PARISH MAGAZINE

BENTLEY & BINSTED

NOVEMBER 2026



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This year is the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the bloodiest battle in human history where 3 million soldiers fought each other on the Western Front in the First World War and there were 1 million casualties. This horrendous battle hardly altered the battle positions of the opposing armies at all. The wartime poets rightly, and powerfully use it as the backdrop of some of the most disturbing and evocative poetry ever written.

My great uncle, Roland, fought in this battle, as well as at Passchendaele in 1917 before he was killed defending against the Ludendorff Offensive in 1918 just a few months before the war ended. He was the eldest of 13 and had never left his home county before signing up to fight in 1915. His younger brother Alwyn was killed in 1917 and another brother survived the war.

On Remembrance Day we will read the roll of honour of those who gave their lives in the great wars, and will remember those killed in conflicts since. The impact of the loss of these young men to the communities from which they came was enormous. The words of the Kohima Epitaph ring true "for your tomorrow, we gave our today".

What have we done with the freedom bought with such a horrendous price? We live in a more fractured and divided society now than in living memory. Competing demands and ideologies, political insecurity and a loss of identity, leave us all vulnerable to easy sound bites and charismatic leaders.

We have been looking at the early history of the church in our Autumn Lecture series and how the church, despite it's many wrong turns and bad decisions, preserved what mattered of the Western tradition through its monasteries and missionaries in the face of the people migrations and invasions of the 5th-11th centuries. The church today is weakened but still made up of faithful women and men keeping the flame alive of God's love for his broken world.

The Bible tells us to mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice. Christians are not immune from difficulties and pain and yet the gospel should give us the resources to hold onto faith and hope and love, in a world that has lost its way.

We pray for the peace of the world, for the peacemakers to be strengthened in their struggle, for truth to be heard and valued, and for love to characterise all that we do. The church often fails, but God doesn't. May God protect you and preserve you and may he give you the vision to hold on to what is good. So that the sacrifice of so many, is not forgotten. That courage, duty, and service of all, will once again shape us.

Matt Boyes
Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Meet the **Team**

Paula Knowles



Pictured: Paula Knowles

1. **Quick-fire questions!**
   Tea or coffee? Tea
   Summer or winter? Summer all the way!
   Sunrise or sunset? I love both but see more sunsets than sunrises.
   Sweet or savoury? Sweet
   Apple or android? Apple
   Air guitar or air drums? Air guitar
   Movies or book? Movies

2. **What's your favourite way to start the day?** I love to wake up on a bright sunny morning and go for a walk around the fields of Bentley.

3. **Tell us more about your role at Benbinfro and how you ended up here.** We moved to Bentley 6 years ago just before Covid. I met Linda Fuller when I joined Bentley Help group during Covid and she invited me to the Home Group she attended. After a while my husband and I believed God was calling us to support the local church rather than going anywhere outside of the community so we started attending St Mary's. I have been working with young people as a teacher and a youth leader for over 40 years but had taken a break from church youth work as I work with very vulnerable young people throughout the week so needed to recharge on the weekends. The Lord then led me to get involved with children's work at the church. Working with primary aged children was something I never really wanted to and generally avoided but when you know God is nudging you, you have to give it a go. We now help with the 4:12 group, Children's Church and Assemblies in Bentley and Binsted schools. I also began to lead worship for Bentley Praise with Bryan my husband.

4. **What things in your role do you look forward to the most?** I love working with 4:12 and the school assemblies. The children are just so lovely to be with, full of energy, enthusiasm and just great to be with. I also love worshipping at Bentley Praise with the freedom the service style affords us.

5. **Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about?** Although my role at ELKOLET can be very demanding I get excited when I see a young person's light switch on and they begin to grow. I also love spending time with my family and get excited about the life we spend together and the things my children are discovering as adults.

6. **What's your most embarrassing moment?** I honestly can't think of one. I don't get embarrassed very easily by my mistakes. As I am such an air head I make mistakes all the time so have learnt to just laugh them off. I think I embarrass others more by what I do, especially my children e.g. turning up to their school assembly dressed as a rapper and performing or doing street ministry dressed as Flossy the Clown!

7. **If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why?** Perhaps a clone or two of myself so they can do all the mundane tasks I have to do and I can do more of the fun parts.

8. **To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others?** If God is for us who can be against us and "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me" are quick and easy to call on when we feel attacked or despondent and when we begin to lose our direction. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds to look at Jesus and to "trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths"

Church Registers

Binsted	
Friday 25th September 2026	Interment of Ashes of Susan Barclay-Brown
Tuesday 29th September 2026	Interment of Ashes of William Ham



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.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8th November 2026

Services at Bentley, Binsted, Froyle and Kingsley

Bentley
10am at St Mary's Church
Followed by an Act of Remembrance at Bentley Memorial Hall

Binsted
10:50am at the War Memorial outside the church
Followed by the Remembrance Service in Holy Cross Church

Froyle
10:50am at the War Memorial in the village
Followed by the Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church

Kingsley
10:50am at the War Memorial outside the church
Followed by the Remembrance Service in All Saint's Church



Messy Church



Sunday 15th November, 4-6pm

Wickham Institute, Binsted, GU34 4NX









Come along to The Wickham Institute in Binsted this November 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.

This month we are getting ready for Christmas with lots of crafts and activities all about Advent.

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

See you there!



Messy Church celebrates faith with creativity and hospitality.

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

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

All families are welcome!

THE BENEFICE OF BENTLEY • BINSTED • FROYLE

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

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.

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+
- Thursday 5th November - 5-6:30pm
  Thursday 19th November - 5-6:30pm,
- Bentley Church Hall

four: twelve

YOUTH CLUB

WHO? SCHOOL YEARS 4-7

WHEN? FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER - 5-6:30PM
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER - 5-6:30PM

WHERE? BENTLEY CHURCH HALL

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

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

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.

RIDE AND STRIDE THANKS

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored me for the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) Ride and Stride event on 12th September. I am pleased to say that I visited 11 churches and raised a total of £705. Half of this amount will be retained by HIHCT to fund future grants to churches across the area, and the other half is returned to the Holy Cross Fabric Fund.

Please put a note in your diary for the next Ride and Stride event on 11 September 2027 – why not get a group of friends together to make a fun day out and raise money for the church at the same time? You don't need to be super fit, you can do it by car and stop at a pub for lunch!

Stella Croom-Johnson



A Candle of Peace

Light a candle of peace for all nations
And watch as it steadily burns.
Remember the brave fallen heroes –
Those who will never return.
In the quietness, pray for all families,
Wherever they are in the world,
Whose lives have been scarred by violence and pain,
As the banners of battle unfurled.
Light a candle of peace for all races,
All cultures and creeds of mankind,
Ask God to touch every heart with his love
So, in days to come, we will find
Peace for the whole world over,
No longer a dream or a prayer,
But something to last to the end of all time,
For the great heart of God will be there.

Marian Cleworth

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.

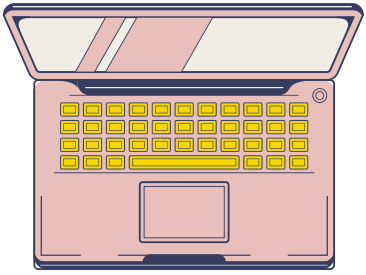
MOVING TO MONDAYS UNTIL THE NEW YEAR.

9am - 5pm

Mondays
9th November
23rd November

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

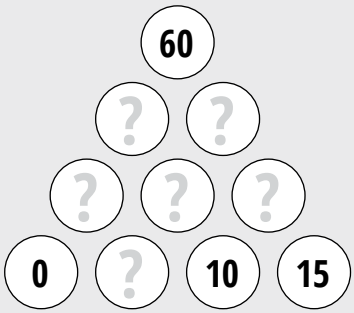
9		6		1	3			8
	5	8					9	
	3						1	
	6		8			9	2	
		3	4		9	1		
	4	9			6		3	
	9						8	
	1					6	7	
4			9	6		3		1

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

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

Sudoku game HARD

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

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.





Into the Archives

Bentley Magazine November 1976

For The Rain

The birds in my garden
Were making no end of a fuss,
Carolling, cawing, and chirping
Their joyous refrain.
It was music to hear them
(I wonder, did they hear us?)
Praising God
For the rain.

Not Today

From tomorrow on I shall be sad,
From tomorrow on.
Not today. Today I will be glad.
And every day, no matter how bitter it may be,
I shall say,
From tomorrow on I shall be sad,
Not today.

(Written by a child in a Nazi concentration camp)

From Bentley Parish Magazine for March 1923

February 22 was the birthday both of Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell, and the Headquarters Staff, with members of Committee, presented them with the latest wireless receiving set. The process of "listening in" is a fascinating one. Voices and instruments may be heard by a room full of people as though they were in the same room. But it will pale before some of the developments expected in the future. It may be possible to actually SEE the performer, even though he is hundreds of miles away.

Alton u3a

learn, laugh, live

Group spaces still available

Our new annual programme of events for 2026-27 started in September, and we have over 85 different interest groups to choose from such as Art, Dance and Fitness, Games, History, Music and Wellbeing. We also arrange excursions, classical concerts, monthly films and talks, plus a coffee morning and weekend activities. Over 60 of our groups have spaces available for you to join. Please see our website for full details. Depending on what you would like to do*, our membership fees range from £10 to £65 for the year ahead. You may join online via our website or by completing a membership application form that is available from the Alton Community Centre.

Most of our activities take place at the Alton Community Centre, and we do have some outdoor activities such as cycling and walking. Our monthly talks and coffee mornings are open to everyone.

Copies of our Annual Programme are available from the Alton Community Centre, Alton Library, the Curtis Museum and Alton Assembly Rooms. If you would like to find out more about a particular group, then you can contact the Group Leader via our website. For general membership enquiries, please contact the Membership Secretary at alton.u3a.members@gmail.com.

*** Subject to a space being available in the group. Please check with the Group Leader first before joining.**

Visit our website at:

alton.u3asite.uk

Registered Charity no. 1035164

Rain Hat Collection



I'm looking to sell my established online business, **Rain Hat Collection**, as I'm retiring and would love to find the right person to take it on and build on what I've created.

It's a **profitable and hugely enjoyable business**, specialising in beautiful British-made rain and sun hats. It's particularly well suited to someone who wants the flexibility to **fit work around a family or other commitments**, as it can be run from home and doesn't require full-time hours.

There is also **lots of potential to grow the business considerably** for someone who wanted to devote more time to it and develop it further.

I've loved running it and am very proud of what I've built, so finding the right person to take it forward is really important to me.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please contact me and I'd be very happy to have an informal chat and tell you more.

Katrine Orr

Tel. 07931 528466
Email: katrineorr@hotmail.com



Sudoku October Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

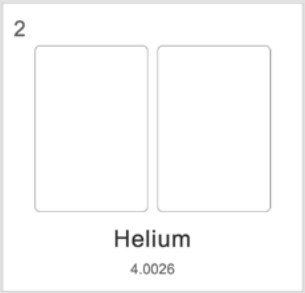
Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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

What is the chemical symbol for:
Helium



What is the chemical symbol for:
Ytterbium



EXAMPLE:

What is the chemical symbol for:
Curium





Maple time

Aside from seeds and fruits there are few food sources derived from trees, but several species of maple provide what is arguably the best known, Maple syrup. Three species provide the majority of syrup made in north-eastern North America: Sugar maple (*A. saccharum depicted on the Canadian flag*), Black maple (*A. nigrum*), and Red maple (*A. rubrum*). Trees are tapped in late winter as sap starts to rise, each tree producing up to 12 litres of sap per day. It takes around 40 litres of sap to make 1 litre of syrup, the excess water traditionally being driven off by heating and concentrating the sugars and distinctive flavours. The sugar in the leaves manifests itself in autumn as a gorgeous display of colour, and not just reds. We lived for a while in Evanston Illinois, and many gardens, including ours, hosted magnificent maples. In the fall the ground was covered in foliage in a riot of colour, like an abstract painting.

Maples are a part of the *Sapindaceae*, a diverse family which also includes the Horse chestnuts (*Aesculus*). There are around 132 maple species, many of them native to Asia though they are also found across Europe and North America. Most species have palmately lobed leaves, with

some notable exceptions like Box-elder (*A. negundo*) and Paperbark maple (*A. griseum*) which have trifoliate leaves, or Hornbeam maple (*A. carpinifolium*) which has simple leaves with pinnate veins. However, the leaves of all species are arranged in opposite pairs on their shoots and have winged fruits known as samaras, (helicopters, if you prefer) also arranged in pairs.

In the UK only Field maple (*A. campestre*) is regarded as native, but there are two other species commonly found, Sycamore (*A. pseudoplatanus*) and Norway maple (*A. platanoides*), the best features to separate them being leaf lobe shape and the angle formed by the paired fruits characters. Field maple leaves are half the size of the other two. Norway maple has more pointed lobes. The arrangement of the Sycamore's samaras is distinctive. Rather than being directly opposed they have an angle of only about 90 degrees between them.

It's also worth checking the colour of sap exuded by snapping the leaf stalk (petiole); Sycamore has clear sap whilst in the Norway and Field maple is a white latex. In late spring and early summer flower arrangement and timing can also be useful; Norway maple for example flowers before the leaves emerge, clothing branches in the acid-green flowers that are recognisable from quite a distance. In comparison Field maple and Sycamore flower once the leaves are out.

On inspection of the bark, especially the smooth bark of the Sycamore, you may find an orderly, horizontal procession of holes. These are caused by the exploration of woodpeckers, searching for sap. In north America, with many more pecker species than we have, there is a sub-division of these known as the sap suckers that consume little else.

Don't hold your breath in anticipation of a beautiful autumn from these three. None of them produce better than a disappointing yellow. And Sycamore is plagued by a leaf disease called tar spot, which is non-fatal but disfiguring. So gardeners have turned their gaze east, particularly to Japan, to find pretty much any colour you fancy; and you often don't have to wait until autumn for the show to start.

Ben Hamlin
Tree warden, Binstedtrees@gmail.com

It was a huge thrill to receive a big brown envelop, all the way from France, at the vicarage over the summer. Inside, it contained a lovely letter from a gentleman who was very interested to hear more about Montgomery's grave in the Binsted Church graveyard. With the help of a professional translator friend we were able to discern that he'd appreciate a photograph of the grave too. I took a huge amount of joy in collecting some information to share about our famous local resident, and parcelling it up to return to France, complete with a handwritten letter in French. It took me back to GCSE French in the 1990s, and I would love to think I may have acquired a French pen pal. It was really wonderful to be reminded of this very great honour we have of being custodians of this very special grave. Our small group of volunteers has just completed another tidy up, all ready for visitors coming to mark the anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein and Remembrancetide. Montgomery chose a beautiful spot, it's well worth a visit.

Becky Boyes

BINSTED SCHOOL'S WATER SAVING CHALLENGE

We made a staggering 7.98% reduction in water usage since last year!

So we owe a HUGE thank you and well done to everyone in our school and village community who worked hard to make this a reality. With the crazy heat we experienced, this was no mean feat so THANK YOU from all of us at Binsted C E Primary School.

It has meant that SE Water have awarded us £5k towards installing new outdoor wooden storage lockers, as well as plants and gardening tools for the pupils at our wonderful Binsted Primary School. This much-needed equipment is going to give our children a better, more organised space for their outdoor learning and play equipment as well as more materials making a real difference to their daily school life.

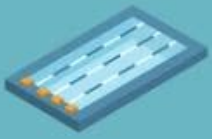
It's been a wonderful experience to take part in the challenge, highlights including chatting to members of the community about how we can work together to save water, learning habits ourselves to help reduce our water usage going forward (shower timers a particular fave!) and enjoying a fun assembly with SE Water themselves. Getting a shiny new water butt at school too was a great learning experience for the children and has come in handy during our weekly gardening club!

To put it into perspective - turning the 7.98 per cent reduction into real numbers - we successfully saved 2,456 cubic metres of water over the course of the challenge. If you were to picture that volume, it's the equivalent of almost one entire Olympic-sized swimming pool, 30,700 full bathtubs or an incredible 9,824,000 cups of tea!

On a daily basis we've made improvements on the ground too, with the help of SE Water, our school is now saving almost 510 litres every single day. To put that into perspective, that is enough saved water to make over 2,000 cups of tea on the school grounds, every day! Quite something to be proud of!

So yes a big well done and thank you to everyone involved - our children and staff at Binsted School are so grateful for your support and are going to continue to benefit from these new facilities/equipment over the months and years to come!

Almost an entire Olympic-sized swimming pool



30,700 full bathtubs



9,824,000 cups of tea











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!





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 October 2026 draws:

October 2026	
1st prize	Jean Vasher
2nd prize	Angela Dunne
3rd prize	Stella Croom-Johnson

Details of the November 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



VISIT OF **BISHOP KELLY**

We were delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Bishop Kelly Betteridge, Bishop of Basingstoke, who visited both Bentley and Binsted on Sunday 27th September as part of her tour of parishes within the Alton Deanery.

Bishop Kelly is the seventh Bishop of Basingstoke and the first female appointed to the role. She looks after parishes in the deaneries of Alresford, Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Odiham, Winchester and Whitchurch and is also the Bishop Ambassador for the Mothers' Union.

The morning started with a breakfast at Bentley Church Hall with some thirty people from across the churches in Bentley, BInsted and Froyle enjoying croissants and coffee and a chance to chat to Bishop Kelly about things on their mind – church related or otherwise.

Bishop Kelly then moved on to Binsted where she led and preached at their Harvest service, very fitting considering that she is originally from Wiltshire, the daughter of a farm foreman who says she "grew up with a strong connection to the countryside". It was great to see a full church, resplendent with harvest flowers and produce. Our thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully for the occasion.

Energy Alton AGM 2026

Energy Alton is a community charity that provides free energy saving advice. On 19 November we are holding our AGM at the Assembly Rooms in Alton at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Following the AGM, there will be a screening of the film POWER STATION.

POWER STATION follows two people who decide to try something extraordinary: turning their London street into an energy-generating community. It's a story about neighbours, money, ambition, setbacks, creativity and what happens when people start talking to one another about what might be possible.

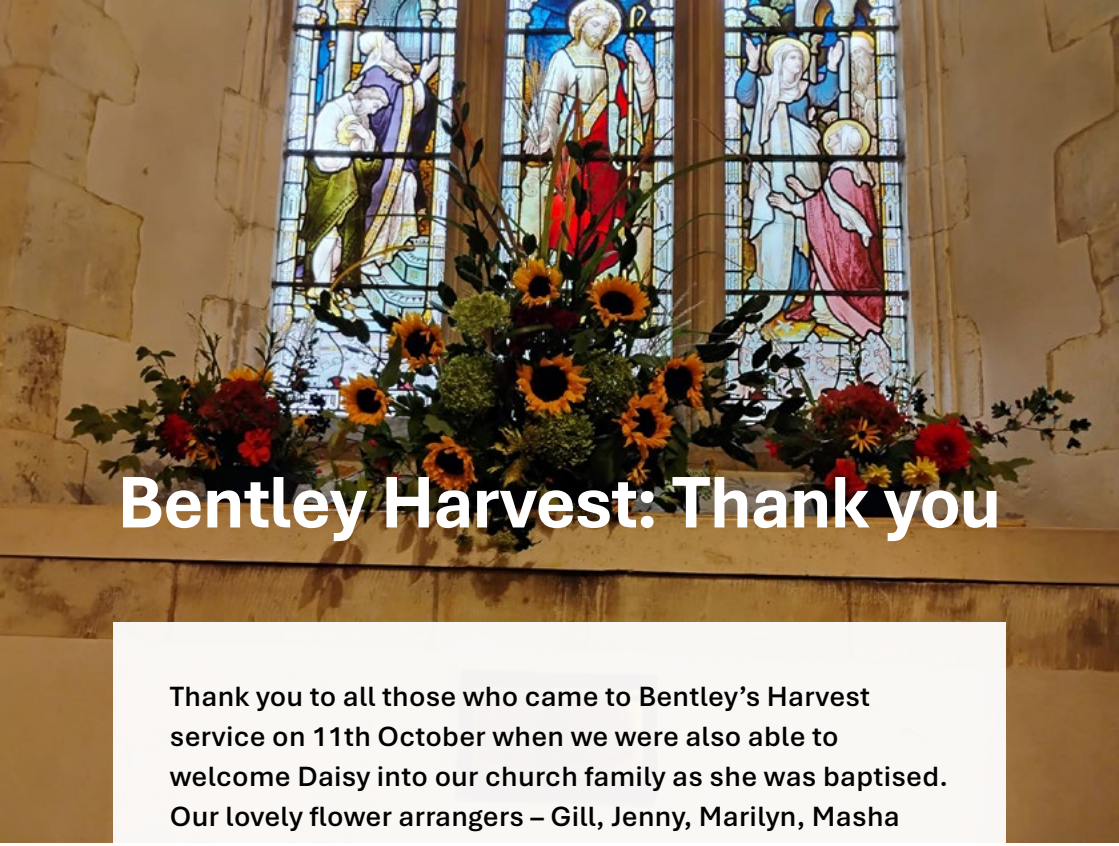
For more information, please visit our webpage.

There will be light refreshments and time for discussion after the film. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Energy Alton

Your Community Charity for Energy-Saving Advice





Bentley Harvest: Thank you

Thank you to all those who came to Bentley's Harvest service on 11th October when we were also able to welcome Daisy into our church family as she was baptised. Our lovely flower arrangers – Gill, Jenny, Marilyn, Masha and Sona led by Liz Mace had decorated the church with a beautiful displays incorporating sunflowers and dahlias among others. Thank you to everyone who donated tinned and dried goods which were gratefully received by Alton Food Bank; particular mention should go to the parents of those attending Dottie Tots for their generous donations. Thanks also to all who contributed towards our brunch – the sausage baps were as popular as ever!

Finally, a huge thank you to all who put hands in pockets and gave towards our collection for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution who provide practical, emotional and financial support to farmers.

We were able to send them £400.96, which far exceeded expectations and they have asked if we can pass on this message:

"Thank you so much for getting in touch and for letting us know about the incredibly generous donation of £400.96.





We're very grateful to everyone at St Mary's Church, Bentley, for choosing to support RABI and the farming community, particularly during what has been such a challenging year for farmers across the UK.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Harvest Festival collection. We really appreciate your support, and it will make a meaningful difference to the farming community."



The Real Nativity: 22nd December 2026, Upper Froyle.

Last year, for the first time, Froyle hosted The Real Nativity; a simple reenactment of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem 2025 years ago.

Everyone enjoyed it so much that we've been persuaded to do it again this year.

We'll start gathering in the field opposite the Church at 5:45pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine, shepherds, sheep, donkey's, burning braziers and a school choir.

Once again, it will be quite the seasonal spectacle!

Do come and be part of the action, bring family and friends. We're expecting the Angel Gabriel to appear at 6pm on Tuesday 22nd December.

Mark it in your diaries now and standby for more information next month.

BRICK BUILDING COMPETITION



5TH DECEMBER
BINSTED FAIR
GU34 4NX
2PM - 4.30PM

Judged by

ICONIC BRICKS
ENGAGE, INSPIRE, BUILD

NO PRE BOOKING NECESSARY

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...



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

1st Hew & Jean Pike 2nd Belinda Barfoot 3rd Christine Goodyear

Congratulations to the winners.

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

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

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.

The Memorial Hall Cupola

One of the most prominent features of the Bentley Memorial Hall is the Cupola on the front roof of the building – that is the tower holding up the weathervane. The Cupola has likely not been renovated since the Hall was built over 100 years ago.



Those with keen eyesight will have noticed it is now in a poor state of repair. Already, some slats have fallen to the ground; luckily there was no one walking past at the time and thus nobody was hurt.



To stop any more such occurrences, we arranged for the wooden part of the Cupola to be wrapped with plastic film. While the builders were up there, they took some photographs and it is clear the whole Cupola is in danger of falling down, which could result in serious injury to anyone walking past. We are therefore going to be replacing the Cupola. We have been looking at options and the most cost-effective method is to replace the existing Cupola with a fibre glass structure of similar shape and look, thus ensuring the aesthetics of the Hall roof is maintained.



This work will cost over £10,000 and we are looking for donations totalling around 50% of the funds – the Hall can finance the other 50%. The money raised by the Advent Calendar Windows this December will be of great help, but we will undoubtably be looking for more.

Please do contact us at bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com if you would like to donate towards this project and thus help to allow everyone in the village to continue to enjoy the sight of the Cupola on the roof of the Memorial Hall for many years to come.



Hello from Bentley CE Primary School

There has been so much to celebrate at Bentley this term, starting with our wonderful new Year R children. They have amazed us with how well they have settled into school, showing curiosity as they explore and learn, kindness towards one another and resilience as they try new things. We are very proud of the start they have made.

A particular highlight has been meeting their Year 6 buddies. Sharing books and playing together have helped our youngest children feel welcome and part of our Bentley family. Our Year 6 pupils have taken on this responsibility with care and enthusiasm, showing what it means to look after one another.

Our enrichment clubs have all started this term, and it never ceases to amaze me how many different opportunities our children can enjoy. Judo, art, science, cookery, Lego and stop motion are just a few of the activities on offer. These experiences give children the chance to discover new interests, develop their talents and enjoy learning beyond the classroom.

Alongside these clubs, we have our fantastic wraparound care. Children have even been known to ask their parents if they can attend when they do not need to, simply because they enjoy it so much! Our team puts considerable care and thought into creating welcoming sessions, with opportunities for creativity, outdoor activities and, in the summer, much-loved water play.

One parent recently shared:

"There is something on offer for everyone - My child is occupied 4 days a week with 4 competent activities and she loves them all : Boppin, Sporty Club, Science Club and Gynmastics'- the quality of providers is exceptional and it makes it so easy for parents who need that afterschool wraparound care. They put a lot of care and thought into wraparound care, including organising outdoor activities in the summer such as water play and creative activities … My child loves it."

It is lovely to hear how much these opportunities mean to our children and their families.

We have open days coming up for children joining Year R next September, and we also have some spaces available across the school. If you know a family looking for a nurturing, caring school thateducates the whole child through high-quality teaching and rich enrichment opportunities, please encourage them to contact the school office to arrange a tour with me. We would be delighted to welcome them and share what makes Bentley such a special place to learn and grow.

Vicky Hallett
Headteacher, Bentley CE Primary School



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

Bentley Green: *orchard plans, wildflowers and a little local history*

September brought plenty of activity at Bentley Green, as volunteers continued developing our vision for a community orchard and wildlife meadow. There was progress above and below ground, welcome fundraising news and two small discoveries that have given one corner of the site a name.

The Orchard team has mapped the proposed orchard and other features onto the topographical survey, giving us a clearer picture of the space available. This is helping us choose positions for different tree varieties and features such as the vital rainwater harvesting area.

The geological survey results have also been reviewed. Twelve trial holes revealed a surface layer between 30cm and 70cm deep above the Gault clay. The findings support the earlier assessment that the site is suitable for orchard planting, albeit a bit wet. We are now exploring planting options to reduce the effects of waterlogging.

Tree selection is nearly complete, with a mix of eating, cooking and dual-purpose apples planned. Different cropping and flowering times should provide a varied harvest and support pollination. Once the trees are ordered, we'll prepare the planting schedule, with plenty of opportunities for volunteers to join in.

Our 52 Trees for Bentley Green appeal continues to support this work, and we're delighted to have secured a £1,500 grant from the NextEnergy South East England Solar Impact Fund towards orchard costs.

Meanwhile, the Ecology team has been busy preparing the meadow. After harrowing, volunteers removed rubble left from the site's use as an A31 construction compound. Some of the rocks have been reused to create a hibernaculum - a turf-covered mound that will provide an overwintering refuge for frogs, toads and newts.

A small area has been sown with native wildflower seed to test what establishes successfully. We're calling it Button Meadow, after metal detectorist Pip found two buttons nearby. One is thought to be an enamel Art Nouveau button dating from around 1890–1920; the other is likely to be a Second World War General Service military button. These



finds offer intriguing glimpses of the people who may have passed through before us.

Volunteers have also tackled excessive blackthorn growth, retaining valuable habitat while creating curved edges and a gradual change in height. A visiting ecologist described it as a textbook example of managing this useful but vigorous plant.

Wildlife recording continues. Martin's discovery of stinking iris brings our recorded plant species total to 50, while an early-morning bird survey identified more than
30 species, including a spotted flycatcher. Five reptile refuges are now in place to support further surveys.

We've also welcomed Rebecca from Darwin Ecology to advise on re-establishing the pond shown on old maps. Testing how well the clay holds water will be an important first step.

At home, residents have pledged to grow wildflower plugs through our Grow Wild for Bentley Green project. There's still time to take part: oxeye daisy, common knapweed and cowslip are good options for October sowing, ready for planting together next spring.

Support has come in many forms. Jade's corn dolly workshop for the Phoenix Group raised £200, and Bentley Station Pop-Up Cafe has now raised over £3,200. Chair Jade Bower also welcomed County Councillor Antonia Cox and MP Damian Hinds for separate visits; both were supportive and keen to hear about future progress.

Thank you to everyone helping the Green grow.

To donate, pledge wildflowers or explore supporting us through the East Hampshire Community Lottery, visit bentleygreen.uk.

To volunteer, email hello@bentleygreen.uk. Whether you can spare a few hours or grow a pot of seedlings, there's a place for you!

Scan me to find out more!

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday
10am – 4.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

ALLEN GALLERY UPDATE

The Allen Gallery in Alton has been closed for redevelopment since December 2025 and will reopen in early 2027 with revitalised galleries, a welcoming community space and fresh ways to experience the nationally and internationally important ceramics collection. The project has included behind-the-scenes work to repair and restore a significant number of objects to ensure they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

As part of the project, Hampshire Cultural Trust is pleased to offer a range of ***volunteer roles*** at the gallery, from welcoming visitors to the venue and supporting cafe and front desk operations, to offering guided tours of the collections or helping with community workshops and events. To find out more about these roles please email alton.museums@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk. This major redevelopment is managed by Hampshire Cultural Trust and made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, as well as East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council.

CURTIS MUSEUM

For younger visitors-

Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons
We're travelling back 2000 years to the Roman invasion of Southern Britain. Our resident Roman, Marcus, and our resident Briton, Cedric, are recruiting. Choose your side and train with them if you have what it takes.

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



TALK organised by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery -
The Importance of Mediaeval Women, Part 2.
Continuing Caroline Stapleton's fascinating talk.
Thursday 12th November. 7 for 7.30pm in Room 7, Alton Community Centre.
Free to Friends, £2 for guests. Tea/coffee provided.

Over the summer Alton Town Council and East Hampshire District Council have confirmed interim funding support for the Curtis Museum, our town's dedicated local history museum. The venue was placed at risk of closure following a significant cut in funding to its

operator, Hampshire Cultural Trust. A community campaign, led by the Curtis Museum Community Partnership, was the catalyst for conversations which ultimately secured the £30k of interim funding for the museum.

A new Joint Management Committee has been formed, which brings together representatives from the two councils, alongside the Curtis Museum Community Partnership, Friends of the Curtis Museum, Hampshire County Council and the Alton Assembly Rooms, alongside operator Hampshire Cultural Trust. This group will be meeting regularly to support the development of a long-term plan for the future of the Curtis Museum.

The JMC has already been busy, with a community survey launched in September, which has gathered just under 600 responses, sharing local views on the importance and potential of the museum. The survey is now closed and we would like to thank the people of Alton for their magnificent response to the survey.

A consultation workshop was also hosted in mid-September, bringing together councillors for the town, local groups, organisations and residents to consider the future of the Curtis Museum. Informed by initial results from the survey, the workshop developed a wide range of potential ideas to make the Museum more attractive to visitors, make it more relevant to the local community and to increase funding.

We look forward to keeping you updated as our work progresses.



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@ THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX)



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Binsted Parish Council: Updates

On Wednesday 18 November Binsted Parish Council is celebrating Road Safety Week, whose campaign that *'we can all do something to make a difference: whether we drive, walk, wheel or ride'* is very appropriate for our parish.

Road safety and speeding traffic was identified as the number one priority in our parish survey.

Our Transport Working Group volunteers are working with the Road Safety Police to organise a special 'drop-in' event, which will give you the chance to:

- find out about the wide range of transport projects underway in the parish ...and how we are investing time and money into improvements;
- make your views known, to help us pinpoint specific issues that concern you and your area, and to develop objectives for the future;
- see speed data we have collected across the parish, and learn how and why we're collecting it;
- understand the roles of other organisations such as Hampshire Highways and the police, and how we work together;
- learn about individual actions you can take to improve road safety;
- challenge yourself by participating in fun practical activities; and
- celebrate recent successes and the impact that volunteers can have.

Please support the event by coming to Binsted Sports Pavillion at any time between 10:00-16:30 on 18th November.



All are welcome - children included - no booking needed.

Free coffee will be on offer throughout the day and there will be after-school refreshments and fun activities for pupils from Binsted and Rowledge schools.

Binsted Parish Council is enjoying some recent transport successes:



Bentley station scoops gold 'in bloom' award

Binsted Parish Council is delighted to have been awarded a Gold in the 'South and South East in Bloom' Awards in the 'Celebration Stations' category, for Bentley Station. As a Station Adopter, the parish council has led on the creation of planters for the platforms over the last two years and is delighted to have received this accolade. Special thanks go to all the volunteers in Station Road, who have kept up the watering and maintenance despite this year's challenges, to Bentley and Binsted Primary School Gardening Clubs, and to all who have contributed plants and bulbs.



30mph speed limit in Frith End

A 30mph speed limit finally came into force in Frith End in August, after over fourteen years of campaigning by local residents. The new speed limit will be followed by a second phase of traffic calming for Frith End and Blacknest, using developers' contribution funding from Whitehill and Bordon's expansion.



Safer parking at Binsted Primary School

Binsted Parish Council was delighted to present new parking signs to Binsted C of E Primary School, to help improve pupil safety around the school entrance. The signs are part of a suite of actions to make school drop-offs and pick-ups safer by improving parking arrangements in Church Street. Our thanks to County Councillor Antonia Cox for grant funding the signs.



Speed indicator in School Road Rowledge

A longstanding impasse about deploying a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in School Road Rowledge has finally been resolved, and the signpost extended by Highways, so our volunteers can now use a SID on the Surrey side of this Hampshire road! It's a first small step towards improving safety around Rowledge school.

BenBinFro YouTube Channel

Did you know we:

- record our Sunday sermons?
- have a selection of hymns and worship songs?
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Everything on our channel is free to access and is for those who missed a service or cannot attend in person, for you to find out more about how we roll, to use in home group studies or for personal worship.

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the QR code to find us!

YouTube

09

September 2026

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature

Daytime maximum
27.6ºC (22nd) to 18.4ºC (8th)
6 days above 25ºC and only 4 days below 20ºC

Nightime minimum
3.2ºC (21st) to 17.8ºC (3rd)
5 nights below 5ºC

Rainfall

Total for month
1.44 inches (36.6 mm) over 16 days

Wettest days
0.75 inches (19.0 mm) (8th)

Wind

Dominant wind direction
West South West

Maximum gust
18 mph (4th)

Parish Weatherman

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at Bentley Lodge



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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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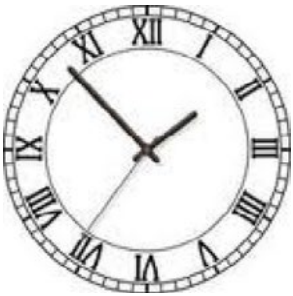
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Bentley Memorial Hall

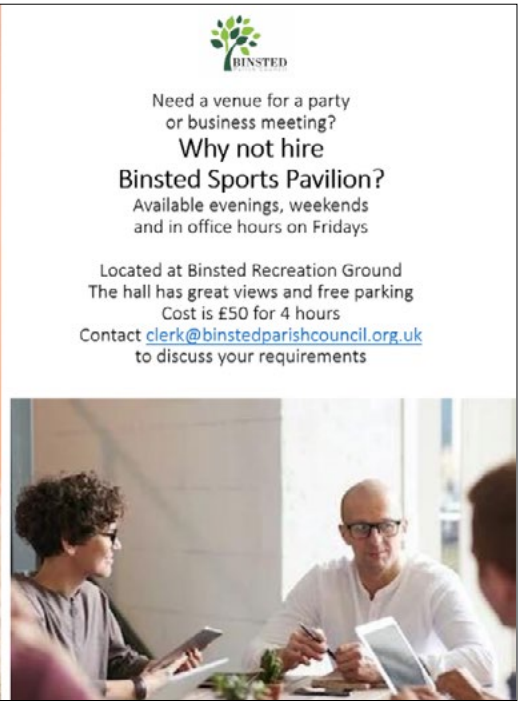
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Main hall accommodating up to 100 people and two meeting rooms accommodating up to 60 people each. Main hall and one meeting room can be combined for larger events.

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(Binsted Village Hall)

LOTTERY FUNDED

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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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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
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johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539
Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: @bentleyparishcouncil
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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:
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BINSTED
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The Wickham Institute
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County Councillor Antonia Cox
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District Council
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Email DavidAshcroft@easthants.gov.uk,

Parish Council
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Binsted School
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Binsted Football Club
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November Services

1st Nov	**9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion & Children's Church **11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion **6pm** Bentley Praise
8th Nov **Remembrance Sunday**	*See Remembrance Service details inside* **6pm** Kingsley Praise
15th Nov	**9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship **11am** Kingsley Holy Communion **4pm** Messy Church at Binsted
22nd Nov	**9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church **11am** Binsted Morning Worship **6:30pm** Froyle Said Holy Communion
28th Nov *(Saturday)*	**6:30pm** Choral Advent Service at Froyle
29th Nov	**11am** Joint Benefice Service at Bentley
6th Dec	**9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion & Children's Church **11am** Oakhanger Holy Communion **6pm** Bentley Praise

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