PARISH MAGAZINE

# BENTLEY & BINSTED

OCTOBER 2026




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24 Binsted School News

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Cover image © 2026 Nigel Hughes

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## Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle


Revd Matt Boyes (Day off - Friday)
matt@benbinfro.co.uk | 07469 270590
C/O Church Office, St Mary's Church, Bentley, GU10 5NA
**Website:** www.benbinfro.co.uk


**Assistant Priest**
Christopher Ogilvie Thompson (Day off - Tuesday)
Tel: 07776 178690 | email: christopherot@me.com

**Licensed Lay Minister**
Steve Fice (Day off - Friday)
Tel: 07876 767990 | email:steve.fice@btinternet.com

**Anna Chaplain**
Fran Harrison annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

**Benefice Administrators**
Lucinda Edwards and Gemma Ball
(admin@benbinfro.org) 01420 23339

**Honorary Assistant Minister**
David Perryman, Treetops, Upper Froyle
Tel. 07710 699183 david.perrypeople@gmail.com

**Parishes Prayer Chain**
Nick Carter 01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

**Pastoral Care Team**
Nick Carter 01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

**Bentley: St Mary's Churchwardens:**
Jill Kiely, 11 Broadlands Close, Bentley, GU10 5LE - 22735
Nick Caddick, Tanners, GU10 5NE - 23229

**Binsted: Holy Cross Churchwardens**
Jonathan Bourne, Sunnycroft, GU34 4PF – 07766206278

**Parish Safeguarding Officers: Bentley and Binsted**
Jill Kiely, Bentley Parish Safeguarding Officer
safeguardingbentley@benbinfro.co.uk

Susan Bourne, Binsted Parish Safeguarding Officer
safeguardingbinsted@benbinfro.co.uk

**Parish Magazine**
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**Editor:** Benefice Team
**Designer:** Mike Hammerton
**Treasurer:** Steve Fice, 07876 767990 steve.fice@btinternet.com
**Distribution:** Bentley – Gill Thallon: gill.thallon@outlook.com
Binsted – Linda & John Kenward: lindawellsuk@yahoo.co.uk

In the middle of August there was the partial eclipse of the sun. As a family we went up to the Recreation Ground in Binsted and more and more villagers came and spread across the Rec to witness this cosmological phenomena. Some were equipped with glasses, cereal boxes with pin holes, we had the very unsuccessful colander. As the light changed there was a hush. We were together witnessing something out of the ordinary. For me the striking thing, was the sunlight dappled through the trees' leaves, made crescent shaped light shadows on the ground.

I thought of ancient civilisations that worshipped the sun and moon gods. The sun was the obvious choice, it brings light and life and heat, it makes crops grow. Moon gods? They always seemed weaker, a lesser light. But moon god worshippers saw that the moon could darken the sun and in a total eclipse almost extinguish the light entirely.

The words of John's gospel came to mind, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it". Even in a total eclipse there is still the corona. A crown of light, that maintains twilight, never total darkness. These words are speaking of Jesus, the light of the world. His message can sometimes be quietened, but never silenced. Christians are the most persecuted faith in the world with thousands killed each year for observing their faith. Yet in countries where persecution happens, the church grows in number.

The ancient Romans complained that when natural disasters struck, that it was Christians who acted to serve and help other people, non-Christians. This made people think of the love that was displayed in these acts of service, love which Jesus had set as an example for his people to follow.

In the darkness, the light still shines. In our world which seems a dark and depressing place at lot of the time, the light of the church still shines. Jesus himself said that his followers should shine like a city on a hill. Pinpricks of light to show that there is shelter and a warm welcome waiting for the traveller.

Do not despair when you read the headlines. Remember that small acts of love and service, or worship and devotion still abound. That God will not abandon his world to the darkness. Instead the hope and promise of the ancient Israelite prophets is that one day the glory of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.

If you are going through a dark trial. Look up. The light still shines for you too.

Matt Boyes
*Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle*

# Meet the **Team**

*Pippa Blizzard*



*Pictured: Pippa Blizzard*

1. **Quick-fire questions!**
   **Tea or coffee?** Tea
   **Winter or summer?** Summer
   **Sunrise or sunset?** Sunset
   **Sweet or savoury?** Savoury
   **Apple or android?** Apple
   **Air guitar or air drums?** Air Drums
   **Movies or books?** Movies
2. **What's your favourite way to start the day?** Cup of tea in bed - I have a kettle on my bedside table!
3. **Tell us more about your role at Benbinfro and how you ended up here?** Currently 'Youth Group Co-ordinator' I think. I got here initially reluctantly over 30 years ago but eventually obediently started with helping in Children's Church : ) Then Deanne and I took over a youth group called Kickstart and ran it with various helpers for 20 years - up to 40 young people attended at its peak – so rewarding. I was also Children's Church lead at one point so I continue to take my turn to lead this younger group.
4. **What things in your role do you look forward to the most?** Being with young people - they are energising and can be very open if you can find the key with some!
5. **Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about?** I am a tidy doer, not a reader; so activity, craft, cleaning, weeding, extreme and less extreme sports : ) Recently I started open water swimming, who knows whether I will continue into the winter?
6. **What's your most embarrassing moment?** Luckily, I can't remember but I'm sure there were plenty : ) I forget names and stories so can never remember a joke! That works well with strict confidentiality in my profession as a Physio!
7. **If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why?** Making time elastic to fit the tasks I need to fit into the day. I have been known to pray as such.
8. **To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others?** Philippians 4:7 '*The peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus'*. It's crazy but such a blessing to feel this peace amidst turmoil.

# Church Registers

| Bentley | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 13th August 2026 | Thanksgiving service for the life of Mary Wilde |
| Wednesday 19th August 2026 | Funeral and burial of Roger Puncher |

| Binsted | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 26th August 2026 | Funeral and burial of Margaret Whitford |

| Froyle | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 9th August 2026 | Baptism of Molly Findlay |



# 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.

# Bentley Harvest Service

## St Mary's Church, Bentley
## Sunday 11th October 2026 at 9.30am

**Donations of tinned and dried food for the Alton Foodbank would be much appreciated.**

**Details of items they are currently in need of can be found at https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/**

**Join us afterwards for a light brunch**

**Our farmers have been facing unprecedented challenges this year. England and Wales had the warmest spring on record, we have seen five heatwaves and our area, among others in the southern half of England, has been declared in drought. The result has been reduced grazing, early use of winter feed, both lower yields and quality of crops and increased feed costs. This has had an impact not only on farm income but also on mental wellbeing. Harvest has traditionally been a time of celebration but, for many farmers there seems little to celebrate this year.**

Recognising the difficulties our farmers are currently facing and our wish to support them, we will be donating the collection taken at Bentley's Harvest service to The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI). RABI is a charity, providing practical, financial and emotional support to farming people across England and Wales and has recently established a grant scheme to help those in officially designated drought areas.

If you would like to support the work of RABI but are unable to be at our Harvest service, you can make a donation via https://rabi.org.uk/support-us/donate/ or scan the QR code.

# Messy Church



## Sunday 18th October, 4-6pm

St Mary's Church, Froyle, GU34 4LB

**Come along to St Mary's Church in Froyle this October for a spectacular Messy Church afternoon. We will have some brilliant crafts and activities for the family to get stuck in with, ending the afternoon with a celebration including a Bible story, songs and prayers.**

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

***See you there!***

**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 BENEFICE OF FROYLE • BENTLEY • BINSTED

# 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**




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

admin@benbinfro.org

# UPAGEAR

## Youth group

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

- Thursday 1st October & Thursday 15th October
- 5pm – 6:30pm
- Bentley Church Hall

# four: twelve

YOUTH CLUB

**WHO?** OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOL YEARS 4-7.

**WHEN?** FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER- 5-6:30PM
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER – 5-6:30PM

**WHERE?** BENTLEY CHURCH HALL

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

admin@benbinfro.org

1 Timothy 4:12 – "Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life."

# Church Newsletter

**Interested in hearing more about what we get up to? Want to keep up to date?**

**Scan the QR code to subscribe to our weekly Newsletter!**

Scan me!

Every Monday morning you'll receive news and notices, a calendar of events for the week, information of upcoming events and activities and a helpful thought for the week. You can also find important contact details and office hours.

It's free to sign up and very easy to unsubscribe if you no longer want to receive emails from us.

## **Keeping You Informed:** Update on the Holy Cross Church North West Entrance Project

Good news: we have now obtained a Faculty (formal approval) from the Diocese of Winchester to proceed! This was the final stage in a series of necessary consents and it means our architect can now develop the detailed design so we can get cost estimates and go to tender with contractors.

The new toilet block will be outside the NW corner of the church and will provide disabled access, baby-changing facilities and a store cupboard, as well as being an emergency exit. It will also be used by the school children using the new community garden.

The building will be in the style of the current external north wall, with Horsham slate roof and stone wall. As it's at the NW corner of the church, the people who will see this extension the most will be our vicar and his family!

Entrance from the church will be through a new doorway in the west end of the north aisle, where there will be a servery for after-service drinks etc. The seating at the west end of the nave will also be adjusted, providing a flexible space for church, school and community events.

Watch this space for further updates!

ORCHARD APPEAL

# 52 Trees for Bentley Green



## Help our orchard take root

**This winter, we hope to plant the main community orchard at Bentley Green: 52 fruit trees within approximately three-quarters of an acre.**



The orchard will include apples, pears, damsons, quinces and medlars, with heritage varieties chosen where possible. Wildflowers and pollinator-friendly habitat will grow around the trees, creating a welcoming space for people and wildlife.



**We need to raise £5,000 before we can order the trees.** The money will help pay for the trees, stakes, guards, mulch, mycorrhizal fungi and any ground preparation needed to plant them successfully.



Nurseries are already taking orders for the bare-root season, so the sooner we reach our target, the better the choice of trees we are likely to have.

### Every donation helps

Scan the QR code to see the plans and donate securely.

**Thanks you to all our local residents, volunteers and businesses who have supported us on our journey so far!**

bentleygreen.uk/52-trees-for-bentley-green

Bentley Green Community Group

*bentleygreen.uk*

# Work from home

## at Bentley Church Hall

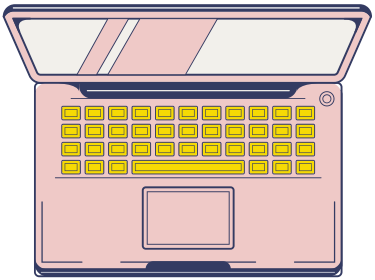
**Come along to our 'working from home' sessions at Bentley Church Hall. We have structured days with quiet times for focussed work through the day and the opportunity for a social lunch to beat the loneliness, share ideas, and cheer each other on.**

**9am - 5pm**

**Tuesdays**
**6th October**
**20th October**

Bentley Church
Hall
Church Lane
GU10 5NA

- FREE lunch
- Structured but flexible work days
- Tea & coffee
- WI-FI
- Space for calls and Zoom meetings



chat to Becky or Gemma
or email admin@benbinfro.org for more info

# Sudoku Games

## Sudoku game EASY

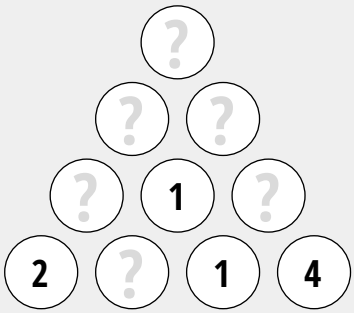
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 7 | | 2 | | 1 | | |
| 8 | | | 3 | | 5 | 2 | | 4 |
| 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 5 | 6 | | 1 | 9 | | 2 |
| | 9 | | 8 | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | 9 | | 5 | | 3 |
| 9 | | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | |
| | 2 | | | | | 8 | | |
| 6 | | 8 | 1 | | 2 |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

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

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

## Sudoku game HARD

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

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

Symtiles™

Scan to play the game.

# St. Mary's Church
# Christmas Fair
## Froyle

**Saturday, 21st November**
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

### Christmas Gifts & Stalls:



Browse a wide variety of festive gifts, handmade crafts, and seasonal treats



### Refreshments & Soup Lunch:

Warm up with a cup of coffee or enjoy a bowl of homemade soup for lunch.






# HOLY CROSS FUNDRAISING

*Friends of Binsted Church*

**It's now just over a year since the launch of Friends of Binsted Church, so a very big 'thank you' to everyone who has already renewed their membership.**

The onus to maintain a church and keep it in good order falls primarily with the church community, then on the wider local community. Whilst some heritage bodies have grant programmes these tend to be quite specific in what they will fund, there is stiff competition for their money, and there is normally a requirement for applicants to have already raised a percentage (typically between 20% and 50%) of any sums applied for. It's a long process and sources suggest that only around 15% - 25% of applications are successful.

A popular misconception is that the Diocese has funds to help with maintaining church buildings and that the parishes can just ask for some money. The real situation is that (contrary to popular belief) Church of England Dioceses have no spare money at all and many are operating at a loss.

This article sets out the position in more detail – not just in in our area (Winchester) but across the country.

https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/heritage-insights/misunderstandings-about-stewardship-of-ancient-churches/

It highlights some common misunderstandings about the options available to churches needing to raise funds to carry out repairs and maintenance. This is especially challenging with a church like Holy Cross – a Grade I listed medieval church that's in constant need of repair but approvals often requiring the use of specialist certified craftsmen to carry out those repairs. There are also plenty of hoops to jump through – Diocesan Approval, Local Planning, and gaining approval from interested heritage bodies.

There is only so much the church community can do, and Friends of Binsted Church is a way to reach out to the wider local community. If it's nearly a year since you joined then your membership will soon be renewing. If you haven't joined yet then please consider doing so. Application forms are just inside the church on the table with the candle on it next to the Book of Friends.

We have a lovely, historic village church and your help in keeping it in good repair is very much appreciated.

*Stella C-J*



# 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.

# The Church's Family Tree

## Autumn Lecture Series 2026

**A dive into Christian Church history.**

**Branches and denominations: what binds and divides the different parts of the worldwide Christian Church today, and why?**

**What does our family tree look like and what does that mean for us today?**

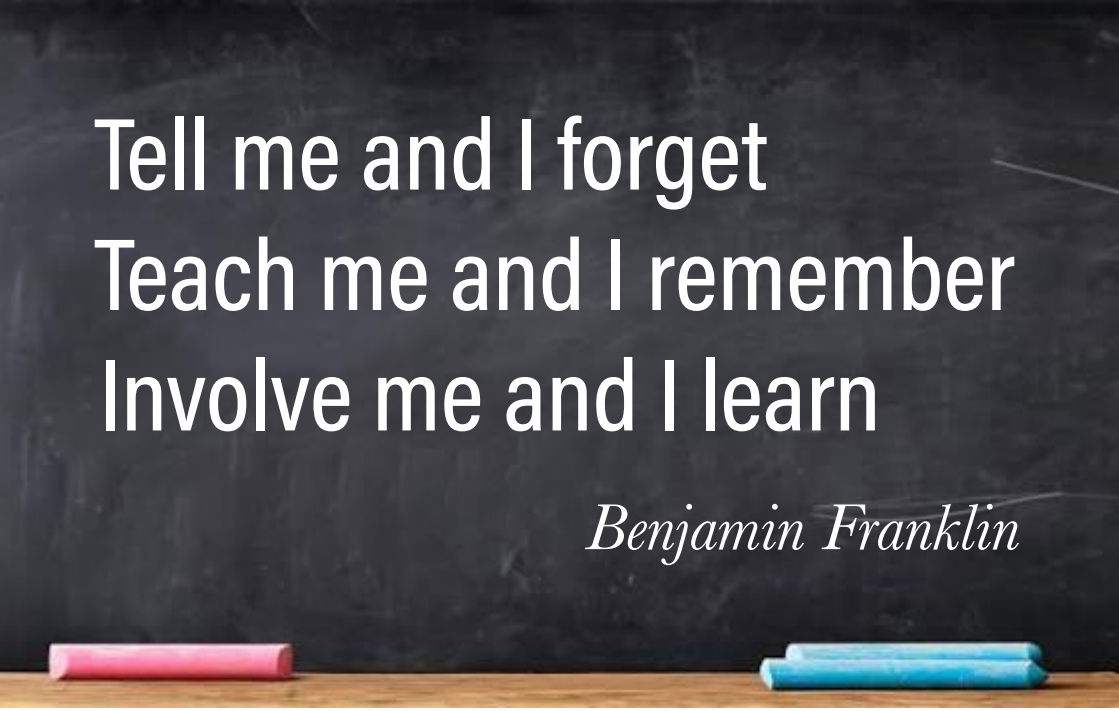


Come along to each of the 4 talks in October to grapple with Church history - the good, the bad and the ugly!

**7:30pm at Bentley Church Hall**

- Thursday 1st October
- Thursday 8th October
- Thursday 15th October
- Thursday 22nd October

No need to book, just turn up!




## Sudoku September Answers

Sudoku EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **8** | 2 | **7** | **6** | 1 | **3** | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| **6** | 4 | **9** | 2 | 5 | **7** | **8** | **3** | **1** |
| 5 | **3** | **1** | 9 | 8 | **4** | **6** | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | **6** | 2 | **8** | **4** |
| **2** | **1** | 8 | **7** | 4 | 5 | 3 | **9** | 6 |
| **4** | 9 | 6 | **8** | 3 | **2** | 1 | **5** | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | **8** | 4 | 1 | **5** |
| 1 | 8 | **5** | **4** | **2** | 9 | 7 | 6 | **3** |
| **3** | **7** | **4** | **5** | 6 | 1 | **9** | 2 | **8** |

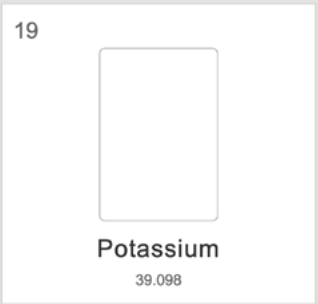
Sudoku MEDIUM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | **6** | 3 | **7** | 5 | **1** | 2 | **4** | 8 |
| **1** | 8 | **5** | 6 | 4 | 2 | **3** | 9 | 7 |
| **4** | 7 | 2 | **3** | 9 | **8** | 6 | **5** | **1** |
| **8** | 5 | 4 | **9** | **6** | 7 | **1** | 3 | **2** |
| 7 | 2 | **9** | 1 | 8 | **3** | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | **1** | 6 | 4 | **2** | 5 | **7** | **8** | 9 |
| 5 | **4** | **7** | 8 | **1** | **6** | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| **6** | 9 | 1 | **2** | 3 | 4 | **8** | **7** | 5 |
| 2 | **3** | **8** | 5 | **7** | **9** | 4 | **1** | **6** |

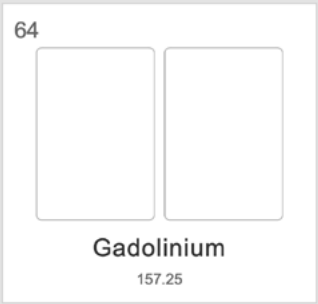
Sudoku HARD

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4** | **5** | 7 | 3 | **1** | 6 | 8 | 2 | **9** |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | **4** | 5 | 7 | **6** | 3 |
| 8 | **3** | **6** | 2 | **9** | **7** | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | **9** | 1 | **4** | 3 | 2 | 6 | **8** | **7** |
| **3** | **7** | **2** | 5 | **6** | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | **8** | 4 | 1 | **7** | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | **8** | **3** | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| **7** | **6** | 3 | **9** | 2 | 4 | 5 | **1** | 8 |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | **5** | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 |

What is the chemical symbol for:
**Potassium**




What is the chemical symbol for:
**Gadolinium**




EXAMPLE:

What is the chemical symbol for:
**Selenium**





# Larch is soft

In September 1787 the poet Robert Burns visited the Falls of Bruar in Perthshire, and finding the banks bare of trees (and we know Burns loved a 'bonny bank'), he was moved to write a poem which he called "The Humble Petition of Bruar Water to the Noble Duke of Athole", as follows

*Would then my noble*
*master please*

*To grant my highest wishes*

*He'll shade my banks*
*wi' tow'ring trees,*

*And bonnie spreading bushes.*

It seems the poet's ambition was to improve the chances of catching trout in the Bruar. Whatever the noble duke's intentions, he was inspired to start a thriving industry in larch lumber, which gave rise even to its own hybrid called the Dunkeld Larch *Larix x europsis*. By 1830 14 million trees owed their existence to the Planting Dukes of Atholl.

The commonest larch is the European Larch *Larix decidua* that can grow to 30m and live for 250 years. It is fairly fast growing and cone-shaped when young, becoming broad with age. The bark is pinkish-brown in colour and thick and develops wide vertical fissures with age. Twigs are amber or slightly pink, and hairless. European larch was one of the first trees to be introduced to the UK for its timber and has a pale, creamy-brown sapwood and a red-brown heartwood. It is hard and resistant to rot.

It looks like a conifer. The light green leaves are soft and needle-like, 2–4cm long, and grow in tufts from short woody knobs, or shoots, on the twigs. But then

they turn golden yellow before falling in autumn. On the other hand most conifers are evergreen.

Male reproductive structures form on the underside of shoots and are globular clusters of creamy-yellow anthers. Female structures grow at the tips of shoots and are often referred to as ‘larch roses’. They comprise flower-like clusters of scales in pink, green or white. If all this sounds attractive I need to say that William Wordsworth was no fan. Personally I think he should have stuck to daffodils

After pollination by wind, the female cones ripen, become brown and grow to around 3–4cm long with a hollow top. They gradually open their scales to release the winged seeds within, which are distributed by wind. Larch can retain old cones on their stems for many years.

European larch originates in central Europe but is now widespread in the UK, having been planted for timber. Though not common in this part of the world, they can be found in Alice Holt.

The seeds of the European larch are eaten by red squirrels and a number of birds, including the siskin and lesser redpoll, while the buds and immature cones are eaten by black grouse. The caterpillars of many moths feed on the foliage, including the case-bearer moth and larch pug. Larch tortrix moth caterpillars eat the cone scales.

Larch is very hardy, so hardy that some species were thought to be impenetrable by fire.

Larch is susceptible to the fungal disease larch canker. It can also be affected by larch bark beetle and butt rot fungus. Most recently it has been affected by the ramorum disease, which affects and kills Japanese larch trees and is spreading throughout western parts of the UK.

In European folklore, larch was said to protect against enchantment. The wearing and burning of larch was thought to protect against evil spirits. Always better safe than sorry.

**Ben Hamlin**
*Tree warden,* Binstedtrees@gmail.com

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# THE WINTERBOURNE SINGERS

**Saturday 27th February 2027, 6.30 pm**
**St Mary’s Church, Upper Froyle**

A Ladies Chamber Group
4/8 part harmony
Accompanied by a keyboard.

# CURTIS MUSEUM

(01420 82802)

## OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday
10am – 4.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

## CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

### The Ghastly Funfair

Family Fun, Games, Prizes - from the team who brought you the Museum by Torchlight.

On Halloween night, the Curtis Museum transforms into a marvellously macabre funfair, filled with ghostly games, frightful fun and mysterious surprises around every corner. Collect your tokens and try your luck at our spooktacular fairground stalls. Test your skill, win gruesome goodies and remember... it's a prize every time! Meet peculiar characters, discover curious treats and enjoy a delightfully eerie evening as you wander through the museum by torchlight. Whether you're a daring ghost, a wicked witch, a mischievous monster or a brave explorer, there's fun for all the family at this hauntingly entertaining Halloween event.

Get your tokens, try your luck and see what lurks around the next corner... if you dare! Suitable for families and children of all ages. Fancy dress warmly encouraged!

31st October, 4.30 -7pm. Free entrance

### Medieval Monster Hunt

Autumn Half Term - 24th - 31st October.

Track down dragons, unicorns, manticores and other medieval monsters in this family-friendly hunt through the Curtis Museum! £2.75 per Monster Hunter Pack, with a reward on completion.



do you have what it takes to become a Medieval monster Hunter?



### Object of the Month

We continue our display of objects from the Allen Gallery Collection. October's piece is a brown 18th Century Bellarmine 4-gallon salt-glazed stoneware bottle which belonged to WH Allen himself. There will be a **Collections Study Day** looking at similar works, with **Nigel Jeffries**, leader of the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) ceramics team.

Wednesday 14th October. £23 per person, to include a light lunch. More details and booking form on our website.

**Dotty the Dodo** has a new Autumn Facts Trail to follow. Until 28th November. FREE.

### TALK - Fire Safety in the Home

The Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery present a talk by Josh Grant, Alton Fire Station Watch Manager

Thursday 8th October. 7 for 7.30pm in Room 7, Alton Community Centre.

Free to Friends, £2 for guests. Tea/coffee provided.



# THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk

LOTTERY FUNDED

## *The Wickham Institute 100+ Club*

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

| September 2026 | |
|---|---|
| 1st prize | Sam Barrow |
| 2nd prize | Ann Mann |
| 3rd prize | Emma Wade |

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

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

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

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

# School News - Binsted CE Primary

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



**It has been a wonderful first few weeks back at school for Binsted. We have had an amazing group of Year R children begin in Oak class.**

Elsewhere Rowan class have been busy creating drama performances of Traditional Tales- who knew The Three Little Pigs story could be so exciting!

Beech class have had a great start to the new term and are really enjoying their swimming lessons and have been learning about trees as a symbol in RE- looking at all the different trees in the grounds of the Holy Cross Church.

Silver Birch Class have been learning about the Roman Empire and producing fabulous poetry in English on the life of Benjamin Zephaniah.

The whole school is looking forward to our Harvest Festival at the Holy Cross Church on Friday 2nd October at 2pm. There will be songs, prayers and some wonderful artwork to display.



# 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!



CHRISTMAS FAIR

# BINSTED

## BINSTED CHURCH & WICKHAM INSTITUTE GU34 4NX

## 5TH DECEMBER, 2PM – 4.30PM

Pre book to see Santa at **binstedxmasfair@gmail.com**

Brick Building Competition

Refreshments

Crafting

Christmas wreaths

Teddy Tombola

Reindeer food

Raffle, stalls – cakes, jewellery, jigsaws and much more...



CHRISTMAS FAIR

# BINSTED

## WE NEED YOUR HELP...

We need donations to include :- nearly new gifts, cuddly toys, jigsaws, good quality ladies vintage clothing, cakes, teddy bears, raffle prizes, children's books

Please deliver to the Church!

THIS EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR BOTH THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH & BINSTED SCHOOL.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER ON A CHURCH OR SCHOOL STALL THEN PLEASE EMAIL US.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SECURE YOUR OWN STALL, PLEASE EMAIL US.

**binstedxmasfair@gmail.com**

*Thank you*



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

1st Janet Puncher 2nd John Goodyear 3rd Helen Curwen

**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.

# BENTLEY ALLOTMENTS

*Grow food. Grow community. Grow wellbeing.*



**4 PLOTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

**FULL PLOT £20 PER YEAR**

**HALF PLOT £10 PER YEAR**

Whether you're experienced or new to growing, *everyone is welcome!* ♡

## THE BENEFITS OF ALLOTMENT LIFE

**LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE**
Enjoy fresh, healthy, seasonal food grown by you.

**BE OUTDOORS**
Boost your physical and mental wellbeing.

**SENSE OF COMMUNITY**
Meet like-minded people and be part of a friendly, supportive group.

**LEARN & GROW**
Develop new skills or build on your experience.

**RELAX & UNWIND**
A peaceful space to enjoy, escape the everyday and feel good.



## SUPPORT AVAILABLE FROM THE GROUP

- Advice and guidance from experienced plot holders
- Use of cultivator to help with digging and preparation

*You won't be on your own – we're here to help!* ♡

**INTERESTED?** *Get in touch!*

peterscott641@mail.com

♡ GOOD FOR YOU. GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. GOOD FOR BENTLEY. ♡

# Bentley CE Primary School



**It has been a real joy to welcome the children back to Bentley CE Primary School after the summer break. The new academic year has begun with great positivity, and the children have returned full of enthusiasm. They are settling into their new classes, reconnecting with friends and getting to know their new teachers. We are also delighted to welcome several new children and families into our school community.**

At Bentley, we are incredibly proud of the many ways in which we enrich and enhance the children's education. Alongside high-quality classroom learning, we believe that children should enjoy experiences that bring their learning to life, broaden their horizons and create lasting memories. Throughout the year, pupils will benefit from educational visits, visitors to school, sporting opportunities, performances, outdoor learning, community projects and special events.

Our teachers are already planning an exciting programme of trips and activities linked to the children's learning. Our Key Stage 2 residential visits are also being organised. These are always a highlight of the year, providing wonderful opportunities for children to develop their independence, confidence and friendships while demonstrating our values of love, courage and community.

Looking ahead, we have several open events planned for prospective families. If you know anyone with a child due to start school in September 2027, please encourage them to come and visit us. We would love the opportunity to welcome them and show them everything Bentley CE Primary School has to offer.



**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**


Ofsted Good Provider

# THE BENTLEY *EXPERIENCE*

A rich, inclusive and inspiring education where every child is known, loved and empowered to flourish.

- **LOVE** in our Hearts
- **COURAGE** in our Learning
- **SERVING** our Community

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

- Attenborough Garden – outdoor learning and wellbeing for all
- Forest School for every child
- Gardening Club
- WWF Teaching Community – inspiring global citizens
- Green Flag Award – recognised for our environmental action
- Wildlife and biodiversity projects
- Outdoor learning across the curriculum

## ENRICHMENT & EXPERIENCES

- Educational visits in every year group
- Two school minibuses enabling a wide range of trips and opportunities
- Residential visits
- Visiting authors and inspirational visitors
- Huge range of enrichment clubs for all interests and talents
- Theatre, music and cultural experiences
- Forest School and outdoor adventures

## CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

- School Council
- Eco Committee
- House Captains
- Digital Leaders
- Worship Leaders
- Sports Leaders
- Pupil voice and leadership opportunities
- Courageous Advocacy projects – making a difference
- High expectations for all

## WELLBEING & INCLUSION

- Relational, nurturing approach where every child is known
- ELSA support
- Nurture and tailored interventions
- Inclusive provision for all needs
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Sensory spaces
- Sensory circuits
- Ready, Respectful, Safe
- Celebrating diversity and promoting equality

## FUTURE READY

- Engaging computing curriculum
- AI and technology integration
- Online safety and digital citizenship
- Careers and aspiration assemblies
- Enterprise and financial education
- Oracy and communication development
- Strong, supported transitions at the beginning and end of each stage of learning
- Close partnership with Dottie Tots Nursery

## CREATIVE ARTS & PERFORMANCE

- Weekly singing worship
- Choir and music ensembles
- Instrument lessons
- Drama and performance opportunities
- Art and design projects and exhibitions
- Young Voices and live performance experiences

## COMMUNITY & SERVICE

- Strong links with St Mary's Church
- Well established PTFA – supporting our school community
- Community events and celebrations
- Foodbank support and charitable giving
- Courageous Advocacy projects
- Intergenerational links
- Parish and community partnerships

## SPORT & HEALTHY LIVING

- Wide range of sporting competitions
- Sports clubs for all
- Daily physical activity
- Sports Day at the Recreation Ground
- Wellbeing and mental health focus
- Healthy living education

## EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES & SPACE

- Extensive grounds and beautiful outdoor spaces
- Attenborough Garden
- Forest School area
- Recreation Ground
- Large sports hall
- Separate dining hall
- Large, well-stocked library
- Two school minibuses
- Modern, well-resourced learning environment

## BEYOND THE SCHOOL DAY

- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- Wraparound care provision
- Wide range of enrichment clubs
- Holiday activities signposting
- Additional learning opportunities and support

## OUR UNIQUE *HIGHLIGHTS*

**ATTENBOROUGH GARDEN**
A living classroom for discovery

**FOREST SCHOOL**
Building confidence, resilience and a love of nature

**WWF TEACHING COMMUNITY**
Inspiring children to care for our planet

**GREEN FLAG AWARD**
A whole school commitment to sustainability

**TWO SCHOOL MINIBUSES**
More trips, more experiences, more memories

**AMAZING FACILITIES & SPACE**
Room to learn, play and grow

**HUGE RANGE OF ENRICHMENT CLUBS**
Something for everyone

**WRAPRROUND CARE**
Flexible, reliable care for busy families

Together we are aiming high

At Bentley, we believe every child can *SHINE:* Successful, Happy, Inspired, Nurtured and Empowered.

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.




# 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)**






## 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**

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# Binsted Parish Council: Updates

## Mark-Kemp Gee

**The Parish Council was sad to learn that Mark Kemp-Gee passed away last month. Mark was for 25 years our Hampshire County Councillor until he retired at last May's elections. He was a great friend and advocate for our Parish, both behind the scenes sorting out individual problems raised by parishioners or the Parish Council, and on helping the community to win important campaigns such as Grundon's landfill proposal at Frith End Quarry, the Veolia incinerator plan, and the traffic calming measures for Frith End and Blacknest. Mark's hard work, sage advice and good humour has always been hugely appreciated by the Parish Council and the many people he helped over the years, as demonstrated by the number of our parishioners and former colleagues who attended the recent Thanksgiving Service celebrating his life, alongside family, friends and colleagues from throughout his long career in business and the 26 parishes he represented.**



I think a quote from the Thanksgiving Order of Service by Indira Ghandi summed up how many of us thought of Mark- *"There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group: there is less competition there."* Mark was firmly in that first group, and he'll be much missed.




## Bentley Station Improvements

**Cllr Jo Ibbotson has been liaising with a variety of local organisations to improve the facilities and environment at Bentley Station. The station has been nominated for a Britain in Bloom award by the Community Rail Partnership, thanks to the hard work of a group of local volunteers, and young gardeners from Binsted and Bentley schools, as well as donations of plants and equipment from local residents and Haskins Garden Centre.**

A group of volunteers have also set up a Station Café three mornings a week at rush hour, with the profits going to the Bentley Green Community Orchard and Wildlife Haven project.



In the future we are also looking at projects such as improved waiting room facilities and information boards highlighting the history of the station and other nearby attractions.




## White-tailed eagle reintroduction talk

Do join us for a talk on Wednesday 28th October by Imogen Lloyd from Forestry England about the fascinating White-tailed Eagle reintroduction with the project centred on the Isle of Wight. The project started in 2019 and is led in partnership by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, licensed by NatureScot and Natural England. Imogen will cover the ecology of White-tailed Eagles, their history in the British Isles and bring us up to speed with the latest exciting updates from the project. For more information see https://www.froylewildlife.co.uk/white-tailed-eagle-reintroduction-talk-and-agm-28th-october-2026/.

All welcome, Froyle Village Hall doors open 6.30pm, Froyle Wildlife AGM pictorial review starts 7pm, reintroduction talk starts 7.30pm, entrance free for members, £3 non-members, teas and coffee.

*Jayne Fisher*

08

# August 2026

WEATHER STATISTICS



## Temperature

**Daytime maximum**
37.0ºC (13th) to 19.6ºC (29th)
5 days above 30ºC and only 1 day below 20ºC

**Nightime minimum**
2.9ºC (7th) to 12.9ºC (28th)
4 nights below 5ºC

## Rainfall

**Total for month**
0.87 inches (22.2 mm) over 6 days

**Wettest days**
0.35 inches (9.0 mm) (29th)

## Wind

**Dominant wind direction**
West South West

**Maximum gust**
17 mph (5th)

*Parish Weatherman*

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# Bentley Lodge
Care & Nursing Home

## The Together Café
at Bentley Lodge




1st Thursday of EVERY month at Bentley Lodge
CARE AND NURSING HOME

10:30–12:30

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

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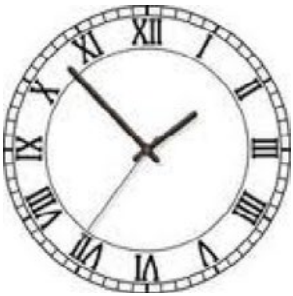
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# Bentley Memorial Hall

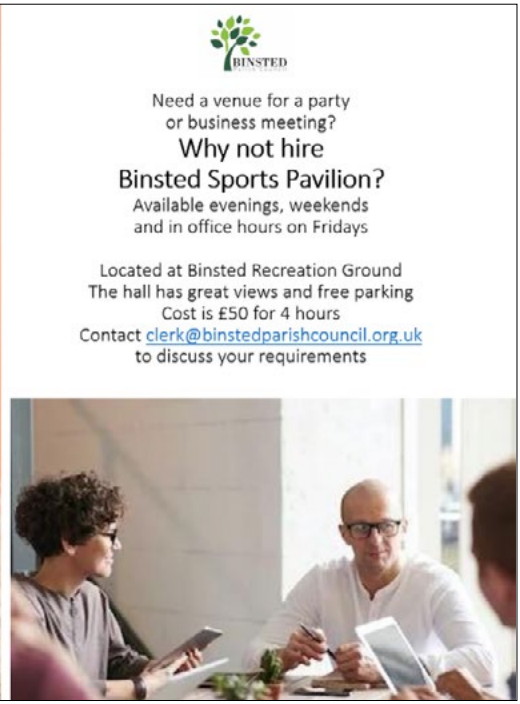
The perfect venue for celebrations, weddings, children's parties, meetings, specialist classes or exhibitions.

Conveniently located in the centre of the village with kitchen facilities and ample car parking.

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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**THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE**
**(Binsted Village Hall)**

LOTTERY FUNDED

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Looking for somewhere to hold a regular club/society meeting or class?

Why not consider hiring our lovely Grade II listed hall. It is light and airy, with a stage and a modern kitchen. The hall can seat up to 80 at tables or set up for conferences and meetings, and can accommodate up to 120 standing (Covid restrictions may apply).

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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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Jane Stockdale

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**Website:** www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

**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
stephenwhowell@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

# October Services

| | |
|---|---|
| **4th Oct** | **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion & Children's Church<br>**11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion - *Harvest*<br>**6pm** Bentley Praise |
| **11th Oct** | **8am** Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)<br>**9:30am** Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church - *Harvest*<br>**11am** Froyle Holy Communion<br>**6pm** Kingsley Praise |
| **18th Oct** | **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship<br>**11am** Kingsley Holy Communion<br>**4pm** Messy Church at Froyle Church |
| **25th Oct** | **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church<br>**11am** Binsted Morning Worship<br>**6:30pm** Froyle Evensong |
| **31st Oct** *(Saturday)* | **3pm** Service of Thanksgiving and Hope at Froyle Church |
| **1st Nov** | **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion & Children's Church<br>**11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion<br>**6pm** Bentley Praise |

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