

# The Binfield Beacon

Your Binfield Parish Community Magazine - there's lots going on!



December & January 2023/24

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**Our mission is connecting people with others and Jesus.**

Church Office: 01344 421079 [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) [facebook.com/allsaintswithstmarks](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintswithstmarks)

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) Produced by All Saints' with St Mark's Churches

# DIARY

## DECEMBER 2023

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
	7.00pm	7UP Winter Wonderland Social
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Relentless - Christmas Social Event
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at All Saints'
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Whizz Kids Christmas Party at St Mark's Church (see pg 5 for more info, email youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk to book)
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at All Saints'

## JANUARY 2024

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Relentless at St Michael's Church, Warfield
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Relentless at St Michael's Church, Warfield
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
	7.30pm	Practice the presence of God at The Rectory
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Relentless at St Michael's Church, Warfield
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	7.00pm	7UP at St Mark's Church

## FEBRUARY 2024

Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Relentless at St Michael's Church, Warfield
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
at All Saints' Church

Sun 3rd Dec - 6.30pm - Until We Meet Again

Sun 17th Dec - 6.30pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 3pm & 5pm - Christingle  
Christmas Eve - 11.30pm - Midnight Service

Christmas Day - 9.30am - Communion (BCP)  
Christmas Day - 10.30am - All Age Christmas Celebration

Sun 31st Dec - 10am - Common Worship Communion

## WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S WALK

A gentle 2-3 mile walk (which takes about an hour) in and around Binfield village, for women of mixed ages and abilities. Usually on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The walks go ahead in all weathers and normally start at 9am from outside Foxes' Den Café and finish there around 10am for a coffee.

6th December - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
3rd January - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
17th January - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
7th February - 9am meet Foxes' Den

For more information contact either:  
Gisele on 07724 889169

## MEN'S MONTHLY COUNTRY WALK

**DATES: Saturday 2nd December, 6th January and 3rd February**

The Men's Monthly Walk takes place on the 1st Saturday of each month. We start at 7.45am from the car park at Oakmede Shops. The walk lasts approximately 1 hour.

Be ready for all weathers!

For more information contact Kim Swain on 07894 469633 or [kimswain@pm.me](mailto:kimswain@pm.me)

**3G** 

3G, a group for babies and toddlers, meets every Wednesday during term time. From 10am to 11.30am at

St Mark's Church on Popeswood Road, Binfield.

**DATES: 6th and 13th December, please note there will be no 3G in January it starts back 7th February**

Come and join us for lots of fun, with toys, a story and singing plus refreshments for the little ones as well as the adults. It is an opportunity for everyone to make new friends.

You are assured of a warm welcome. **Christine White and Team**

## THE SILVER SERVICE

A traditional short service designed and led by our retired congregation members followed by a delicious homemade lunch at St Mark's Church.

**Tuesday 12th December and 16th January at 12 noon**

If you need a lift, please call Beverley on 07704 437207



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CURATE AND SERVICES



In Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean steals bread to feed his starving nephews and nieces. He is caught and sent to prison, serving 19 years after trying to escape. On his release, he is given a yellow passport, which marks him as an ex-convict making him unwelcome

wherever he goes. When he steals some precious silverware from a Bishop who gave him hospitality, to his great surprise, the bishop, instead of accusing Valjean, covers for him, telling the police that he gave him the treasure as a gift.

This generous act transforms Valjean. He repents of his criminal life to become a man of integrity, a philanthropist and the guardian of an orphan, Cosette. The bishop's astonishing gesture of undeserved kindness gives him life!

In a similar way, the gift God gave us at Christmas, His Son Jesus Christ, gives us life. His love, with no strings attached, means we no longer need to feel guilty, but are forgiven and free to flourish.

So, as we approach the festive season, let's give thanks for the love God showed us in giving us his life-giving Son, and be inspired to offer life-giving generosity, not only to our friends and families, but also to the poor and vulnerable in our community.

Jesus said, *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* John 10:10b

**Happy Christmas!**

**Sam**

## Farewell

As you may have heard, my time in Binfield will need to come to an end in January, as I will move to Bicester to support Sarah in taking up her post as a Team Vicar. Whilst naturally excited by what God has in store, my overwhelming emotion is one of sadness to be leaving you, and of deepest gratitude for your welcome and companionship.

Whether it be in sharing the joys of worship, the sorrows of bereavement, the fun of quizzes or barn dances, the companionship of walks and small groups, or the fellowship of sharing a coffee or a burger, it has been an absolute pleasure to journey (or, literally in the case of the Binfield 10k, run!) alongside you for the last two and a half short years. There is not enough space to thank you all individually, but I will always remember your kindness. Being with you has been truly life-giving!

I pray that you will continue to thrive in the love of Jesus.

**Sam**

## SERVICES

*(All Services are held at All Saints' Church unless specified)*

### DECEMBER 2023

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal All Age Baptism Service  
*(the Church will be decorated for Christmas after this service)*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** 6.30pm **Until We Meet Again**  
8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal Communion Service

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am **NO Informal Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** 6.30pm **Carol Service**  
8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
CHRISTMAS EVE 9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am **NO Informal Service**



3.00pm **Christingle Service**  
5.00pm **Christingle Service**  
11.30pm **Midnight Service**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** 9.30am **Christmas Day Communion (BCP)**  
CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30am **All Age Christmas Celebration**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec** 10.00am **Common Worship Communion**

### JANUARY 2024

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal Service

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan \*** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
10.00am **Celebration and Farewell Service for Sam Mortimer**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal Service

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal Service

### FEBRUARY 2024

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb** 8.15am Book of Common Prayer Communion  
9.30am Common Worship Communion  
11.00am Informal All Age Baptism Service

## From the Registers:



### Baptisms

Daisy Ella Morris

### Funerals

Katy Dagnall

### \*Celebration and Farewell Service for Sam Mortimer

Please note there will be a special farewell service for Sam on Sunday 14th January at 10am which will replace the normal 9.30am and 11am services that day to enable everyone to say goodbye together with drinks and nibbles afterwards.

# CONTACT US: 01344 421079 [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

## Rector:

Revd Luke Taylor  
07939 526361  
[rector@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
(Friday is Luke's day off)

## Curate:

Revd Sam Mortimer  
07505 426763  
[curate@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:curate@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

## Churchwarden:

John Hargreaves - 07973 842624  
Sue Cledwyn-Davies - 07941 585488

## Church Office:

Hayley Fourie, Administrator  
**Office number 01344 421079**  
[office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

## Office opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Wednesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Thursday: 9.00am - 1.00pm

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[youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

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## Fundraising Team

[fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

## Church Website:

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



We are also on Facebook  
[facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks](https://facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks)

The Church Office is sited in St Mark's Church

## St Mark's Church

Popeswood Road  
Binfield RG42 4AH

## All Saints' Church

Church Hill  
Binfield RG42 5NS



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[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/contact-list-sign-up/](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/contact-list-sign-up/)

## Pastoral Care Visiting Team - need a friend?



In All Saints' and St Mark's Churches we have a small pastoral care team who are happy to visit and befriend the people of Binfield. So, if you have recently moved to the area and don't know many people; if your family live far away; if you are a Mum at home with a baby and would like adult company; if you find it difficult to get out or just fancy a friendly chat over a cup of tea, please get in touch with one of us. You don't need to be a member of the church, just enjoy some company occasionally!

**Jill Hanson** tel. 452694  
**Margareta Hawkins** tel. 411681  
**Gisele Taylor** tel. 07724 889169  
**Dave Dawson** tel. 360389

Or contact the church office on 01344 421079  
or email [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



## Bereavement Support Team

We will all suffer loss, grief or bereavement at some time in our lives, mainly through death, but also in other ways such as relationship breakdown, loss of a job, or sudden disability. The Bereavement Support Team are not counsellors, but can offer support and companionship if you are suffering a loss of any kind. There is no charge for a visit. All support team members have ID badges.

### Friday Morning Bereavement Group Coffee Morning

**Foxes' Den Café on Fridays 10.30am – 11.30am**  
(term time only)

Peer to Peer support open to anyone dealing with grief. It is not a counselling group, just a friendly get together over a drink.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team, in confidence, please contact Liz Hall for more information [orinocco@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orinocco@hotmail.co.uk) /07850 799434 or Margareta Hawkins 01344 411681



## St Mark's Church Hall Available for booking.

Please contact the church office on 01344 421079 or email [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) for more information or to make a booking.



## Praying for and with you

We have weekly prayer sheets — please email [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) if you would like something to be included.

## The Binfield Beacon



**The deadline for Beacon Contributions for the February 2024 issue is Monday 8th January 2024**

**Please email:**

**[Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)**  
Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)

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# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND CHURCH



Hey Everyone!

After a fabulous Autumn we're ready to head into the Christmas season and gear up for the new year, here's what we've been up to recently and what we've got in store for December and January...



At Whizz Kids we've been learning about some of the parables that Jesus taught, including the parable of the Sower, and the parable of the rich man and the foolish man. We've also spent lots of time outside enjoying the last of the autumn weather, and we collected sticks and materials to make Hector the Hedgehog for the amazing scarecrow trail this year! It was a great trail once again, and we loved seeing everyone's efforts.

Coming up in this month for our children we are having our Whizz Kids Christmas Party on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, which is open to anyone in primary school and will be an evening of fun, food, craft, games and more! If you'd like to join us then get your dancing shoes on, grab a friend, and email Daisy at the details below to book your spot!

We also have our wonderful Christingle service returning this year, so come along to All Saints' Church on Christmas Eve at either 3 or 5pm to join in with some festive fun.



At our youth group we've been exploring questions submitted anonymously by members of the group, including things like 'what brings you hope?' and 'what do you think God looks like?', which has brought out some interesting responses! We've also been busy creating goodies to sell at the Binfield Christmas Market on 4<sup>th</sup> December - we had a fantastic time last year raising money for our youth groups, so do come and say hello and grab some festive treats and support some other wonderful local organisations!

7UP will be heading to Reading Winter Wonderland for our Christmas Social this year, to enjoy the rides and attractions and grab a hot chocolate. And at Relentless we've got a 'lock-in' on 8<sup>th</sup> December, where we'll be sleeping over at Warfield Church, so if you're in secondary school and fancy joining us for a giant sleepover, get in contact to book your place.



With lots going on for our young people over the Christmas period it would be great to see you, so feel free to pop along or get in contact if you'd like to join us!

WHIZZ KIDS

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**For anyone in primary school**

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH FOOD, GAMES, CRAFT, AND A BOUNCY CASTLE!

5:30-7:00pm, 18th December at St. Mark's Church  
£3 per child, £2 per additional sibling

Please email [youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) to book your place!

From all the children's and youth teams we hope you have a wonderful Christmas, and a great start to 2024!  
**Daisy Osinaike - Children's and Youth Worker**  
([youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:youth@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk))

**Dates for Dec/Jan are:**  
**Whizz Kids:** 10<sup>th</sup> Dec & 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan  
**7UP:** 6<sup>th</sup> Dec (Winter Wonderland Social) & 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> Jan  
**Relentless:** 8<sup>th</sup> December (Social event) & 12<sup>th</sup>, 19, and 26<sup>th</sup> Jan

**7UP**

For anyone in school years 7-13

A café style chill space! With games, sports, tuck shop and creative zone!

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, ST. MARK'S CHURCH, 7:00-8:30PM**

**RELENTLESS**

A joint youth group with Warfield Church! Enjoy video games, sports and space to hang with friends

**FRIDAY EVENINGS, ST. MICHAEL'S WARFIELD, 8:00-9:30PM**

For school years 1-6  
Everyone welcome!

**SUNDAYS**  
Except the first of the month!  
St. Mark's Church 10:45AM

## WHIZZ KIDS!

JOIN US AS WE LEARN HOW TO FOLLOW GOD!  
With stories from the bible...  
sports, craft, games and more...

[daisyridell@gmail.com](mailto:daisyridell@gmail.com)

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Christmas Party!

Fundraising  
LIVE MUSIC BAND NIGHT  
Featuring the festively awesome



**Saturday 9th December 2023**  
**19:30-22:30**  
**St. Mark's Church, Binfield**

Tickets: £6 (adults only)  
Licensed bar & snacks available

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
email [fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



SCAN ME



**The Church Care Project:**  
Funding large building projects and ad-hoc maintenance work on our church spaces



**General Funds:**  
Supporting the ongoing costs of running our churches and services, including Youth work



Help us make a difference when you shop  
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### Upcoming Fundraising Events & Activities

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Youth Stall and Gingerbread Stall @ Binfield Christmas Market, Foxes Den Café.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:**

Dads R Loud Christmas Party! 7:30-10:30pm @St. Mark's.  
Check [www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) for more details..

### Update

And quick as a flash, another year has gone by! We're looking forward to celebrating over the festive period at our party, with a special **Binfield Calendar** and by taking part in the **Binfield Christmas Market!**

We've truly appreciated your support as our fundraising has continued this year so that we can help keep our church spaces running and maintained. We are excited for 2024 as our next All Saints' building project is shaping up.

Hope you have a fantastic Christmas and start to the new year!

## BINFIELD VILLAGE CALENDAR 2024



Featuring stunning shots of the village!

£10 each

On Sale at The Foxes' Den, Daphne's The Binfield Club, Church, the office, or email [fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A GINGERBREAD HOUSE OR CHURCH!

Margareta Hawkins is again selling her amazing gingerbread creations, with money raised going to church General Funds.

Find her stall at the Binfield Christmas Market on 4th December, or send an email to order to [margaretahawkins@gmail.com](mailto:margaretahawkins@gmail.com)






### How to make a donation:

We would really appreciate your donation; however big or small, it will all help!

- **Online:** see our updated 'Giving' pages on the website, with easy links to make a one-off donation: [www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/giving-page](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/giving-page) or click on the 'Donate' link on the Home Page.
- **Cheque:** send a cheque to the church office, made payable to "Binfield PCC". Please write 'Church Care', 'General Funds', or where you would like your donation used on the back
- **BACS:** Name: Binfield PCC, Account Number: 80175528, Sort Code: 20-11-74  
Please add **your name + a reference** (as above) if you would like to specify where your donation goes.

Don't forget to Gift Aid it if you are a UK Tax Payer - this will add an extra 25% to your donation!

Contact the church office for more details, or see the church website more information and other ways to raise money!



SCAN ME



With many thanks from the Fundraising Team:  
[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

[fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/AllSaintsWithSt.Marks](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsWithSt.Marks)

# CHURCH NEWS

VERSE OF THE MONTH  
DECEMBER 2023

**"This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

**Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,**

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."**

Luke 2: 12-14 NIV  
Contributed by Rev Sam Mortimer

## ALTERNATIVE ADVENT - BE GOOD NEWS

Once again we have the opportunity to bring good news and Christmas cheer to people through Alternative Advent.

Alternative Advent is where we purchase an extra present or two for single parents who won't otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. Many parents ensure that their children have a great Christmas, but often go without themselves. We would like to change that. This year we are hoping to give presents to 35 single mums and 15 single dads. If you would like to contribute, then we recommend gifts up to the value of £15.00. Possible ideas are, toiletries, PJs, slippers, chocolates, gloves, scarves and hats, scented candles, reed diffusers, or anything you think might make a nice gift for a single parent.

We will be collecting the presents from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The presents can either be given to Luke in church, dropped off at the church office or left on the bench outside the front door of the Rectory. They will then be taken to the Family Intervention Team who then distribute them to the single parents. **Thank you Luke**



We're excited to announce that All Saints Church has won a Bronze Eco Church Award! This recognises our efforts to care for God's earth in our worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped us achieve this important milestone.

Work on St Mark's Eco Garden is now progressing after a pause due to the recent stormy weather. We are sowing wildflower seeds and will be planting bulbs and installing logs to provide welcoming habitats for woodlice and other bugs.

Visit the church website to find out more and get involved.



## Join us as we work to...

- transform our church
- empower you to make your life more eco-friendly
- help build a greener community

### Initial Projects include:

St. Mark's Eco Garden

Bug Hotel

Harvest Talks



Visit our website to find out more and to get involved

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk



**Environmentally aware**—The Binfield Beacon is printed in the UK on paper manufactured to ISO14001 standard in a European Mill. The paper is FSC approved, ECF acid and chlorine free, biodegradable and sourced from a UK Merchant who is part of the Woodland Trust which helps plant more trees to reduce carbon footprint. Printed using vegetable oil based inks. Please do your part to help the environment by passing on your magazine to others or recycling it responsibly. **Thank you.**

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# ADVERTISING AND COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Christmas Wordsearch

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CATTLE	MARY
FRANKINCENSE	MYRRH
GOLD	NATIVITY
INN	SHEPHERDS
JESUS	STAR
JOSEPH	WISEMEN

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M A S F T E V I O T S E A P T U  
P N N I A T S K E N I H S A A D  
U T E Z W M R A P E S X F G W L  
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D N K I H S J P M R H D R E W T  
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I A O D E S P I H S U A A N D O  
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T L S Q L E W G D Y R N S G Y M



## Binfield Tennis Association

### Binfield Tennis welcomes a new coaching team

This Autumn coaches Trevor, Will and Elana join forces with Binfield Tennis Association to offer a range of coaching sessions to their members.



**Will Heath-Turrall** has been coaching for 5yrs and is passionate about coaching all ages of juniors and seniors.



**Trevor Kotchie** has 25 years' experience coaching and is super keen to see Binfield Tennis Association being used by all ages as a place for fun and exercise. Trevor lives in the village and has developed players of all standards from beginner to national level.



**Elana Skey** has been coaching for 3 years and enjoys coaching players new to tennis.

Current coaching opportunities are available to members:

#### Juniors – Saturdays

4-8 years 1:15pm - 2pm  
9-12 years 2pm – 3pm  
12+ years 3pm – 4pm

#### Adult Beginners/Improvers – Sundays, 9-10am

To enquire about coaching, contact Trevor Kotchie at 07703256922 or [tkotchie@hotmail.com](mailto:tkotchie@hotmail.com)

To find out more about Binfield Tennis Club, follow us on Facebook and Instagram by searching "Binfield Tennis" or visit us at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BinfieldTennisAssociation/Membership/Join>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Scout Group: Malawi 2024 Expedition

In summer 2024, we as 5 Scouts/Explorers from 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Air Scouts will embark on a life-changing expedition to Malawi to work alongside Joshua, a British charity ([www.joshuainmalawi.org.uk/](http://www.joshuainmalawi.org.uk/)) who believe in 'giving children the best possible start in life through Early Child Development work'. This initiative aims to provide us with a unique cultural experience, while engaging in meaningful community service projects.

Malawi 2024 will be a transformative experience for us as individuals and as representatives of our Scout group. It will not only broaden our horizons but instil a sense of empathy, leadership, and a commitment to making a positive impact to other young people.

In order to make this project a reality we need to raise £3,750 each. This covers the cost of the training programme, travel, insurance, food, central equipment, and cultural activities.

Since confirmation of our places in May 2023, we have been running various fundraising activities including games and stalls at the Binfield 10K, Party Bye the Pitch, Summer of Fun and Church fete events, gardening/odd jobs in the local community, Binfield Scarecrow Trail entry and car washing. We have additional activities planned between now and the summer including supporting a stall at the Binfield Market in December and a sponsored bike ride.

Nevertheless, we still have a long way to go to reach our target and as such, we would be grateful for any support that we might receive from our local community, whether businesses or individuals.

No donation is too small and we would be happy to recognise donating companies on our fundraising signage and social media platforms.

For more information on how to donate, please contact [1stbinfieldexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:1stbinfieldexplorers@gmail.com).

Thank you for taking the time to read about our project!

Leo, Tommy, James, Eoghan and James

For more information on Berkshire Scouts' Project Africa initiative and the 2024 Malawi expedition, please access the following link: <https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/project-africa-2024/>

**Joshua**  
Assisting Orphans & their Communities in Malawi



## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Thames Voyces Carol Concert

Thames Voyces invite you to join them for their annual Carol Concert, 4:30pm on Saturday 16th December at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield. Take a welcome break from Christmas shopping and relax with their annual family friendly concert of seasonal music and readings. Just don't get too comfy, because audience participation is encouraged, and may indeed also be rewarded with some drink and mince pies.

Looking beyond Christmas, if your New Year resolution is to join, or indeed rejoin a choir, then Thames Voyces would love to help you keep it! Most especially if you are a bass or tenor, then when they return to Binfield in July, your family & friends will see the resolution achieved. Nick Austin will conduct the choir, and Ben Giddens will accompany them. For tickets and further information, please check out their website [www.thamesvoyces.org.uk](http://www.thamesvoyces.org.uk)



The Binfield Singers have wound up and used most of their funds to pay for a mulberry tree which the Parish Council have kindly planted in the Silver Jubilee field. The planting took place on 14th November and a few Singers sang the National Anthem in honour of the King's 75th birthday. The Singers are pleased that the tradition of singing for the people of Binfield continues with the Binfield Community Choir.



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### Bracknell Choral Society 2023-2024 Christmas and the Spring Term

Bracknell Choral Society will round off a busy and enjoyable Autumn term with a **Family Carol Concert** on **Wednesday 20th December 2023 at Newbold Church, Binfield RG42 4AN at 4.00pm**. This is a lovely opportunity to listen to some old and new carols and join in singing some old favourites, as well as to enjoy some mince pies and soft drinks. Tickets cost £10 (accompanied under -18's free) and will be available from our website [www.bracknellchoral.org.uk](http://www.bracknellchoral.org.uk) or from choir members.

We begin 2024 with an exciting programme, rehearsing Brahms' magnificent Requiem for our Spring concert on **Sunday 24th March in Salisbury Hall, Newbold College at 4pm**. However, the term begins with an invitation to an **open rehearsal at Newbold College Church, Binfield RG42 4AN** on Wednesday 17th January, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. If you have thought about joining a choir, you will find a warm welcome at our friendly, non-auditioning choir and you are invited to take part in a full rehearsal at no charge. Music will be provided if you would like to join in though you can also come along and just observe. There will be free refreshments and an opportunity to chat to members of the choir. Please contact our choir secretary Maggie Fairbrother by email at [secretary@bracknellchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bracknellchoral.org.uk) to confirm your interest in participating. We suggest you arrive at 7:15pm on the night so that we can greet you and welcome you to this open rehearsal. For details of all our concerts and for further information on the choir visit our website [www.bracknellchoral.org.uk](http://www.bracknellchoral.org.uk)

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## News from Binfield Parish Council



Welcome to the December 2023 and January 2024 edition of Binfield Parish Council News. In this edition, we are looking forward to our upcoming events over the winter months as well as sharing the latest Parish news.

### December 2023

<u>Tuesday 5 December</u>	Amenity Committee	8pm
Tuesday 12 December	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 19 December	Planning & Transport Committee	8pm

### January 2023

Tuesday 9 January	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 30 December	Planning & Transport Committee	8pm

### Upcoming Events

Monday 4 December <b>Binfield Christmas Market</b>	Following the success of last year's event. The Community Christmas Market will be returning this December. Come along to the Foxes' Den for a festive celebration with community stalls, mince pies, Christmas trees, mulled wine and more.	5-8pm
Sunday 10 December <b>Silver Club</b>	Silver Club has returned for the winter. This will be held in the Council room at the Parish Office next to the Foxes' Den. There will be light refreshments, quiz, games, and a Christmas raffle. To reserve your free place please contact the Parish Office.	12.30-2.30pm
<u>March TBC</u> <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	Our Annual Parish meeting will take place in March next year, date TBC. There will be refreshments and opportunity to talk to your Councillors as well as the ceremony for the Parish People Awards.	TBC

**Remembrance parade** - A very big thank you to all those involved in helping with the Binfield Parish Remembrance Parade. We would not be able to hold events like this without the support of local volunteers and the community coming together. Thank you to our Marshals who assisted the Boorman Group with the road closure and keeping the parade safe and for the support from Thames Valley police and Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue. Thank you for the help and support from the RBL, RNA, our Piper and Bugler in leading the parade and the service in the church.

Special thanks go to 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Explorers, Scouts and Cubs, 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Guides and Brownies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Binfield Brownies and 4<sup>th</sup> Binfield Guides who marched in silence and showed a great respect for the importance of the day, as well as carrying out readings, poems, wreath laying and songs within the church service. We are very proud of them all!

**Parish People Awards** - The aim of the Binfield Parish People awards is to thank and reward those people living in Binfield and who deserve recognition for community activity, environmental achievements or in some other way contribute to the life of the Parish. The awards are presented at the annual parish meeting (March 2024, date TBC). A nomination form can be <https://binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-parish/parish-peoples-award/> or by contacting the office. We look forward to receiving your applications.

**Salt/Grit Bins** - We have been informed that a few of the salt/grit bins are being used as normal rubbish bins. Please do not put anything in these bins, as they should only contain salt or grit in over the winter. If we do experience freezing conditions this winter, please note that salt bins are available for you to use on public roads. This provision is part of the Bracknell Forest Highways Winter Service Plan 2021-22, which can be viewed at: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk> ('Roads, parking and transport strategies and policies' web page).

**Litter and fly tipping** - We are currently experiencing an increase in litter and fly tipping within the Parish. We have several Sponsor a Street residents across the Parish who do a fabulous job in helping to keep the village clean and tidy, but we are seeing some litter hot spots. One of the worst hot spots is Foxley Lane. Along with regular fly tipping, the regular litter picker in this area has found illegal nitrous oxide canisters. Please help keep our Parish clean and tidy. If you want to join our litter picking scheme, then please contact us.

**The Parish Council building will close for the Christmas break at 12pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.**

We will reopen to the public at 9am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. The office inbox will be monitored during this time.



**Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year!**



*Ceri, Amanda, Purveen, Alisa & Tracey*

**01344 454602, Binfield Parish Council at the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road, Binfield, RG42 4EW**

[office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) **Parish Office working hours: 9.00am-1pm Monday to Friday** [www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Season's Greetings!

It is that time of year again! Not only are we all gearing up for festive celebrations; the beginning of December also sees us celebrating the Foxes' Den's fifth birthday. Has it really been only five years?! They have been five very crazy years with lots of changes and many fun times, but also dealing with lockdowns and other challenges. Our wonderful customers have stuck with us through it all. Thank you, every one of you, and we are looking forward to our 6<sup>th</sup> year of keeping the coffee flowing and the community doing 'stuff'.

Talking of which; as this is a double edition of the Beacon we haven't really got the space and the activities all lined up yet for both December and January, so please do pop in and have a peak at our community chalkboard or our facebook page online to see what we have planned for the coming month or two. All the usuals will be there and we will try and come up with a couple of new ones when we can.

So, we hope that you are all being good so that Father Christmas will bring you a treat or two and if you want to treat yourselves, please pop into the Den and enjoy a seasonal coffee or hot chocolate and we will see what 2024 holds!

*Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!*  
Claire & Kerrin xx  
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### Don't miss the Official Binfield Village 2024 Calendar!

It's back!! Please pop along to the Den to pick up a copy of the 2024 A4 calendar. It is packed full of winning photographs of the local area and has enough space to keep a track of your daily activities. All for only £10 and for a good cause; to help look after our lovely village churches.



## Christmas @ The Den

We love Christmas here at the Den and we are very excited to have several festive events to celebrate...

### Binfield Village Christmas Lights Switch on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November: 6pm

We are hosting the village Christmas light switch on with carols, mince pies, mulled wine and a special offering of alcoholic hot chocolate from the takeaway window!

### Binfield Christmas Market

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December: 5pm – 8pm**

Come along to buy your Christmas tree, Christmas presents and treats and visit Santa in his grotto.

### Silver Club Christmas Party

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December: 12.30pm – 2.30pm**

Christmas refreshments, quiz, games and raffle

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – The Den closes at 12noon for Christmas – Merry Christmas Everyone! Xxx

**PLEASE CHECK IN TO SEE WHEN WE WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!**

**The 2023 Binfield Scarecrow Trail** was another fantastic Binfield event which provided so much fun for families during the October Half Term week...

Thanks to the 57 makers, the hospitality venues and friendly faces, the wet weather didn't stop everyone enjoying a good walk around the village to take in all of the creations.

As you may know the money raised goes to the Church Care Project and we will share the total from map sales as soon as we can.



The standard was exceptional yet again this year with some firm favourites including Harry Potter, Grandma's Cottage and a space alien! We look forward to seeing the

creations next year – keep an eye on <https://www.binfieldevents.com/> and the Facebook page for the sign up link to get involved for 2024!



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## BINFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

The nights are drawing in and it really is the season to curl up with a good book. We have a lovely warm space, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Our usual children's activities are continuing. Thursday morning **rhyme time** for the under 5s and their grown-ups is very popular. Everyone is welcome and we begin at 9.30 with singing and some wonderful percussion from the children, following up with a craft for those that would like to join in. It costs 50p per child for rhyme time only and £1.50 for rhyme time and craft. We will have a very special visit from Father Christmas on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, there is no need to book, please just come along and join in.

**Friday afternoon craft club** runs at 3.30 – 4.30 in term time and 2.30 – 4 in school holidays, it costs £1.50 per child and advance booking is advised to ensure a place. Many of you will have seen our fabulous Viking scarecrow during the Binfield scarecrow hunt, the children from the Friday afternoon craft club were involved in helping to make him, thank you!

**Lego** is on Monday afternoons and is **free**.

Our friendly **remembrance group** meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. The small £1 charge includes refreshments and we're always open to new discussion suggestions. We'll be reminiscing about the following topics over the next few weeks,

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Famous faces of the 1960's and 1970's.  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Reminiscence game (with mince pies and music)  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Trivial Pursuit game (1980s version)  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January - Travelling fairs  
Please feel free to bring along any related items or photos, everyone is welcome!

Our very popular **quiz** run by our wonderful quizmaster Derek continues to go from strength to strength. Held on Thursdays at 11 am on the second and fourth Thursday of the month it's a fun, relaxed, and welcoming group. The £1 charge includes refreshments, and everyone is welcome! **Please note** Derek will be taking a well earned break from his quiz master duties over Christmas so there will not be a quiz on 28<sup>th</sup> December, the quiz on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December will be the final quiz of 2023. Quiz will return on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

We also have started **Scrabble and Rummikub** groups as follows.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January at 2 pm, we'll be playing Scrabble and on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, also at 2 pm, we'll be enjoying a game of Rummikub. The £1.50 charge includes tea or coffee and a biscuit. These groups are in their early days so please come along to support them; we'd love to see you.

Finally, a call out to any knitters and natters out there who would like to get this group re-started. It previously met on the first Monday on the month 2- 4 pm and the third Saturday on the month 1.30-3.30 pm. This is a **free** event so do please come along



## REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND 2023

### Showing the armed forces you care

Saturday afternoon the sun was shining, and we had a good turnout for the Remembrance Service, at the War Memorial at St Mark's Church. The service was opened by The Royal British Legion, The Royal Naval Association, 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Guides and 3<sup>rd</sup> Binfield Brownies Standards paraded in to the march of The British Legion. The service started with a welcome and opening prayer from Reverend Luke Taylor. We then had 3<sup>rd</sup> Binfield Brownies remind us of the work The Royal British Legion do and how our armed forces continue to protect us, provide support during emergencies, and from risking their lives in war zones, to spending time away from their families. Wearing a poppy shows you care. A poem was read by Emily Sutton from Guides and a prayer was read by Ceri Rance from the Parish council office. Wreaths were then laid by Village Organisations. Luke read the 92 names on the Roll of Honour, which was followed by the last post, two minutes silence and then Reveille. The service ended with a prayer and blessing.

Sunday Morning Everyone had their fingers crossed that the rain would hold off! The parade formed up in Oakmede car park, led by a piper and our parade Marshall and made their way down to All Saint's Church, with just a slight shower on route. When we arrived at the Church, the standard bearers from The Royal British Legion and The Royal Naval Association, and colour parties from 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Scouts, 4<sup>th</sup> Binfield Guides, 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Cubs, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Binfield Brownies lined the path to the church, as the congregation arrived.

The Standards entered to "I vow to thee my country" and made their way to the altar. Harley Coles (Youth Member of the RBL), read from Galatians chapter 5 verses 22-25. The second reading was read by members of 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield Air Scouts, and prayers read by 1<sup>st</sup> Binfield

Brownies and 4<sup>th</sup> Binfield Guides, 3<sup>rd</sup> Binfield Brownies sang "We Won't Forget". The Standard Bearers made their way to and from the Roll of Honour to the strains of the bagpipes, Wreaths were laid and a poppy was dropped for each of Binfield's Fallen in All Conflicts. After the Last Post was played the two minutes silence followed, and then Reveille was played. The Standards were returned and a collection taken for the Poppy Appeal to the hymn 'Mine eyes have seen the glory'. After the National Anthem and blessing the service finished with the hymn 'I cannot tell'.

The parade then made its way back to Oakmede Place and got a little wet!

The Binfield Branch of The Royal British Legion would like to thank all of those who took part in both services, our affiliated members for all their support and Remembrance banner, the Poppies hanging in the lady chapel by The Binfield WI, the schools for the banners in the porch and decorations in the church, and the Village for their support each year and giving so generously.

We will let you know what Binfield raised for the poppy appeal in the February Beacon

### Karen Hatt Chairperson Binfield Branch of The Royal British Legion





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Scouts  
1st Binfield Air Scouts



**1st BINFIELD SCOUT GROUP  
 Charity CHRISTMAS POST scheme  
 1st – 16th December 2023**

The Scout Post delivery scheme will be taking place once again this Christmas. The Scout Post is operated by the 1st Binfield Scout Group, providing a Christmas delivery service to any household with a **Binfield address**, and at the same time raising funds for the whole Scout Group.

The cost is only **40p per card**. Each envelope will be stamped with the Scout Post logo, before being delivered on Sunday 17th December.

Please post your **carefully addressed** cards, and **40p** per card, in a CHRISTMAS POST box. These will be at the following places around Binfield, between Friday 1st December and Saturday 16th December:

**The Foxes' Den Café, Daphne's Coffee Shop,  
 Lloyds Pharmacy, Binfield Library,  
 and the 1st Binfield Scout Hut.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
**at All Saints' Church**

Sun 3rd Dec - 6.30pm - Until We Meet Again

Sun 17th Dec - 6.30pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 3pm & 5pm - Christingle  
 Christmas Eve - 11.30pm - Midnight Service

Christmas Day - 9.30am - Communion (BCP)  
 Christmas Day - 10.30am - All Age Christmas Celebration

Sun 31st Dec - 10am - Common Worship  
 Communion

*Christingle services*

**Christmas Eve  
 3.00pm or  
 5.00pm**

At All Saints' Church  
 All are welcome to this popular service

MERRY  
*Christmas*  
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Until we meet again** ✨

*A Service celebrating the Joy and Hope of Christmas remembering Loved Ones no longer with us.*

Beautiful Carols and Christmas Music with Occasions Singers

**Sunday the 3rd December at 6:30pm**  
 at All Saints Church, Church Hill, Binfield RG42 5NS

*please contact us for more information:*  
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