent/cactus in a pot
- 18 One named flowering Pot Plant (indoor or outdoor)

Section B Floral Arrangements

- 19 An arrangement of flowers/foliage in a recycled container
- 20 A small Posy
- 21 A Summer table arrangement
- 22 A vase of flowers from a wild area in your garden (must be from your garden only)

Section C Fruit and Vegetables

- 23 Display of any July Produce on a tray/trug/basket/box from your vegetable garden or allotment
- 24 A Lettuce
- 25 Three Onions as grown, washed but not peeled or plaited
- 26 Tomatoes – loose or on the vine (min 3 with calyx intact)
- 27 Seven pods of a Legume variety, mixed or not (Peas, Beans – Broad, French, Runner)
- 28 Five Potatoes
- 29 Three Courgettes (not round) – max 15 cm
- 30 A Cucumber
- 31 Five Carrots, washed with tops left on
- 32 Three Beetroots, washed, leaves left on

- 33 A Cabbage
- 34 Little and Large – one small, one large of the same vegetable
- 35 An unusual or wonky vegetable
- 36 Three sticks of Rhubarb, leaves trimmed to approx. 7.5 cm
- 37 Collection of soft fruit (Quality not Quantity)
- 38 Collection of five different named Herbs – displayed in a pot or jar
- 39 Home Garden Compost, displayed on a paper plate, covered

Section D Produce

- 40 Your favourite Pickle or Chutney
- 41 One pot of Jam
- 42 One pot of Jelly
- 43 One loaf of Artisan Bread
- 44 One pot of Marmalade
- 45 Drink (alcoholic) – One bottle (e.g. Sloe Gin or Wine)
- 46 Drink (non-alcoholic) – One bottle (e.g. Elderflower Cordial etc.)
- 47 6 decorated Cup Cakes
- 48 A cake made with fruit
- 49 6 Chocolate Brownies
- 50 A Banana Cake
- 51 6 savoury scones
- 52 6 home-made biscuits
- 53 A jar of Honey

Section E Children's Classes

- 54 11 years and under Cress grown in a recycled container
- 55 Yr R Animal artwork, using items from nature (A4)
- 56 Yr 1 Castles (max cereal box size)
- 57 Yr 2 Lighthouses (max cereal box size)
- 58 Yr 3 Roman Mosaics
- 59 Yr 4 A design for a Viking artefact
- 60 Yr 5 An Egyptian sarcophagus
- 61 Yr 6 Pop Art (A4)

Section F Arts & Crafts

- 62 Photography "My Bentley" - under 16s
- 63 Photography "My Bentley" - 16 & over
- 64 Handicraft – a textile item
- 65 2027 Schedule Cover poster competition
- 66 Scarecrow – staked, no higher than 2m



Making the Most of Every Opportunity

One of the many things that makes Bentley CE School such a special place is the wealth of opportunities available to our children. We are fortunate to be situated in a beautiful village, surrounded by countryside and supported by a wonderful community.

Our extensive outdoor spaces play a huge role in school life. Through Forest School, our trim trail and the recently opened Attenborough Garden, children learn, play and reflect in inspiring outdoor environments. The garden in particular has quickly become a treasured space for wildlife, wellbeing and outdoor learning.



We are also incredibly fortunate to have two school minibuses, enabling us to take learning beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, children enjoy a wide range of educational visits, from castles, farms and museums to science centres, theatres and outdoor adventure centres. These experiences bring learning to life and create lasting memories.



Learning at Bentley is not limited to trips. We regularly welcome authors, theatre companies and specialist visitors into school. Recent highlights have included Shakespeare workshops, author visits and immersive history experiences, all designed to spark curiosity and inspire learning.

Sport and enrichment are also a key part of school life. Children represent the school at numerous sporting events throughout the year and enjoy opportunities such as Young Voices at the O2 Arena. From Year 3 onwards, all children also take part in residential experiences, helping them to develop confidence, independence and resilience.

Perhaps most importantly, we make full use of the wonderful surroundings that Bentley has to offer. Whether exploring the local area, learning about our village or enjoying the countryside on our doorstep, children benefit from rich experiences that help them connect with the world around them.

At Bentley CE School, we believe education is about much more than what happens within four walls. By combining excellent teaching with outdoor learning, enrichment opportunities and strong community links, we help every child to flourish.



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.



**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 2027:

- ❖ **Wednesday 21 October at 1.30pm**
- ❖ **Thursday 5 November at 1.30pm**
- ❖ **Tuesday 10 November at 9.30am**
- ❖ **Monday 16 November at 1.30pm**
- ❖ **Wednesday 25 November at 7pm**
- ❖ **Wednesday 6 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 for more information or to book a session.



Bentley CE Primary School

School Lane, Bentley, Farnham GU10 5JP

bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk



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 are covered by income from advertising revenues.

Thanks to your generous donations, the shortfall for the last year has reduced to just under £1,500, but Bentley and Binsted PCCs still have to cover this amount.

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

- scanning the QR code below



- or go direct to our donations page at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tv9rtxu>.

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

What was happening in Bentley 50 years ago?

Bentley Parish Magazine – July 1976



RELIGION AND ART

Through most of the centuries since Europe became Christian, the connection between art and religion has been so obvious that everyone took it for granted. Most of the great buildings (other than castles) were churches: nearly all sculpture was made to adorn them; pictures, almost without exception, were of 'religious' subjects.

But naturally this did not mean that artists were all religious. Some undoubtedly were, some not. But for believers and sceptics alike, the Church was the main patron of art, and artists accepted the commissions which the Church offered them. You do not have to believe in the Incarnation to paint a splendid Madonna - though you may paint an even better one if you do.

There is a deeper level, however, at which Christians and artists have a bond vital to both of them. Both believe that inorganic matter (paint,

stone, clay, bread, wine) can be the 'carrier' of spiritual values. The paint on the artist's palette is just 'paint'; but on his finished canvas it is no longer that - or is not simply 'paint'. It is now a picture charged with meaning, capable of stirring the deepest human feelings and aspirations. This is not very different from what happens in the sacraments of the Church. Ordinary things - water, bread, wine - are charged with a new vitality, so that they communicate to those who receive them not themselves alone, but themselves transformed by the divine gift which enriches them.

There is, however, one striking difference between the function of matter as it is used in art and as it is used in religion - at any rate in the opinion of "the world" (those who do not yet think or see truly). What the Church teaches about sacraments is by the great majority thought to be nonsense, or magic, or simply impossible. How can 'things' be carriers of 'spiritual' life? But when artists do the same - confer spiritual quality upon 'matter' - everyone takes it for granted. It is almost a definition of art. When we hear the Ninth Symphony, it is not the scraping of bows upon catgut, or the vibrations of vocal chords, to which we attend: it is the wonderful music of which these 'things' are the instruments. An art-historian or picture-restorer may scrutinize the "Madonna of the Rocks"

in search of cracks in the paint; the rest of us are enthralled by the picture. We do not argue about how it was made - at least we do not deny that it was made by putting paint on canvas.

Perhaps that accounts for the difference in attitude to art on the one hand and sacraments on the other. Everyone, picture-lover or not, can see that pictures exist, and can say (in a general way) how they were made. The artist's use of his 'material' to convey a 'spiritual' meaning (which may not be a directly religious one) is manifest. You can, in his studio, actually see it done. The Church's use of material things is - at one level - equally obvious: any day you choose, you can see it done. But in this case the results are not, as a rule, obvious. How is the baby, just baptised, 'different' from the baby brought into church half an hour earlier? The Holy Communion - bread and wine consecrated to carry into the life of the worshipper the holy Humanity of Jesus Himself - how does it differ from ordinary bread and wine? No one can say: not because the difference is unimportant, or not real, but because it will not go into words.

Here we re-join the artist - or at any rate every artist except the writer. The painter, the potter, the sculptor, above all (perhaps) the musician,

are conveying truths which will not go into words. It is not that words would do the job better, if the artist could find them. Quite the opposite: he is telling us something which is best told, and perhaps can only be told, in the medium he has chosen. No one supposes that Bach or Mozart might just as well have been painters. What they have to communicate can only be put into music. It could not be put into words. So with sacraments. They are God's gifts, and pledges, they come to us with His love, they feed our hearts and souls, they produce their effects, quite apart from any words that accompany them. The blind and deaf receive them as completely as others. Just as the artist, asked what he means by his picture, will tell you to look at the picture, so we may think of God - asked how sacraments 'work' - telling us, if we would really know, to 'taste and see'.

GLR (Rev. G L Russell – July 1976)

BENTLEY FETE AND FLOWER SHOW:

50 years ago, the Fete and Flower show was held on Saturday 31st July, featuring the Donkey Derby, and most excitingly bicycle egg-and-spoon races (bring your own bike!) I wonder if the 2026 fete will feature these events?!

...continues 36 ➔

Bentley Parish Magazine – August 1976

THE FUTURE OF BENTLEY PARISH

In August 1976, there was talk of Bentley parish joining with a neighbouring parish! Bentley was also in the Diocese of Guildford so this move meant returning to the Diocese of Winchester. Here's a snippet of Reverend Russell's article:

"We have known for some time that the number of clergy in the Farnham Deanery would, by about 1980, be reduced to 16 (2/3 the number in 1973). Since there are 16 parishes in the Deanery, that works out at one each. But some parishes - like Fleet, Headley and Farnham - have such large populations that they must have at least one assistant curate as well. It follows that some of the smaller parishes (like Bentley) will be 'paired', so that two or three of them will have to share one priest.

We learned last month that the Deanery Pastoral Committee (which is responsible for planning these changes) has recommended to the diocesan authorities that Bentley should be joined to Binsted, or Froyle, or possibly both. If such re-groupings are to come - and there is little doubt that they will - this seems the best arrangement. We already have many links, social, historical and geographical, with both Froyle and Binsted. Many families have relations in all three villages. The Royal British Legion, the Community Association, the Garden Club, the W.I., all draw some of their members from Froyle and Binsted as well as Bentley. The three schools have for many years competed and cooperated. The alternative would be a forced marriage with Crondall, with which we have few natural ties, and from which we are separated by miles of open fields and narrow lanes.

Of course this will mean that Bentley will leave the Guildford diocese of which it has formed part since the diocese was created fifty years ago, and 'return' to Winchester. Since we are part of Hampshire this is in many ways a logical step, though we have built up links with Guildford which we shall be sorry to lose."

ANTS OR ONIONS:

P.A.S discovered that onions deterred ants from their kitchen!

CRECHE ON SUNDAYS:

August 1976 saw the decision to start up a creche during alternate Sunday services to allow parents to enjoy the service and to give the children their own Christian education. This has not changed in 50 years, but the closing remarks hit the nail on the head:

“Just as there can – literally – be no future for the human race apart from its children, so there can without them be no future for the Church. We must do all we can to make it possible for them, and their parents, to join in our Sunday worship.”

At BenBinFro, we have a number of opportunities for our children, young people and parents to take part in worship, through services with Children's Church, in Messy Church where families worship together, or through our youth groups. Children, young people, parents and family units are so welcome in our churches, as they were 50 years ago.



Big Sleep Out 2026

Upagear had a brilliant time at the end of June sleeping out in cardboard boxes to raise money and awareness for Trinity Winchester, a charity supporting those dealing with homelessness.



...continues 38 ➔



A big well done goes to Steve and Richard who took our 6 young people to Winchester Rugby Club and braved a night under the stars. As you can see from the photos, the shelters were well engineered – especially Richard’s! – and they were still standing in the morning.

There was a silent disco and lots of opportunity for fun and games, as well as good food. This event was not representative of homelessness, but events like this raise awareness of what it might be like to not have a comfortable bed for the night. Upagear were very lucky with perfect, dry weather.

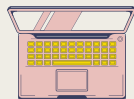
Upagear raised £415 which goes to Trinity Winchester, and this year all sponsorship raised by under-18s will be doubled!

A total of £830 is an amazing achievement and it’s not too late to donate via JustGiving:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/benbinfro-youth>



Work from home



at Bentley Church Hall



We know there are a large number of people who work from home in our villages. Working from home gives flexibility for family commitments, saves time and money spent on commuting and you can work in your pyjamas! But we all know working from home comes with distractions and can be quite lonely.

Come along to our 'working from home' sessions at Bentley Church Hall. We 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. Bentley Church Hall has beautiful surroundings and individual tables set out for you to work. There's also a dividing wall so you can continue to join your Zoom meetings without disturbing the others!

We are taking a break over July and August but rest assured we will be set up to work together again in September.

9am - 5pm

Dates:
15th September
29th September

Bentley Church
Hall
Church Lane
GU10 5NA

HAVE YOUR VOTE!

What **DAY** of the week would
you come work from the
church hall?



chat to Becky or Gemma
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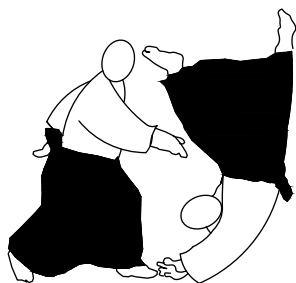
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The Memorial Hall

(Bentley Memorial Hall Association);
Malcolm Macnaghten Tel. 01420 521291
Email: bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com
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
Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: [@bentleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bentleyparishcouncil)
Instagram: [@bentley_parish_council](https://www.instagram.com/bentley_parish_council)
Bentley Memorial Hall, Hole Lane,
Farnham GU10 5LP
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)

Bookings: 07775 458873
Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

Lucy Yendell 01420 80560

2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk 07974377736
www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

BINSTED

Website: binstedparishcouncil.com

The Wickham Institute

Chairman: Graham Jones 07825 201451
email: graham.jones666@gmail.com
Bookings: Ann Mann 07854130955
email: annmann074@btinternet.com
www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk
Treasurer: Andrew Croom Johnson - 23157

County Councillor Antonia Cox

antonia.cox@hants.gov.uk

District Council

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

Parish Council

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

Binsted School

Headteacher: Henry Jennings 01420 23200

Fête and Flower Show

Lisa Wright
thebinstedfete@gmail.com

Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 451
Website: www.binstedtcc.co.uk

Growmore Club Secretary:

binsted.growmore.secretary@gmail.com

Bentley and Binsted Police

Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby
Alton Police 101

Binsted Cricket Club

Chairman: John Dineen 01420 617814
or mob: 07747878392

Binsted Football Club

Secretary: Tim Winkworth binstedfootball@gmail.com

Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

July & August Services

July and August bring lots of summer events and well-deserved holidays - so our services are slightly different to the norm. Take a look at our service pattern for the summer. We will return to normal in September.

5th July **11:15am** Froyle Pet Service on the Rec

12th July **11am** Binsted Pet Service in the Church

19th July **11am** Bentley Marquee Service on the Rec

26th July **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion
11am Binsted Morning Worship
6:30pm Froyle Sung Holy Communion

2nd August **11am** Kingsley Holy Communion

9th August **11am** Froyle Holy Communion

16th August **11am** Binsted Holy Communion

23rd August **11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion
6:30pm Froyle Evensong

30th August **11am** Bentley Holy Communion

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