

The Binfield Beacon

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



February 2026



Popes Meadow—N Weaving

This Month

Silver Service - can you help - page 3

Gardening Club update - page 9

Parish News - pages 10 and 11

Our mission is connecting people with others and Jesus.

Church Office: 01344 421079 office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk [facebook.com/allsaintswithstmarks](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintswithstmarks)
www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk Produced by All Saints' with St Mark's Churches

SERVICES AND DIARY

SERVICES

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

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1 st	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
	7.00pm	Informal Worship at St Marks
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service with Communion
Wed 18 th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service

MARCH 2026

Sunday 1 st	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service



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



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:

4th, 11th, 25th February and 4th, 11th, 18th March

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**

MEN'S MONTHLY COUNTRY WALK

DATES: Saturday 7th February and 7th March

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

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 17th February at 12 noon

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

DIARY

FEBRUARY 2026

Wed 4 th	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 5 th	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Sat 7 th	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
Wed 11 th	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 12 th	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Mon 16 th	7.30pm	Practice the presence of God at The Rectory
Tues 17 th	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
Thurs 19 th	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Wed 26 th	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 27 th	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church

MARCH 2026

Wed 4 th	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Sat 7 th	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk

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.

4th February - 9am meet Foxes' Den

18th February - NO WALK

4th March - 9am meet Foxes' Den

18th March - 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 16th February 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.

INFORMAL

WORSHIP

and Prayer evening

Sunday 8th February

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



THE CROW

A crow was deeply unhappy with his life. One day, crying on a branch, a monk noticed his tears and asked, "Why are you crying?"

The crow replied, "everyone dislikes me. I wish I were someone else."

The monk said, "I will help you. But first, ask a swan if he is truly happy."

The crow flew to the Swan. The Swan said, "I am not happy. I am only white. Surely the Parrot lives happier than I do."

The Parrot said, "I am not happy either. People capture me and lock, me in a cage. The Peacock must be the happiest."

The Peacock said, "People admire me, but I live confined in a zoo. You are free, Crow. I wish I had your life."

We often compare our lives with others and forget our own blessings.

Ecclesiastes in the Bible reminds us, *It is better to see what you have than to want more. Wanting more is useless – like chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes chapter 6 verse 9.*

Story taken from Instagram, mental.aspect **Luke Taylor**

VERSE OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2026

"PLACE ME LIKE A SEAL ON YOUR ARM, FOR LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH, ITS JEALOUSY UNYIELDING AS THE GRAVE. IT BURNS LIKE BLAZING FIRE, LIKE A MIGHTY FLAME. MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE, RIVERS CANNOT SWEEP IT AWAY. IF ONE OFFERED FOR LOVE ALL THE WEALTH OF ONE'S HOUSE, IT WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORNED."

CONTRIBUTED BY CONAL O'GORMAN

SONG OF SONGS 8 :6-7



Silver Service can you help?

The Silver Service is celebrating its 21st birthday this month!

The Silver Service for those who do not know, is a traditional short service designed and led by our retired congregation members, followed by a delicious homemade lunch. When it first began only sandwiches and cakes were offered, but a member of the congregation felt called by God to provide hot meals, a role she faithfully continued for many years.

Since she stepped down, we've been blessed with two wonderful teams who have taken turns cooking for us every other month. One of these teams has now had to retire, so we are looking for someone to take over from February 2026 onwards.

The role involves preparing a main course for up to 30 people and a vegetarian option for two, and serving the meal at St. Mark's Church at 12:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month. The Silver Service covers all ingredient costs.

If you would like to help or find out more, please contact **Margareta Hawkins** on 07934 135855.

From the Registers:



Baptisms

Alice Katie Edwards
Rocco George Edwards
Sonny Ace Edwards

Funeral

Liz Ferris

Would you like to listen to Luke's weekly talks on living life better?

Join the WhatsApp group...
text Luke on
07939 526361

The Binfield Beacon

The deadline for Beacon Contributions for the March issue is:

Monday 9th February 2026

Please email:
beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)



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

Curate: Revd Lucy Bowley
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

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

Binfield Beacon Editor:
Claire Thomas
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

Stewardship Secretary:
Andrea White
01344 421079

Fundraising Team
fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk
Church Website:
www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

 We are also on Facebook
facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks

The Church Office is sited in St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church	All Saints' Church
Popeswood Road	Church Hill
Binfield RG42 4AH	Binfield RG42 5NS



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www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/contact-list-sign-up/



Praying for and with you

We have weekly prayer sheets — please email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk if you would like something to be included.



**Bereavement Support
Friday Morning at Foxes Den**

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
Margareta Hawkins 01344 411681



**Bereavement Support
Coffee Morning**

**Binfield Community Centre, Wood Lane,
RG42 4EX**

Every Tuesday 10.00am-11.30am

If you've experienced the loss of someone close and would appreciate gentle understanding and company, please join us for our new bereavement support coffee morning. This is a friendly volunteer-led group (not run by professionals), offering a relaxed and supportive space to chat, listen, or simply sit with others who understand. There's no pressure to share, just come as you are.

We will be offering complimentary refreshments throughout January. Free parking in the shared car park with Binfield Surgery or an overflow car park a short walk away. Please do pop down and see us.

For further information please email events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or pop in and see us at the Parish Office.



**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. 01344 452694
Margareta Hawkins tel. 01344 411681
Gisele Taylor tel. 07724 889169
Dave Dawson tel. 01344 360389

Or contact the church office on 01344 421079 or email 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 for more information or to make a booking.

FUNDRAISING NEWS



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

Update

The loooong month of January has finally come to an end and we are excited to look ahead to the activities which will be happening this year to support our ongoing fundraising. After the success of our **Quiz Night** last year, we are really pleased that we have been able to schedule in another date on **Saturday 21st March**. Tickets are on sale now and team spaces are usually snapped up quickly! So, if you'd like to join in the fun, head over to the church website soon, book your tickets and drop us a message with your team name. We can't wait to feel the sun on our faces again in May, so we will be getting busy again with two more of our favorite annual events. We'll be supporting the **Binfield 10k** with refreshments at the BBQ and on the All Saints' water station. If you would like to help us, please let us know as we love to see more faces on the teams. Our **Plant Sale** will also be returning – this time for one day only. Last year's sale was brilliant - we were really blessed to receive some amazing plant donations and we'd love to hear from you if you might have some to offer too! Look out for the update on this year's **Binfield Church Fete** and more news on the progress of the repair project which is picking up this year.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Saturday 21st March: Quiz Night @ St. Mark's Church, 7:30pm.
Sunday 17th May: Binfield 10k
Sat 23rd May: Spring Plant Sale at The Foxes' Den



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 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 and easyfundraising.org.uk: search for **Binfield PCC**



SCAN ME



With many thanks from the Fundraising Team:

fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

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11:00 AM -
3:00 PM

SEPT 13,
2026

St Mark's
Church, Binfield

More information:
www.binfieldchurchfete.co.uk

If you'd like to be part of bringing the fete to life, we'd love to hear from you. To get involved or find out more, please email binfieldchurchfete@gmail.com.

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TRADITIONAL HATA YOGA

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ECO CHURCH WATCH

Having taken friends to South Hill Park to see another friend's exhibition, we decided to walk some of the pathways, discovering the burlled and knotted texture of old tree

trunks, indicating a long history of people's connections with the trees and the pathways. Before the 15th Century, it was part of Windsor Forest where the Crown had rights of timber and deer pasturage. Did a Herne the Hunter figure care for the deer and cut the timber? Did a poor peasant risk taking some twigs to warm their fire in the bleak winter cold? We started thinking about the relevance of pathways, the events taken place, the people walking or working around them. We spooked ourselves when my literary friend talked about pathways as a process, a way to achieve a goal or journey. Quoting Walter de la

Mare's 'The Listeners', where a lonely traveller seeking his purpose finds the people he was supposed to meet, and answers he was to find, gone. These ghosts are parts of history as we are all part of history.

I felt more reassured by facts and research from the University of Derby who discussed the positive effects of pathways on our physical and mental health. Overall, we connect with nature through pathways, taking in their beauty as in when we walk and see the nascent green of young shoots appearing at path edges. Our senses take in the fresh scent of the blackthorn in March, we can 'taste' the fresh spring air. This interaction refreshes our emotions as we connect with our surroundings. We experience positive feelings in the joy of being part of the natural world and we appreciate the communality of living creatures, helping us to care for nature, for example, by making sure hedgehogs have easy access to our gardens via pathways.

My friends and I compared notes of the importance of pathways in our lives, where we have the privilege of sharing with nature. They told me of the disused railway walks in Sussex such as the Centurion Way, following the dismantled line between Chichester and Midhurst. It was named by a schoolboy as it passes through a Roman road. My friends imagine the foot weary legion walking miles to get to their next camp.

On walks along the Ridgeway, I like to stop off and feel the history around me. The atmosphere of Wayland's Smithy is such that you feel near to those who were buried in this early neolithic long barrow. I like to think that they respected nature, taking only what they needed, whether animals or plants, for food, shelter and clothing. Despite the harsh conditions, they looked up and appreciated a beautiful sunrise or sunset as they set off to forage along ancient pathways. The Ridgeway is also home to the Uffington White Horse, the stylized horse cut into the landscape could have been created by present day artists such is its beauty and abstraction of design, giving the shape and essence of a horse. What were the thoughts of its designer, or designers, as they walked up the hill to say, 'Yes, this is the ideal site.'

As the weather and light improves, this is the time to explore a bit further afield and seek new pathways, and make new journeys, to add to the old favourites. Enjoy them!

Kate Ellison-Bourne



BINFIELD GARDEN CLUB REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

We are already a month into 2026 but a belated Happy New Year from everyone in Garden Club.

2025 was a very successful year for us with new members joining and a full programme of excellent speakers culminating in a great Christmas party in December. Our annual plant sale raised a record amount of money for the club and we had a wonderful day out at Gardeners' World plant fair at Beaulieu in June.

2026 has already begun with our regular January speaker, Mike Coker of Binfield Environment Group. Mike brings us up to date on the flora and fauna around Binfield, what is thriving and what needs help. Regular counts are made in our green spaces and we were pleased to hear that 20 types of butterflies and 66 species of birds have been noted in the last year, including the Dartford Warbler seen for the first time. PS This is a robin!!



2026 will be another year of varied and interesting speakers on our club evenings which are the first Thursday of each month, 7.15pm at Binfield Memorial Hall. Visitors are most welcome for £5, which includes refreshments. We always have a good raffle and sometimes gardening bric a brac available.

Check our website for details and you will find talks ranging from hedgehogs to perennials, dahlias to the history of Squires Garden Centre and many more.

We will also have an outing to West Dean Gardens, West Sussex in the summer and a very good event is planned for Christmas!

So please make a late New Year's resolution to come and give us a try, you will be most welcome.

binfieldgardenclub.wordpress.com and look for flashes on Facebook.



News from Binfield Parish Council



Welcome to the February 2026 edition of Binfield Parish Council News. We are looking forward to sharing the latest Parish Information.

February 2026 Meeting

Tuesday 10 February	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 24 February	Planning and Transportation Committee	8pm
Wednesday 18 March	Annual Parish Meeting, Binfield Community Centre, Wood Lane, RG42 4EX. 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	7pm

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 on March 18, 2026.

Closing date for applications 28th February 2026

Bereavement Support Coffee Morning - Every Tuesday 10.00am-11.30am at Binfield Community Centre, Wood Lane, RG42 4EX

If you've experienced the loss of someone close and would appreciate gentle understanding and company, please join us for our new bereavement support coffee morning.

This is a friendly volunteer-led group (not run by professionals), offering a relaxed and supportive space to chat, listen, or simply sit with others who understand. There's no pressure to share, just come as you are.

Christmas Round-Up – Binfield Parish

Our Christmas tree light switch on raised an incredible amount for the food bank:

£124.63 in cash

£361.50 online via the QR code

Total raised: £486.13

Our festive elf went shopping and delivered much-needed food to the food bank before Christmas. Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity.

What a lovely afternoon we had at the Silver Club Christmas event at Binfield Community Centre! We enjoyed amazing entertainment from Natasha King, along with Christmas quizzes and bingo. The food and drink were flowing, and everyone went home with a small gift bag at the end. It certainly put us all in the festive spirit. The next Silver Club will be in **October 2026** – we look forward to seeing you then!

History of Binfield Parish

We have recently discovered some wonderful old photographs of Binfield and would love to display them for the community to enjoy. If you have any photographs of the parish that you would be happy to donate, or allow us to copy, we would be extremely grateful. Every image helps us build a richer picture of Binfield's past.

Please get in touch with us at: events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you for helping us preserve and celebrate the history of our parish.

News from Binfield Parish Council



Parish Events 2026 – This Year at a Glance

Please add these dates to your diary and come along to support and enjoy everything our parish has to offer.

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 18 March 2026	Annual Parish Meeting	7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Refreshments provided. Meet your Parish Councillors and Parish People Award winners and
March Date TBA 2026	Opening of new Blue Mountain	Further details to follow
Sunday 3 May 2026	Annual Village Event – May Day Fun	Join us on Foxley Fields for a fun-filled community celebration. Everyone welcome!
Saturday 6 June – Sunday 14 June 2026	The Great Big Green Week	The UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.
Saturday 27 June 2026	Armed Forces Day – Community Event	Held at Binfield Community Centre. A chance to come together and show support for our Armed Forces.
Friday 24 July 2026	Binfield Parish Summer of Fun – Family Fun Day	At Farley Wood Community Centre, 11am–3pm. A great day out for all the family.
Sunday 4 October 2026	Silver Sunday – National Event	For anyone in our community aged 50+. Enjoy entertainment, quizzes, and the chance to meet new people. Light refreshments provided.
Sunday 25 October – Sunday 1 November 2026	Arts Week – Organised by Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield.	Arts, crafts and music events for residents aimed at adults and children.
Sunday 8 November 2026	Remembrance Day Parade	Organised by BPC with support from the RBL and RNA and local youth groups
Wednesday 11 November 2026	Remembrance Day	Service and Lamp light of peace
Thursday 19 November 2026	Binfield Parish Christmas Light Switch on!	Switching on of the parish Christmas trees, carol singing and festive refreshments.
December Date TBA 2026	Christmas Quiz Night	Held at Binfield Community Centre, further details to follow.
Sunday 13 December 2026	Silver Club Christmas	For anyone in our community aged 50+. Enjoy festive entertainment, quizzes, and the chance to meet new people. Light refreshments provided.

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

www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

bookings@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

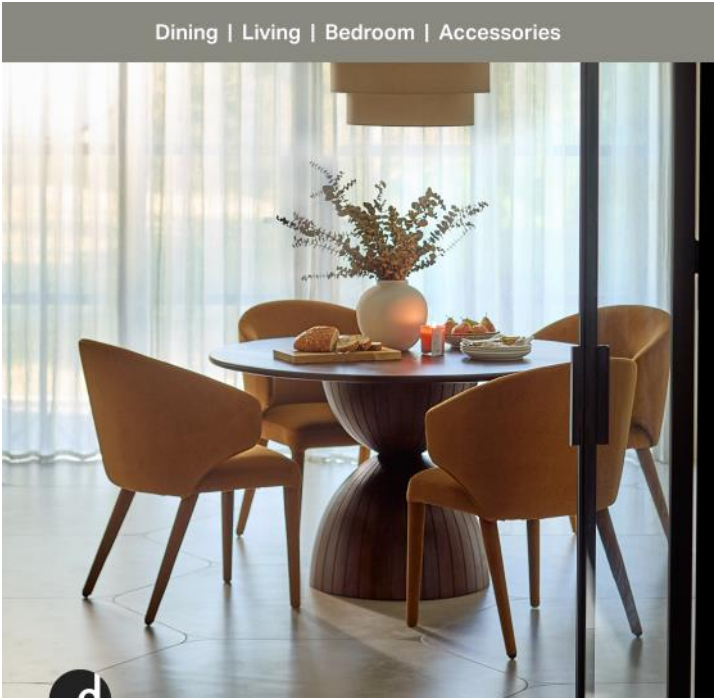
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The Foxes' Den
 COFFEE FOOD COMMUNITY

**A February Full Of Coffee,
 Cake & Community**

Spring isn't far away and we hope everyone is keeping warm and well during the colder days. February is the perfect time to pop in for a **lovely coffee, sweet treats and comforting food**, whether you're catching up with friends or enjoying a cosy Valentines coffee date.

At The Foxes Den, community is at the heart of everything we do. Alongside our drinks and cakes, we also offer a **pop-up table space** for local charities and businesses to showcase what they do/offer and to connect with the community.

If you'd like to find out more or get booked in, please email us - hello@foxesden.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you this February for warm drinks, sweet moments and great community spirit.

Kerrin & Niamh x

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



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

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..



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