

PARISH MAGAZINE

BENTLEY & BINSTED

SEPTEMBER 2026



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Bell Ringing

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Parish Magazine

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Sometimes our churches can feel right at the centre of village life, during the school services or the big Christmas services, but there are also times when they can feel a little separated from our day-to-day village life.

During the summer months of July and August, the frequency of church services is reduced with so many of us being away, so we can go several weeks between a service in each of our churches.

It is such a joy to hold different services after the village fetes. We hold pet services in Froyle and Binsted, which can feel a little Vicar of Dibley-esque, especially when a large horse is present.

Every year in Bentley we hold the appropriately named Marquee Service in the Flower Show tent. The Bentley Fete weekend was particularly special for me as it was my first as a Licensed Lay Minister. After announcing at the fete on the Saturday I then had the privilege of leading the Marquee Service the following day.

The service was intended to have something for everyone. There was an all age drama, we sang both modern worship songs and traditional hymns, the liturgy was suitable for all and we tried to make the core message of the service - *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”* (Proverbs 3:5)

- relatable and applicable to all, especially those who don't regularly join us at a service. We wanted to provide a joyful service and show that we are here for everyone in our community.

And that is at the heart of everything we do, showing God's love to all.

Your churches are here for everyone in our villages, whatever your needs. We are all God's people. Each one of us is made in the image of God. As Christians we believe God is the creator of all humanity and he loves each one of us.

Jesus showed us that we should be welcoming to all, regardless of origin, situation and condition. We should discriminate against no one. Jesus spent time with all kinds of people and welcomed them as children of God. Jesus demonstrated his love by his teaching and his actions. The miracles he performed were for anyone who asked faithfully, regardless of who they were.

My prayer for our churches, and the village communities we serve, is that we will be beacons of light, relatable and applicable to all and serving everyone by demonstrating God's love for each of us, whoever we are.

Steve Fice

Lay Minister, Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Meet the Team

William Knowles



Pictured: William Knowles

1. Quick-fire questions!

Tea or coffee? Coffee – black and strong

Winter or summer? Winter, although as I get older, that is gradually changing...

Sunrise or sunset? Sunrise – on the rare occasions I get to witness it

Sweet or savoury? Sweet

Apple or android? Apple

Air guitar or air drums? Air guitar

Movies or books? Books – in hard copy

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

Listening to my American wife (an early riser with an obsession for US news channels) ranting about all the crazy things her fine President has been up to overnight. The news is usually depressing/alarming, but the rant is always entertaining...

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

I was born and grew up in Bentley and was baptised in Bentley church (rather a long time ago...). Work took me to London and abroad (and away from the Church) before we settled in Froyle – then part of a benefice with Holybourne. My various roles in the Church have remained largely Froyle-focused (I was churchwarden for some years), but I have always been a big enthusiast for developing ever-stronger ties with Bentley and Binsted, which I regard as part of my home territory.

4. What are your fond memories of Bentley?

Well, I don't remember being baptized, I'm afraid, but I do remember accompanying my mother to 8:00 am communion services, of which she was a devotee (my father not so much...). I have vivid memories of Bentley fetes at the former recreation ground, where Giles Harrap found his voice as an excellent and highly entertaining commentator – first displayed at the Bentley fete 'donkey derby'

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

Lots of things. I'll mention three. First, although I tell myself - and anyone else who cares to listen - that it is burdensome and daunting, I (sometimes...) really enjoy leading at lay-led services. Secondly, there is something very special about acting as chalice bearer at holy communion services – it is such a privileged connection you make with people when you offer them the sacramental wine. Thirdly – and this is not really part of a 'role' as such – I always look forward to Home Group meetings; they make life so much richer.

6. Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about? Not sure I really get 'nerdy or excited', although I suppose that sometimes, when I have stayed longer in the pub than is sensible, I can get over-enthusiastic about 1960s folk/rock music..

7. What's your most embarrassing moment? Oh dear – there have been so many... Lots of technology-related ones – particularly emails which ended up being sent to the wrong person – or sent late at night when they really shouldn't have been sent at all. Dogs are always a 'good' source of embarrassment: Not so long ago, I was walking with one of our dogs and friends on a footpath alongside a links golf course in the west country. A well-driven golf ball landed in the middle of the fairway - quite a distance from us, so I thought nothing of it, until I saw my dog (a labrador) negotiate the perimeter fence, run at full speed onto the fairway and collect the golf ball, which he dutifully brought straight back to me - quite the best retrieve he has ever done - ignoring the shouts from the golfers at the other end of the fairway. Neither I nor my dog have visited a golf course since...

8. If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why? That's easy: a teenager whose sole purpose and enjoyment in life involves helping me get comfortable with, navigate and make the best possible use of modern consumer technology and social media.

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

I'm not sure I would have been so struck by this if I hadn't known the song before I discovered the source of the song. However, whether in musical form or in the original biblical text, Isaiah 55:12 is wonderfully uplifting stuff for anyone:

*"You will go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will
burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands."*



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.

Church Registers

Bentley

Saturday 6th June 2026

Wedding of Katie and Lewis

Sunday 14th June 2026

Baptism of Isobel Curtis

Saturday 20th June 2026

Wedding of Alice and Thomas

Froyle

Friday 19th June 2026

Thanksgiving and Interment of Ashes of Margaret Stanford

Bring and Share Harvest Lunch



Sunday 27th September

*At 12:30pm, following on from our 11am Morning
Worship Service*

Wickham Institute, Binsted

All welcome.

*Please just bring a cold sharing savoury or sweet dish for
the number in your party and whatever you might like to drink.
Visitors most welcome!*





Sunday 20th September, 4–6pm

Wickham Institute, Binsted, GU34 4NX

Come along to the Wickham Institute this September for a spectacular Messy Church afternoon. We will be celebrating harvest and learning about how and why Jesus feeds 5000 people with just a tiny offering.

With crafts for all ages and a free supper for all, Messy Church is not to be missed.

See you there!

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!





The Bereavement Journey

We warmly invite you to our next Bereavement Journey, a 7 week course for anyone who has suffered bereavement, no matter how long ago.

This course provides a safe place to talk with others, as we reflect on the various ways in which our lives are impacted by loss, whilst also exploring how we can move forward, despite our loss.

A light lunch will be provided and all are welcome.

Thursdays, 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Commencing on Thursday 5th November

Mill Court, GU34 4JF

(please contact - see below - for directions if you are unsure where to go)

Please let us know if you would like to join us:

Email: admin@benbinfro.org

Call: Fran - 07709 569262

Call: Kathy - 07710 623784





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

You are warmly invited to our special
service of hope and thanksgiving

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
3PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, FROYLE

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

For further details: 01420 23339 admin@benbinfro.org



UPAGEAR

Youth group

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

★ School years 7+

★ 5–6:30pm, Thursday 17th September

★ Bentley Church Hall

four: twelve

YOUTH CLUB

WHO? SCHOOL YEARS 4–7.

WHEN? 5–6:30PM
FRIDAY 11TH SEPT
FRIDAY 25TH SEPT

WHERE? BENTLEY CHURCH HALL

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

It's Friday... It's Five O'Clock... It's 4:12!

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young...” – 1 Timothy 4:12

Those of us of a certain vintage might remember Friday evenings beginning with the words, *“It's Friday, it's five o'clock and it's... Crackerjack!”* These days, however, every other Friday evening in BenBinFro belong to something even better...

4:12!

Named after one of our favourite Bible verses from **1 Timothy 4:12**, 4:12 is our lively youth group for children in **Years 4, 5, 6 and 7** meeting every other Friday at **St Mary's Church Hall, Bentley**.

As leaders, we absolutely love these evenings. The children arrive bursting with enthusiasm and energy, and no matter what kind of week we've had, their excitement is wonderfully infectious. It doesn't matter which school they attend or what year group they're in—they quickly become one team, encouraging one another, making new friendships and, most importantly, having enormous fun together.

Every session begins with the inevitable rush to the tuck shop—it's amazing how many sweets can disappear in such a short space of time! While everyone chooses their treats, there's plenty to enjoy with giant Jenga, Twister and table games.

Then it's time to burn off some energy! Favourite games have included Shopping Bag Netball, Capture the Flag, Non-Stop Cricket, relay races and the ever-popular game of Spud. There's always plenty of laughter, cheering and the occasional spectacular tumble!

After all that excitement, we take a short break to spend around fifteen minutes exploring more about God. These moments are always special. The children continually surprise us with their thoughtful questions, wise insights and the faith

they've developed through their church schools and families. Our hope is that God's Word doesn't simply remain something they know in their heads, but becomes something they carry in their hearts and live out each day.

Of course, once we've caught our breath, the games begin again! One of this year's biggest favourites has been Lighthouse—an exciting torchlight game played in the dark where players try to reach the lighthouse without being spotted. It has quickly become a 4:12 classic!

This year also brought an exciting change as we moved from the school hall into St Mary's Church Hall. The new venue has given us the wonderful opportunity to welcome parents with tea, coffee and cake while they wait. It's become a lovely time to chat, build friendships and simply be there for one another—a reminder that supporting families is every bit as important as supporting the children.

Our year always finishes with one of the highlights of the calendar—a fantastic pool party and BBQ at Mill Court, where all our BenBinFro youth and children's groups come together for an evening of fun, food and laughter. This year's surprise highlight was an impromptu synchronised swimming display before the hotly contested “Biggest Splash” Championship! After fierce competition between two of our fearless leaders, Bryan and Findlay, we're pleased to announce that Findlay is the reigning champion... at least until next year!

If your child will be in **Years 4, 5, 6 and 7** this September, we'd love to welcome them to 4:12 on Friday 11th September at 5pm. We promise a warm welcome, great games, lots of laughter and the opportunity to make new friends. Plus tea/coffee and biscuits for well deserving parents.



Help Bentley Green Grow Wild

*Can our whole village grow
a wildflower meadow together?*

This autumn, the Bentley Green Community Group is inviting everyone in Bentley to raise one or more native wildflowers at home; look after them through the winter; then bring your plants to The Big Plant Out at Bentley Green in spring 2027.

You don't need to be an experienced gardener, have a large garden or grow hundreds of plants. One pot, a whole tray or anything in between - it all counts.

The new Bentley Green website has everything you need to take part, including suggested wildflowers for the Green's clay soil and a simple step-by-step growing guide.

<https://bentleygreen.uk/grow-wild-for-bentley-green/>

Sow this autumn. Grow through winter. Plant together in spring.

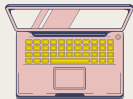
Scan the QR code to join in and help Bentley Green grow wild!



**“The most wasted of days
is one without laughter”**

E.E. Cummings

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!

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
or email admin@benbinfro.org for more info

Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

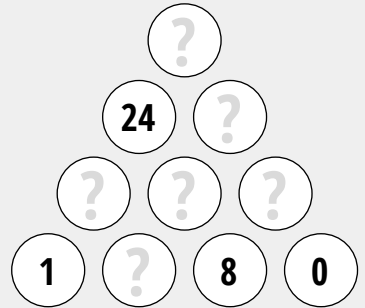
8		7	6		3			
6		9			7	8	3	1
	3	1			4	6		
					6		8	4
2	1		7				9	
4			8		2		5	
					8			5
		5	4	2				3
3	7	4	5			9		8

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

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

Sudoku game HARD

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



Scan to play the game. 

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



Messy Church Brings Colour and Creativity to the Fetes

Butterflies, tigers, flowers and footballs were just a few designs painted on the faces on children and adults who visited the church stalls at the Binsted and Bentley fetes in July.

Many squidgy balls, badges, and key rings were made. The prayer tree blossomed with ribbons and all the helpers and visitors were kept cool under a decorated gazebo. All activities were free in a response to the Christian faith but thank you for your kind donations on the days.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible and to the organisers responsible for the overall preparation and set up on the day. It was a wonderful community event.

Ride & Stride at Holy Cross 2026

Every year Hampshire and The Islands Historic Churches Trust holds a 'Ride & Stride' Event to raise funds for the maintenance of churches in this area and this year's event will take place from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 12th September.

Please join in if you can – it's great fun and you don't have to cycle or walk: you can Ride (or drive) in a car and Stride up the church path. If that doesn't appeal any form of transport (bus, motorbike, horse etc) is perfectly acceptable!

The important thing is to get your friends and family to sponsor you. Half of the money raised goes to Hampshire and The Islands Historic Churches Trust and is then given out in grants (we received one a few years ago) the other half is kept by your nominated church to help maintain its fabric.

Once again I will be Riding and Striding for Holy Cross Church Binsted, this year for the Fabric Fund, so if you're unable to participate on the day but would like to sponsor me please contact me on stellaseajay@hotmail.com.

If you feel like getting sponsored and doing a 'church crawl' either on your own or with a group of friends then please contact me for more information and a sponsorship form.

Stella Croom-Johnson



RIDE + STRIDE
for the heritage of churches

SATURDAY 12 SEPT. 2026

Over 400 churches & chapels in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight will be open.

- Have a family fun day out and discover the beautiful churches and chapels on your doorstep, by taking part in a sponsored cycle or walk.
- Enjoy a warm welcome along the way!
- Help to preserve our churches for future generations.

join us

Sponsor forms and more information are available from:
STELLA CROOM-JOHNSON
stellaseajay@hotmail.com
07740 261256

or contact the County Coordinator Team at rideandstride@hihct.org.uk

find out more at
www.hihct.org.uk

HAMPSHIRE & THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
Anglican Church No. 2251375

Stella Croom-Johnson 2025



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.

Registered Charity Number 1207775.



Spindle

My first conscious encounter with Spindles, *Euonymus europaeus*, was a pair on the periphery of the managed gardens at Wisley. In a sense though my first encounter was in fact in my early childhood; but more of that later. Recently I found a venerable old tree in the 'formal' part of Gilbert White's garden in Selborne.

The species was put out to grass in Rev. White's times, having been as essential to us as dogs and sheep for thousands of years, since we turned to agriculture. But, with the coming of the Industrial Revolution, 'better' means were needed for winding spun yarn than the long, straight twigs that had served so well, for so long.

Spindle is a deciduous native tree that typically grows to 6m. It can reach 10m in rare cases and can live for more than 100 years. The bark and twigs are deep green, becoming darker with age, and have light brown, corky markings. Twigs are thin and straight.

The leaves are shiny and slightly waxy and have tiny sharp teeth along the edges. They turn a rich orange-red before falling in autumn.

Spindle is hermaphrodite, meaning each flower contains both male and female reproductive parts. Flowers have four delicate petals and grow in clusters in May and June, and are pollinated by insects.

After pollination, flowers develop into bright pink fruits with bright orange seeds, which look a bit like popcorn.

Spindle is native to much of Europe and can be found most commonly on the edges of forests and in hedges, scrub and hedgerows. It thrives in chalky soils and is less common in Scotland.

It is an ancient-woodland indicator.

The leaves are eaten by caterpillars and also attract aphids and their predators, including hoverflies, ladybirds and lacewings, as well as the house sparrow and other species of bird.

The flowers are a rich source of nectar and pollen for insects such as the St Mark's fly.

Euonymus, is from the Greek 'eu', meaning 'good' and 'onoma', meaning 'name'. This is said to have meant 'lucky'. However, in some areas, it was also thought that if the spindle flowered early, an outbreak of the plague was on the way. If you had been taken to see Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*, as I was, then you would know that a spindle could be anything but good luck. *La Belle au bois dormant* is a French fairy tale about a princess cursed by an evil fairy to sleep for a hundred years if she pricks her finger on a spindle. Her father, the king, orders the purging of all spindles from his kingdom. This presumably devastated the textile industry, and, of course, the ban is less than complete. Will these autocrats ever learn!

A good fairy, knowing the princess would be frightened if alone when she wakes, uses her wand to put every living person and animal in the palace and forest asleep, to awaken when the princess does. Subsequently, all hell breaks loose when she is awakened by a handsome prince.



The Aarne-Thompson classification system for fairy tales lists "Sleeping Beauty" as a Type 410. It includes a princess who is magically forced into sleep and later woken, reversing the magic.

The fruits were baked and powdered and used to treat head lice or mange in cattle. Both the leaves and fruit are toxic to humans – the berries having a laxative effect.

Today, spindle timber is used to make high-quality charcoal for artists. Cultivated forms of the tree are also grown in gardens for autumn colour.

Ben Hamlin

Tree warden

Binstedtrees@gmail.com

CURTIS MUSEUM

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday
10am – 4.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

September

The Time Detective Agency Fact Trail runs throughout the Summer Holidays. Become a Time Detective!

There will be three Time Periods to detect - Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern. Collect stamps to mark your progress for a summer packed with time-travelling adventures, **at 10 museums all across Hampshire!** (Check individual venue opening days in advance). Step into history and explore a different era each week as you train to become an official Time Detective Agent.

Take part in free family trails, hands-on crafts, and exciting challenges designed for curious minds of all ages!

Start your journey by completing your first activity and receive your very own TDA Trainee ID Card

Earn Mission Complete stickers at any participating venue

Collect 4 stickers to unlock an exclusive Time Detective Agency badge!

FREE event – no booking required!

Drop in, explore, and travel through time all summer long.

During **September**, we're running an **Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons** trail. Choose your side and design your weapons. **FREE.**

This activity runs throughout the autumn term.



Following the success of last year's **Heritage Open Day**, we're doing another HOD, this time with re-enactment group **Herigeas Hundas, Butser IX Legion**, and **Experience the Iron Age** joining us to provide live demonstrations, show off medieval skills and trades, and possibly even play some live medieval music. **Saturday 12th September**



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 July & August 2026 draws:

July 2026	August 2026
1 st prize Jacci Corney	1 st prize Sally Read-Ward
2 nd prize Deborah Leventon	2 nd prize Ron Neil
3 rd prize Jo Moore	3 rd prize John Kenward

Details of the September 2026 draw will appear
in the October magazine.

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.

As the new school year begins, we are delighted to welcome our new Reception children to Oak Class. They are settling in beautifully and are already becoming part of the Binsted family. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Furzland, our new Reception and Year 1 teacher, and look forward to getting to know her and our new families over the coming weeks. The children have also enjoyed welcoming some new chickens to our coop and are excited to be collecting fresh eggs once again.

The term ahead promises to be a busy and exciting one, with swimming lessons, sports clubs, curriculum visits and many opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are also looking forward to their residential trip to PGL in March.

Our school value this term is Belonging. As a church school, we believe every child should feel welcomed, valued and loved. Guided by Jesus' example of kindness, compassion and care for others, we seek to build a community where everyone feels they belong and is encouraged to flourish. We are grateful for the continued support of our families, parish and wider community, whose encouragement helps make Binsted such a special place to learn and grow.

If you are looking for a Reception place for your child starting school in September 2027, we would be delighted to welcome you to one of our Open Mornings. They are a wonderful opportunity to experience our warm, caring school community, meet our staff and pupils, and see first-hand how our Christian values shape everyday life at Binsted. We look forward to welcoming new families and sharing what makes our school such a special place to belong. Details of our Open Mornings can be found on our website www.binsted.hants.sch.uk/topic/news-and-events, or by calling the school office on 01420 23200.

Warm Regards,
Henry Jennings
Headteacher



NEED A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPT 2027?

Binsted CE Primary School

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



Dates

Monday 28th September 2026
Monday 12th October 2026
Friday 13th November 2026
Friday 27th November 2026



Tours at:

9:30 – 10:30 or 11:00 – 12:00



Location

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

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

We look forward to meeting you
soon!



Richard Sherfield Marks 70 Years of Bell Ringing

at St Mary's, Bentley

On Monday 7 September 2026, the ringers of St Mary's Church, Bentley, will celebrate a very special milestone: Richard Sherfield's 70 years as a bell ringer at the church.

Richard learnt to ring at Bentley. His first lesson was in September 1956, when he was just ten years old. He was taught by Alf Raggett. Now aged 80, Richard remains a familiar and valued member of the band. His seven decades in the tower represent an exceptional commitment to St Mary's and to the life of the village in which he has spent most of his life.

Bell ringing also became something of a Sherfield family tradition. Richard's father, Walter, was a Bentley ringer, as is Richard's son, Ross. Walter helped to teach his grandson Ross, and for a time three generations of the Sherfield family rang at Bentley. It is a family connection with the bells that few towers in Hampshire can claim.

Richard attended Amery Hill School in Alton before going on to work as an optician. He married Grace, and together

they raised Ross in Bentley. Following his retirement, Richard devoted more of his time to gardening, something he continues to enjoy today. He can still often be seen around the village keeping hedges and gardens neat and tidy.

There is no complete record of every occasion on which Richard has rung since 1956. However, allowing for Sunday services, weekly practices, weddings and special occasions, it is reasonable to estimate that he may have spent around 10,000 hours in the tower. (It is known that achieving world-class expertise requires roughly 10,000 hours of deliberate practice, Richard is certainly in that class!)

That equates to more than 400 complete days of ringing time. At the normal pace of change ringing, Richard may also have made more than 20 million individual bell 'strokes' (that's two different pulls on a bellrope) during his 70 years. These figures are approximate, but they give some sense of the time, patience, dedication and commitment involved, and he shows no sign of slowing down!

The bells at St Mary's date from 1703. The sound heard across Bentley today, when the wind is from the right quarter, forms part of a tradition stretching back more than 300 years. Church bells remain one of the most distinctively British sounds and an important part of our history. It is impressive to think that Richard's service has spanned more than one-fifth of those 300 years.

When Richard began ringing, Anthony Eden was Prime Minister, Queen Elizabeth II had been on the throne for only three years, television was still largely a black-and-white novelty, and Britain used pounds, shillings and



Richard in the Belfry at St. Mary's standing in front of the heaviest bell, called the tenor, and this was cast in 1703 weighing 12cwt or 610 kilos the same sound today as in the 1700's.



A special board in the ringing chamber commemorating St. Mary's 800th Anniversary in 1970. This was Richard's first quarter peal where 6 local ringers including Richards father Walter who witnessed the quarter rang non stop for over 45 minutes to a 'method' (similar to a music composition) called Grandsire Doubles.

pence. Personal computers, mobile phones and the internet belonged to a distant future.

Much has changed since then, but Richard and successive generations of ringers have kept the bells sounding over Bentley and helped maintain St Mary's place at the heart of our community. Across seven decades, his ringing has accompanied Sunday worship, weddings, Christmas and Easter celebrations, Remembrance commemorations and many of the important moments in the life of our village.

This anniversary is not simply about an impressive number of years. It recognises Richard's quiet reliability, his family's historic connection with the church, tower and village and his willingness to help keep an important tradition alive.

Today's band is keen and enthusiastic, with members from a wide range of backgrounds, and there is always room for anyone who would like to give ringing a try. Richard's story proves that a first lesson at the age of ten can lead to a lifetime of ringing.

Everyone at St Mary's warmly congratulates Richard and thanks him for his extraordinary 70 years of service. We hope Richard will continue ringing and that the bells will continue to be heard across Bentley for a good while yet.

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.

**For room bookings and additional information about the Hall, please visit
our website**

www.bentleymemorialhall.org

The Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club

The winners of recent draws of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

July: 1st Elaine Morris 2nd John & Linda Fuller 3rd Rebecca Bladon

August: 1st Hilary Melia 2nd Hugh and Sue Chissell 3rd Jim Goebel

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.

Are you able to help manage this major village asset?

We are always looking for more volunteers.

For more information, please contact

bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

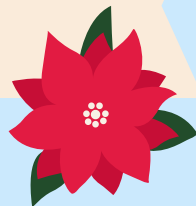
BINSTED'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 5th December 2026

2pm - 4:30pm

In the Wickham Institute and
Holy Cross Church, Binsted.



More volunteers, donations and ideas needed. This is a wonderful community event and we'd love to have as many people involved as possible!

Contact Angela - angela1dunne@sky.com

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM *you!*

Your local churches want to improve how we interact with all those in our local communities, now and in the future. Change is coming, and we want to be ready.

We value our local relationships and want them to grow wider and deeper. To do this, we need to understand local needs, so we've created a **short questionnaire** about how you'd like to receive local church news and information.

**Your opinion matters,
so here's what to do**



Scan the QR code below to complete the survey online ☐

Alternatively paper copies can be dropped into one of the collection boxes placed in our churches and village halls ☐

All responses are anonymous and will be used only to help us better meet the needs of our communities ☐



Please complete the survey by Wednesday 30th September.

Your input matters to us. We look forward to hearing from you and your family. Thank you.



2ND BENTLEY SCOUT GROUP

JUMBLE



SATURDAY

19th
September
2026!

SALE

COME & GET YOUR BARGAINS!!

Doors open at 2pm

£1.00 Entry

Scout Hut

GU10 5JP



Contributions for the sale can be delivered to the Scout Hut on Friday 18th September 7pm - 8:30 pm or between 8am and 12:00 noon on the day

Bentley Flower and Produce Show 2026

Saturday 18th July – Recreation Ground, Bentley

The 2026 Bentley Flower and Produce Show was another great success, judging by the feedback both on the day and after the event and despite the challenging weather conditions for growing.

A record number of entries featured across a wide range of flowers, fruit, vegetables, home baking, chutneys, jams, and children's classes. A new Arts & Crafts section attracted strong interest from both adults and children, with plans to expand the range of classes in 2027.

Owing to the high standard of entries, the judges faced a rigorous selection process.

The committee thanks everyone who entered and encourages wider participation for 2027, as this community involvement drives the show's success.

Grateful thanks go to Castle Street Flowers and The Saturday Café, for their continued support of the event, and to Apsley Farms, for donating a 750-litre bag of its soil improver for our raffle for the second consecutive year.

Sincere thanks go to the Fete Committee members and helpers, all of whom worked tirelessly to set up the fete site and help lay out the marquee.

Finally, we could not have succeeded without the help of the Flower and Produce Show volunteers, whose assistance in setting out the exhibits was praised by many exhibitors. They also helped our team with unfamiliar tasks, which they accomplished proficiently.

Cup Winners 2026 Flower and Produce Show:

Cup	Winner	Class
Lady Baden-Powell Cup	Libby May	Most points overall in Show
Mr and Mrs Powell Cup	Alison Hart	Section A Flowers
Sir. William and Lady Pike Cup	Lucille White	Section B Flower Arrangement
Henry Thompson Cup	Libby May	Section C Fruit and Vegetables
Mrs Coke Cup	Dominique Lucas	Section D Produce
Dick Holmes Cup	Adrian Shephard	Best Bowl of Roses (Class 4)
Sherfield Cup	Lucille White	Best Exhibit in Show
Mrs J.C. Holcroft Cottager Cup	Peter Scott	Best Allotment
Jack Bowyer Award	Anita and Cliff Hedges	Runner-up at the Allotments
Frank Joy Cup	Margaret Cuffe	Best Cake in Show
Bentley WI Cup	Otilie Eyles	Best entry in Year R
Paul Barron Cup	Elara Portlock	Best entry in Years 1,2 and 3
Mrs Tompson Cup	Phoebe Tagg	Best entry in Years 4, 5 and 6

Best wishes

Bentley Flower & Produce Show Committee



AmDram is Murder!

Bentley Amateur Dramatics (BAD Company) is returning to the stage this autumn, and things are getting downright criminal! On Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October 2026, Bentley Memorial Hall will play host to AmDram is Murder, a hilariously suspicious interactive whodunnit written by Karen Ince and directed by Antonia Demetriadi. Watch the chaos unfold as a fictional local drama group finds out firsthand that their fellow cast members are MAD, BAD, and dangerous to know.

As an interactive mystery, you'll get to play detective, weigh the evidence, and see if you can spot the killer before the final curtain. A licensed bar will be running throughout the evening, with all bar sales going directly towards keeping community theatre alive in Bentley and supporting local

causes. Please book promptly - our productions always sell out fast, and tickets are strictly required for entry.

Tickets can be purchased here:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/badcompany/2346225>



WINE TASTING EVENT

(in aid of the Wickham Institute)

AT THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(BINSTED VILLAGE HALL)

ON FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2026 @ 7.30PM

Come and join us for a fun evening and taste some wines that you can buy locally for no more than £15 per bottle.

There will also be 2 easy wine quizzes (entrance fee £1 pp for each quiz) with a bottle of champagne for each winner.

Feel free to bring your own “nibbles” but palate-cleansing cheese and cheese straws will be provided!

Tickets cost £20 pp and reservations can be made by either:

Email: treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk

Telephone: 01420 23157 (if no answer, please leave a message and you will be contacted)

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.

Harvest

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

Psalms 24:1

This year we have seen exceptionally dry weather. As at the end of July, half of England has been declared in drought by the Environment Agency. This includes Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Wessex, The Thames Valley and the whole of London.

A large swathe of central, eastern, and southern England is now experiencing a flash drought - which develops very quickly brought about by a combination of very low rainfall and higher temperatures.

Rivers are running low, farmers are having to harvest crops early, wildfire risk is increasing, and millions of people are living under restrictions on water use. Except for Yorkshire and the North-East, all other areas across England are identified as having prolonged dry weather status.

With the harvest being a very difficult time for farmers this year and the ongoing dry weather and drought, and with the knowledge that this isn't new, it seems there is more to be done.

As a church, we believe that God created the earth and gave human beings a distinctive

responsibility to care for creation. We believe that the nature and climate crises show how people have failed to carry out this responsibility.

Christians are called to recognise the harm they have caused to the world and to turn away from actions that damage God's creation. We are also called to remain hopeful and take action to protect and care for the environment.

We believe that responding to the environmental crises is a way to:

- worship God – we honour God when we care for creation
- work for justice – climate change hits hardest the poorest countries and poorest people of the world
- show love for neighbours, locally and globally.

The Church of England has published resources on ways of responding to the climate crisis: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/environment-and-climate-change>

A prayer:

We pray for our farming community; for all who, as stewards of your creation, work so hard to produce our food and care for our precious environment. Father, at this time of turbulence and change and with the long-term impact of severe weather, there are some who are bewildered as they fear for their future. Guide all who farm to cherish your creation in their endeavour to produce healthy food. We pray for every farming family.

We pray for policy makers that they may bring clarity of policy and direction, enabling food security and ecological balance. We give thanks for all involved in the safe production and passage of food. Lord, we pray that all who consume their produce, including ourselves, may value and appreciate the sacredness of food and the graft and commitment involved in bringing it to our table.

Amen.

Harvest Services in our benefice:

St Mary's, Froyle

11am, Sunday 13th September

St Mary Magdalene, Oakhanger

11am, Sunday 4th October

All Saints, Kingsley

11am, Sunday 20th September

St Mary's, Bentley

9:30am, Sunday 11th October

Followed by brunch in the church hall

Holy Cross, Binsted

11am, Sunday 27th September

*Followed by Bring and Share lunch
at the Wickham*



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

@ THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX)



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

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(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI



What was happening in Bentley **50 years ago?**

Bentley Parish Magazine – September 1976



...AND TALKING OF HARVEST

The two-thirds of the world's population who live in the developing countries share between them only one-fifth of the world's wealth – especially food. One child in four dies before they are 5. 300 million people are unemployed. Human energies are sapped by hunger and disease.

All of us who live in the west benefit from this unequal distribution of the world's resources. If the harvests fail, our wealth ensures that we are the last to go short. But how can we 'share' with a million, 100 million, others?

We can start by making sure that we know the facts. For instance, in spite of our economic problems, between 1970 and 1973 our average share, per head, of Britain's annual income rose from £1133 to £1530 – an increase of £415. In 1973, 2 billion people in the poorer countries had to survive on an average of £100 per head.

We can give to Christian Aid or Oxfam to relieve some of the most desperate need. But the long-term solution depends on fresh policies, on international co-operation, on helping the poorer nations to help themselves – which doesn't just mean leaving them to stew in their own juice!

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

On August 2nd Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited the Queen Elizabeth Country Park at the Butser Hills. My husband and I visited the park and waited with hundreds of others for a glimpse of her. She made four stops at various parts of the park, and then arrived in an open Land Rover on Telegraph Hill, where we were waiting. She alighted looking radiant in a coat of deep pink edged with white and with little white flowers on it, a white hat, gloves and shoes, and carrying a posy of grasses and pink, yellow and blue wild flowers.

The Queen passed in front of the lines of people, stopping here and there to speak to someone, especially some elderly citizens in wheelchairs. She was then taken to see the impressive views, and then continued her walk. To my joy she stopped in front of me, and asked if I lived near, had I visited the park before, and then "aren't the views beautiful?" I asked if she had enjoyed her visit to Montreal, and she replied, "it was lovely, thank you."

I have often watched her walk-about on television, and wondered how the lucky people she spoke to felt. Now I know. L.K.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for caring, reliable volunteers to join us at the **King's Arms Youth Project** in Alton

Help create a **safe, fun and welcoming space** where young people feel seen and valued.

Young Carers: Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm

Supersonics: Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm

After School: Monday-Friday 3-4:30pm

Your role: We love our volunteers to get as involved as they feel comfortable - from playing games and joining in with the fun, to making toast, helping to prepare and serve food, to being a listening ear. If you would like to offer some much needed support to young people and youth workers in your community, please get in touch.

No experience necessary - full training and support provided

We would love to hear from you!

Give me a call and let's have a chat!
Sarah, Alton Centre Manager



Sarah@thekingsarms.org.uk



07493 701984



www.thekingsarms.org.uk

Sudoku July & Augst Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



June 2026

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

37.5°C (24th) to 15.4°C (6th)
7 consecutive days above 30°C,
and 10 days below 20°C



Nighttime minimum

5.5°C (9th) to 17.4°C (23rd)
8 nights below 10°C

Rainfall



Total for month

1.46 inches (63.2 mm) over 12 days



Wettest days

2.49 inches (29.0 mm) (7th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

West South West



Maximum gust

19 mph (3rd)



Interesting Fact

Between 12th June and 26th July
there were only 2 days of measurable
rain totalling only 0.06 inches (1.4mm)



**July
2026**

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

35.6°C (8th) to 25.3°C (19th)
13 days above 30°C



Nighttime minimum

3.3°C (20th) to 15.8°C (26th)
8 nights below 10°C

Rainfall



Total for month

0.04 inches (1.00 mm) over 2 days



Wettest days

0.03 inches (0.8 mm) (30th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

East



Maximum gust

17 mph (13th)

Parish Weatherman

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= at Bentley Lodge =



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EVERY month
at Bentley Lodge
CARE AND NURSING HOME



10:30–12:30



*Everyone
welcome!*

A friendly monthly drop-in for carers, families, dementia friends
and the local community.



Monthly Drop-In Café

A friendly coffee morning open to local carers, people living
with dementia, Parkinson's, memory loss or other long-term
health conditions, as well as family members, friends and
anyone in the local community who would benefit from a
friendly place to connect.



MORE INFORMATION



[https://www.rmdcare.co.uk/
our-homes/bentley-lodge](https://www.rmdcare.co.uk/our-homes/bentley-lodge)



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Main hall accommodating up to 100 people and two meeting rooms accommodating up to 60 people each. Main hall and one meeting room can be combined for larger events.

For more information and to book the hall, please go to the website www.bentleymemorialhall.org



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**For bookings or further information,
please contact the booking secretary on
01420 22388 or visit our website
www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk**



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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
Instagram: @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
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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

September Services

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

13th Sept **8am** Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
& Children's Church
11am Froyle Holy Communion - *Harvest*
6pm Kingsley Praise

20th Sept **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship
11am Kingsley Holy Communion - *Harvest*
4pm Messy Church at Binsted

27th Sept **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion
& Children's Church
11am Binsted Morning Worship - *Harvest*
6:30pm Froyle Evensong

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