

# The Binfield Beacon

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



**December & January 2025/26**



## **This Month**

**Lighthouse update - page 5**

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**Christmas Services - page 16**

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

# DIARY

## DECEMBER 2025

<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
<b>Thurs 4<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup></b>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup></b>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
<b>Thurs 11<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at All Saints'
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at All Saints'

## JANUARY 2026

<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup></b>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
<b>Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Practice the presence of God at The Rectory
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's

## FEBRUARY 2026

<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's
<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup></b>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk

## MEN'S MONTHLY COUNTRY WALK

**DATES: Saturday 6th December, 3rd January and 7th 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)**

## 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 9th December, 20th January at 12 noon**

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

## CREATIVE TABLE

**DURING 11AM  
INFORMAL SERVICE  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

**WE HAVE THREE SEPARATE AREAS  
FOR CHILDREN TO ENJOY -  
THE CREATIVE TABLE, BUILDING AREA  
AND A READING CORNER**

**ALL CHILDREN WELCOME**

## 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.

**3rd December - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
17th December - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
7th January - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
21st January - 9am meet Foxes' Den  
4th February - 9am meet Foxes' Den**

For more information  
contact:  
Gisele on  
07724 889169



## PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The next month's Practice the Presence of God session takes place on

**Monday 26th January 7.30pm at The Rectory**

This is a time to be still and to practice listening to God and learning to recognise how he speaks to you.



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:**

**3rd and 10th December**

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**

## Join the Church Choir for Christmas

The glorious Church Choir welcomes extra members who would like to sing with us for the **Carol Service on Sunday 21st December.**

Practices take place at **7.30pm** on Thursdays in the Baxter Room at St Mark's with the last two (11th and 18th December) in All Saints. Singers should attend the majority, if not all, of the last 4 practices, starting 27th November.

**Contact Michael Hawkins  
(01344 411681) if you are interested.**



## INFORMAL

## WORSHIP

*and Prayer evening*

**Sunday 14th December & 11th January**

**7.00PM - 8.00PM  
St. Mark's Church**

A time to gather together and seek God through praise, worship, and reflection. These evenings offer a peaceful and uplifting opportunity to connect with God and one another.



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RECTOR & SERVICES



Father Christmas existed many years before Coca-Cola started to use him for its Christmas advertising campaign. Historians agree that this character

was inspired by Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra of the 4th Century, who was famous for leaving coins in the shoes and stockings of poor children. The legend of Santa bringing gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on the night of Christmas Eve became so popular in western culture that many illustrators attempted to bring him to life. Before 1931 Santa looked very different in various places. Sometimes tall and thin, or even like an elf. There was even a scarier version of him.

However, In 1931 Coca Cola was doing the maths on its sales. They noticed something, people bought Coca Cola in the summer, a little bit in the fall, a little bit in the spring, but not in the winter. People just didn't think of it as a winter drink. Coca Cola hired an artist named Haden Sundblum to paint Santa for their Christmas ads. His art work turned Santa into a happy man, with a round face and rosy cheeks, white hair, twinkling eyes and laughter lines. Sundblum version was inspired by a famous poem from 1822 called a visit from Saint Nicholas also known as t'was the night before Christmas.

Then the Coca Cola advertisers found a saint who was about to be decanonized, Santa Claus. They grabbed him and merged him with the story of Saint Nick. The inspiration was also to merge him with Kris Kringle. Kris Kringle was a Danish thief whose job in the day was a chimney sweep. He could pop his shoulders out and fit down a chimney. He would rob your house, and then work his way back up, but you'd have a clean chimney.

They stuck Saint Nick, now Santa Claus, in Coca Cola colours, red and white, made him into an old man, so he could have white hair and beard and rosy cheeks. Then they stuck him on the bottle. That's why periodically you'll see Sant Claus on Coca Cola bottle or can.

Is Christmas really all about an advertising campaign by Coca Cola? For the correct answer to that question we need to turn to Charlie Brown and Linus.

In a Charlie Brown Christmas, after everyone turns against him because of the Christmas tree he picked, and feeling that everything he does turns into a disaster, Charlie says, "I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about. Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"


Linus answers, "Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone*

## SERVICES

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

### DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service <i>(the Church will be decorated for Christmas after this service)</i>
	6.30pm	Until We Meet Again
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
	7.00pm	Informal Worship at St Marks
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Communion Service
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	<b>NO Informal Service</b>
	6.30pm	<b>Carol Service</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.00pm	<b>Christingle Service</b>
 CHRISTMAS EVE	5.00pm	<b>Christingle Service</b>
	11.30pm	<b>Midnight Service</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	<b>All Age Christmas Celebration</b>
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.45am	<b>Christmas Communion (Said only)</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	<b>Altogether Service with Communion</b>

### JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
Sunday 11 <sup>h</sup> Jan	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
	7.00pm	Informal Worship at St Marks
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service

### FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service

*around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 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 the 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 chapter 2 verses 8-14*

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

Stories taken from [citma.org.uk](http://citma.org.uk) & @collective-history on youtube & <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/RDE08IK9IAg>.

And <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXmGLJ0S1Bs>

**Luke Taylor**

## 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 Lucy Bowley  
[curate@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:curate@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Churchwarden:

Sue Cledwyn-Davies - 07941 585488  
Adrian Hinton - 07734 517626

### Assistant Churchwarden:

John Hargreaves - 07973 842624

### Church Office:

Administrator: Emilie Creasey  
**Office number 01344 421079**  
[office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Office opening hours:

#### Term Time:

Monday: 9.30am - 1.30pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am - 1.30pm  
Thursday: 9.30am - 1.30pm

### Safeguarding Officer:

Steve Whatley  
07922 663904  
[steve\\_elaine\\_whatley@hotmail.com](mailto:steve_elaine_whatley@hotmail.com)

### Binfield Beacon Editor:

Claire Thomas  
[beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Organist & Choirmaster:

Michael Hawkins  
01344 411681

### Bell Tower Captain:

Jan Glen  
07840 104455

### Treasurer:

Gigi Ho  
07456 249605  
[Treasurer@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Stewardship Secretary:

Andrea White  
01344 421079

### 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



### Join our mailing list!

Stay up to date with our news and events in between issues of the Beacon...

Scan this QR Code,  
or visit our website to sign up  
and see our Data Privacy Notice



[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!

<b>Jill Hanson</b>	<b>tel. 452694</b>
<b>Margareta Hawkins</b>	<b>tel. 411681</b>
<b>Gisele Taylor</b>	<b>tel. 07724 889169</b>
<b>Dave Dawson</b>	<b>tel. 360389</b>

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



### 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.



## 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

## The Binfield Beacon



### The deadline for Beacon Contributions for the February issue is

**Monday 12th January 2026**

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** The articles in this magazine reflect the personal opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or Editorial Team. Furthermore the Editorial Team are not responsible for any errors of fact printed in the magazine. Goods and services advertised in this magazine are not endorsed but readers utilising these facilities retain their statutory rights. The Binfield Beacon is produced by The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Binfield. Registered Charity number 1149382

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS



**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.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> November to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The presents shouldn't be wrapped and can either be given to Luke in church, dropped off at the church office during opening hours 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.



### A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS WITH BRACKNELL CHORAL SOCIETY

Following a busy and successful year, our final concert of 2025 is our ever-popular **Christmas Carol Concert**. Join us for an exciting programme of festive music in the glorious surroundings of **Royal Holloway College Chapel, University of London, Egham TW20 0EX** on **Sunday 21st December at 4pm**. This year's concert promises a blend of tradition and brilliance, featuring **Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols** and **Frank Ferko's A Festival of Carols** - two magnificent choral works that capture the spirit and wonder of Christmas. Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, in a version for mixed choir and harp, shimmers with radiant harmonies, weaving together the mystery and magic of the Nativity. In contrast, Ferko's *Festival of Carols* offers fresh settings of familiar carol melodies that are both stirring and joyful. Alongside these works, the evening will include a selection of **well-loved traditional carols** and gives the audience the chance to participate in the celebration. Led by **Greg Hallam**, our musical director and **Nick Austin** on organ, we are delighted to welcome harpist **Gwenllian Llyr** as soloist. **Tickets cost £15** (accompanied under 18s free), include a programme and can be bought via our website [www.bracknellchoral.org.uk](http://www.bracknellchoral.org.uk) or from choir members.



### CALL OUT FOR DONATIONS

The Lighthouse Team continue to cook and deliver home prepared meals for those in need. We help over 30 individuals and families as the "cost of living crisis" continues. We have two strong partnerships that have hugely contributed on a financial level and we thank The Warfield Park Residents and danetti accordingly. Recent support from a DWP grant has mean that we are stable through to March 2026 at

least. That said, we need your help please. Its one thing providing meals to help people, but other essentials are also required. Why not substitute a box of Christmas cards and stamps for any of these donation items below:

Coffee	Long life cakes
Tea	Long life fruit juice
Sugar	Bottles of Squash
Toilet paper	Shampoo & body wash
Biscuits	Boxes of cereal
Hot Chocolate (+ hot water variety)	

We will be building Christmas Hampers for our clients and it would be great to include basic, but needed, essentials as above. Items can be taken to St Marks Church during office open times 9.30am-1.30pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. Please mark any items clearly for "Lighthouse". Thank you in advance for any donation, however small, it really makes a difference. If you prefer to make a small financial donation this is also possible.

**For further information: [Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk)**



**10AM SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

Hello Binfield! The 10k Road Race around Binfield will be back! The 2026 event will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – further details will be released in due course.

If you want to take part, registration will open at midnight on 1 January 2026! Sign up early to secure your place as we always sell out!

If you would like to find out more about the Binfield 10K then please visit us at: [www.binfield10k.co.uk](http://www.binfield10k.co.uk) or find us on the socials @Binfield10k

# FUNDRAISING NEWS



**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A GINGERBREAD HOUSE, WREATH & MORE!**

Come and find us on our stalls at the Binfield Christmas Market... We will have stunning wreaths and amazing gingerbread creations on offer, as well as 2026 Binfield Calendars.

Funds raised will go to Church Care and general church running costs.




**BINFIELD CALENDAR 2026**



**£10**

On Sale at the Foxes' Den and the Blue Mountain Cafe

See the church website for more info




**easyfundraising**

Please remember to use **easyfundraising** while you do your Christmas shopping online!

Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise **FREE** donations for us no matter what you're buying.

Your donations really make a difference, so please sign up!

*Funds go to our Church Care Project!*




**easyfundraising** You shop, brands donate to us



**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 the Parish Share payment and Youth work

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

### Christmas Events

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>:** Binfield Christmas Market @ Parish Council  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>:** Wreath Making Workshops @ Parish Council

## Update

As another year draws to a close, we can reflect on all we have to be grateful for living in our lovely Binfield!

We were super lucky this year to enjoy a brilliant Quiz night in February, a Spring Plant Sale growing bigger each year, water and BBQ fun at the 10k, the Father's Day and Summer BBQs at Foxley Fields, a brand-new Eco Week event, music for Arts Week, the return of the Church Fete and the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Binfield Scarecrow Trail. Wow!

We get to finish things out in festive style with the **Binfield Christmas Market, wreath making workshops** and by selling the last few copies of the **Binfield Calendar**.

It's been wonderful to contribute to the excitement in the community and we have been hugely appreciative of the support you have all shown each time and for the help from those working behind the scenes to put on these events.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are very happy that the **Binfield Church Fete** will be back again, and we are hoping for more activities to be taking place to support the ramp up of the next phase of repairs and improvements at our churches.

We would love to welcome anyone who would be keen to help out at any of our events in any way - from marketing and creating posters to setting out tables or running a bar. Just drop us a line and let us know what you'd be up for doing!

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and start to the new year, and we'll see you for more fun then!

## 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 - Please contact us for the BACS details to make a bank transfer and 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!

Shop and raise funds at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk): search for Binfield PCC



**SCAN ME**



With many thanks from the Fundraising Team:

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

# CHURCH NEWS

## CHURCHWARDENS

**As Churchwardens we have a legal responsibility to look after the Churches.**

**We cannot do this without the help and support from you the congregation.**

**Christmas and the New Year are coming.**

**Advent is a time for reflection, and looking back over the last year.**

*We have welcomed Lucy as our Curate,*

*We have welcomed Emilie as our new Administrator.*

*Every Sunday we enter church, and there are new Flowers*

*We are greeted on arrival by a team of Welcomers,*

*During the services we enjoy the Choir, (now that they have new microphones to amplify their voices, we will have to sing louder to keep up with them) led by our organist and choirmaster, Michael.*

*Not forgetting the Readers, who again give their time to prepare and read for us.*

*At the 11am service the Band led by Luke, bring a lively service to the young children and families.*

*As we leave Church, there are Teas and Coffees brewing*

*Walking to and from church through the Churchyard, the Grass is cut.*

*Lastly all the other people doing many and varied jobs that help to maintain the churches and surrounding, Bell Ringers, Brass Cleaners, Clock Winders, Beacon editor.*

All the above are provided by some amazing Volunteers, who give their time so generously.

**We cannot thank you all enough, you are all appreciated.**

**Finally, we have to thank our Rector, Luke, for being there on hand at all times to provide spiritual guidance and food for thought every Sunday with his Talks.**

Looking forward to next year when we will be commencing work on our Welcoming Spaces project.

We have had our first Fete committee meeting for 2026, if any one wants to join us, you would be most welcome.

**On behalf of Sue, John, and I, we hope Christmas brings you all the love and Blessings in his name.**



## Until we meet again ✨

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

**Beautiful Carols, Readings and Christmas Music**



**Sunday 7th December at 6:30pm**  
at All Saints Church, Church Hill, Binfield RG42 5NS

**Please contact us for more information:**

javoller@gmail.com  
07815529156

## VERSE OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2025

But when the set time had fully come,  
God sent his Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law,  
to redeem those under the law, that we  
might receive adoption to sonship.

CONTRIBUTED BY REV. LUCY BOWLEY

GALATIANS 4: 4-5

## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

BLIZZARD	JINGLE
CAROL	MISTLETOE
CHIMNEY	ORNAMENT
ELF	PRESENTS
FATHER CHRISTMAS	REINDEER
FIREPLACE	SLEIGH
FROST	SNOWFLAKE
GINGERBREAD	SNOWMAN
HOUSE	STOCKING
HOLLY	WREATH
ICICLE	

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

## Boiler & Heating Problems?

Family Run Established Local Company

# DRAYTON

BOILER SERVICES

New Installation  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## ECO CHURCH WATCH

As we snuggle into warm blankets, sipping hot

chocolate, it seems as though the world has become reduced by darker evenings, less time to walk the dog, for children to play outdoors, to get home to the warm and dry. There was an advertising slogan, 'Small is Beautiful,' and this concept really lifts the mood of winter.

Small, singular leaves silvered and whitened by hoarfrost and, sometimes reduced to translucent filigreed, lacy designs by the loss of chlorophyll, are a natural wonder, so exquisite, so delicate. Then, there are the skeleton husks of umbellifers, such as Cow Parsley or Wild Carrot, dipped in frost. Why not take a photo to share, do a quick sketch, or stitch a lacy leaf design when you spot them?

First time, I saw a small brown wren flittering and hopping around the undergrowth, I was entranced. I put out some mealworms for my new friend who, as a member of a mainly insectivorous species, was very happy whilst I could watch quietly from the window. Another small wonder was the goldcrest, Britain's smallest bird weighing the same as a 20p coin. Aptly named birds, the male's fiery yellow and orange head crest shouts 'look at me!' The female's crest is nearly as bright, as the male's crest, but is all yellow. When catching insects, they will hang upside down to grab them from the

underside of tree branches.

I have been reading 'Late Light' by Michael Malay. As a student and immigrant to Bristol, he made friends with an ornithologist who introduced him to yellowhammers and skylarks. He was hooked and fell in love with nature. Later, he found that development was threatening the countryside and its species. He wrote 'Late Night' to celebrate the forgotten species that are so important to the eco system such as moths and crickets. He wanted to highlight the way the little things effect the larger ones and vice versa, how every species, including us, is linked. In the book, he brings out the magic of hearing crickets, the beat of moths' wings and explains the importance of not forgetting the small species, not only their beauty and interest, but also their impact on the cycle of nature and how we depend on them.

Why not keep a nature notebook, whether on paper or phone, of the beauty and wonder you experience around you on those crisp, cold winter walks? When feeding the birds, look out for and feed the smaller species as well as the larger ones!

**Kate Ellison-Bourne**



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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## News from Binfield Parish Council

Welcome to the December 2025 and January 2026 edition of Binfield Parish Council News. In this edition, we are looking forward to our upcoming winter events. As well as sharing the latest Parish news.



### December 2025 Meetings

Tuesday 2 December	Amenity Committee	8pm
Tuesday 9 December	Parish council	8pm
Tuesday 16 December	Planning and Transportation Committee	8pm

### January 2026 Meetings

Tuesday 20 January	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 27 January	Planning and Transportation Committee	8pm

### Upcoming Events

#### Binfield Parish Annual Christmas Tree Light Switch On! (Foxley Fields)

**Thursday 27 November 6.00pm –8.00pm, light switch on 6.30pm.**

Join us for the annual light switch on! at the Parish Council offices (Foxley Fields), with refreshments at The Foxes' Den Café. Join your Parish Councillors, the Binfield Community Choir and possibly a very special guest as we turn on the lights and enjoy some carol singing around the tree. **We will be accepting donations for the Food Bank on the evening of the light switch on.**

Binfield Parish Christmas Tree Locations: Foxley Fields, Knox Green Corner, Roebuck Estate, Travelodge (London Road) and Binfield Community Centre.

#### Binfield Christmas Market (Foxley Fields)

**Monday 1 December 5.00pm-8.00pm**

This year Binfield Parish Council in partnership with the Foxes' Den Café will be running the Binfield Christmas Market, we are just caretaking this for a year while their committee has a break. There will be the usual festive community stalls, mulled wine, mince pies, Christmas trees to purchase and carol singing. **Parking is limited on Benetfeld Road and the Parish car park is for accessible parking only. Please use Oakmede shops to park and walk where you can.**

#### Christmas Silver Sunday (Binfield Community Centre)

**Sunday 14 December 12.00 –2.30pm**

**Please note the venue change, it will be held at Binfield Community Centre, Wood Lane. If you require transport please let us know and we can see what we can do to help.**

We are hosting a Christmas Silver Club at Binfield Community Centre for anyone 50 or over in our community. Come along for some festive fun and entertainment and meet some new friends. Please call or pop in the office to book your FREE space or email: [events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
We look forward to seeing you!

#### Annual Parish Meeting

**March 2026**

Our Annual Parish meeting will take place in March 2026. There will be refreshments and an opportunity to talk to your Councillors as well as hearing from our grant recipients and the ceremony of the Parish People Awards. Further details to follow.

## News from Binfield Parish Council



### **Parish People Awards 2026**

Do you know someone who deserves an Award? We want to thank and reward people living in the Binfield Parish and who deserve recognition for community activity, environmental achievements or in some other way contributes to the life of the Parish.

Categories

1. Individual
2. Non-profit organisation/ voluntary group
3. Business

For further details on the Award Nomination pick up a form from the Parish Office or go online at the Parish Council website. The Award Ceremony will take place at the Annual Parish meeting in March 2026. **Closing date for applications 28th February 2026**

### **Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield Arts Week 2025**

We had another successful Arts week over the October half term. There were over 40 arts, crafts and music events for residents of the parishes, taking place across various venues. There was also a three day Community Arts and Craft exhibition at the Brownlow Hall. We hope you managed to attend some of the events and we will soon be planning again for 2026. With this in mind, if you have any feedback or suggestions about arts week then please get in touch with the office.

### **Binfield Parish Remembrance Parade**

Binfield Parish Council would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone that helped make this year's Remembrance Parade such a meaningful and well organised event. Our sincere appreciation goes to the road closure team, Ross at the Boorman Group and our volunteer marshals for ensuring the parade ran safely and smoothly. Thanks also go to the piper, drummer and bugler for their moving contributions; the Royal British Legion standard bearers and our local Youth groups for their proud participation; and to all who came together in Remembrance and for all the readings, poems, wreath laying, songs and decorations in the Church and around the Parish. Much appreciation is given for the support and dedication of our community to honour those who served and sacrificed their tomorrows.

**We are looking for volunteers to help crochet more poppies so we can increase our displays around the Parish next year. If you would like to get involved please contact [events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



### **Binfield Parish Council Christmas Opening hours**

The Parish Council building will close for the Christmas break at 12pm on Friday 19th December 2025 and will re-open to the public at 9am on Monday 5th January 2026. The office and booking email enquiries will be monitored during this time.



**We wish all our residents a very safe and Happy Christmas and New Year!**



**Ceri, Hayley, Amanda, Purveen, Alisa, Tracey and Jo**

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

Parish Office working hours: 9.00am-1pm Monday to Friday

[office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Merry December!

We hope everyone is starting to feel the Christmas spirit. December is always a busy and exciting month here at The Den, with lots of wonderful pop-ups and festive preparations for the holiday season. Don't forget to stop by and treat yourself/someone else to a delicious cake, coffee or yummy lunch – the perfect treat while soaking up the festive atmosphere.

We're especially excited for the **Binfield Christmas Market on Monday 1st December, 5pm–8pm**, where there will be plenty of stalls, mulled wine, and mince pies to enjoy. It's a fantastic way to support local businesses, see our community and get into the Christmas mood!

A huge thank you to all of our amazing customers for another wonderful year – your support means so much to us. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, warmth and community spirit.

*Kerrin & Niamh x*

*foxesden.co.uk @foxesdenbinfield 01344 305500  
Benetfeld Road, Binfield. RG42 4EW*



### Happy New Year & Hello January!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a joyful start to 2026! January can bring chilly mornings and shorter days, but here at The Den, we've got plenty of warm drinks, delicious cakes, and comforting food to make even the coldest days feel a little brighter. There's nothing like a hot coffee and a sweet treat to lift your spirits and start the year off right.

This month is a perfect time to slow down after the festive rush, enjoy quality moments with friends and family, and connect with our local community. We love seeing familiar faces return and welcoming new visitors to our little corner of Binfield – it's what makes The Den such a special place.

Looking ahead, we're excited about all the events, pop-ups, and seasonal treats 2026 has in store. From sharing good food and drinks to celebrating with our amazing community, we can't wait to make this year another memorable one.

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful customers for your support – it truly means the world to us. Wishing everyone a fantastic 2026, filled with happiness, health, and plenty of special moments together!

### FOXY LUNCHES

If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family at any time, please don't go hungry.



These lunch boxes are **FREE** to Binfield Parishioners and we can arrange to have extra supplies delivered if you need them. Call or email in the strictest confidence and we will make sure that you have food on your table. Kerrin 07377048429  
hello@foxesden.co.uk

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SCAN ME

### Safety First...

We love all our customers and want everyone to have the best experience whilst in the café - with that in mind please can we remind parents and carers to not let their children run around the café. We have had some close calls with hot drinks and we really don't want to upset our little visitors by calling them out on it in front of everyone else..

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Celebrate Christmas*

**23 NOV** **Christmas Craft Fair**  
Doors open at noon. Come and join us for make and take workshops, various craft stalls, food and music.

**30 NOV** **Newbold School Christmas fair**  
Festive stalls, Christmas Carols, Crafts, Games, Food and drinks Plus a Magical photo booth. 1pm - 4pm

**01 DEC** **Nativity Scenes**  
from dusk to 10pm come and see the story of the birth of Jesus told through Nativity sets, even lego. Finishes on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**06 DEC** **Adventus Domini**  
Come and join Adventus Domini, renowned choir, as they share the Christmas story through carols and readings. Service begins at 11:15am.

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# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Saturday 6th December**  
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**Binfield CE Primary, Benetfield Road, RG42 4EW**

**Featuring:**

- Santa's Grotto
- Christmas games
- Raffle & tombola
- Festive food & drink
- And lots more!

**If you are able to donate a prize for our raffle we will advertise your business!**  
**Please email [secretary@fob-s.co.uk](mailto:secretary@fob-s.co.uk)**

 **Scouts**   
1st Binfield Air Scouts



**1st BINFIELD SCOUT GROUP**  
**Charity CHRISTMAS POST scheme**  
**1st – 20th December 2025**

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 21st 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 Monday 1st December and Saturday 20th December:

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

# ClothesBank

**Ready for our Winter Giveaway in February we specifically need (good quality and clean):**

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**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
at All Saints' Church

Sun 7th Dec - 6.30pm - Until We Meet Again

Sun 21st Dec - 6.30pm - Carol Service

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

Christmas Day - 10.00am - All Age Christmas Celebration  
Christmas Day - 1030am - Communion Service (Said only)

Sun 28th Dec - 10am - Altogether Service with Communion




*Christingle services*

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