

# The Binfield Beacon

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



**April 2026**



Bluebell Wood - J Edwards

## **This Month**

- Eco Nature Fun Day - page 5**
- ClothesBank help needed - page 11**
- May Day Celebration - page 14**
- Easter Services - page 16**

**Connecting people to Jesus the Bible and others**

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

# SERVICES AND DIARY

## SERVICES

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

### APRIL 2026

<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7.30pm	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	2.00pm	<b>GOOD FRIDAY HOUR AT THE CROSS</b>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> EASTER SUNDAY	8.15am 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion Common Worship Communion Informal Service (followed by Easter Egg Hunt)</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am 11.00am 7.00pm	<b>Common Worship Communion Informal Service Informal Worship at St Marks</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am 11.00am	<b>Common Worship Communion Informal Service with Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am 11.00am	<b>Common Worship Communion Informal Service</b>

### May 2026

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.15am 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion Common Worship Communion Informal All Age Baptism Service</b>
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## DIARY

### APRIL 2026

<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup></b>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
<b>Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Practice the presence of God at The Rectory
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
<b>Thurs 30<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church

### MAY 2026

<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk 3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church

### 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.

**1st April - NO WALK**  
**15th April - 9am meet Foxes' Den**  
**6th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den**  
**20th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den**

For more information contact:  
 Gisele on  
 07724 889169



**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:

**22nd, 29th April and 6th, 13th, 20th May**

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 4th April and 2nd May**

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)

### PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

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

**Monday 27th April 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.

### 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 21st April at 12 noon**

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

### INFORMAL

## WORSHIP

*and Prayer evening*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**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



## CHECKMATE

There's a picture in the Louvre called Checkmate. The Devil sitting on this side. There's a chess board and there's a man station on the other side and the man sitting on the other side has his hand on his head like he's in desperation.



And as they were taking a tour through the Louvre, there had been a group of athletes and particularly world champions that were being given a special tour. And in the tour was the world chess champion. He comes walking by the picture and the guide explains to them, this is the picture of an artist's rendering of somebody who lost a battle with the devil.

And so the group moved onto the next picture to see something else. But the world chess champion stayed there and he just kept looking at the picture. Soon they noticed that he was not with the group, so the tour guide came back and said, "We have moved on, are you coming?"

The chess champion said, "Well, I've been looking at this picture."

The tour guide said, "Yes, it's called checkmate, the Devils laughing, the man's lost."

And he said, "Yes I've been noticing that....but while I've been standing here, I've kept looking at the picture, and I've got a problem."

The tour guide said, "Well, what do you mean?"

He said, "You know that I'm a world Champion chess player and I spend my life playing chess, and normal people don't always see what a world champion chess player sees. When you all walked off I looked up the devil laughing and I looked at the man in desperation and I noticed something on the chess board. Either they are going to have to change the painting or they need to change the name."

The guide said, "So why are they going to have to do that?"

"Well, as a world champion chess player, when I observed the board, I found out the king still has one more move."

Easter reminds us that no matter how bad things might look, it isn't checkmate, the King still has one more move.

To paraphrase a verse from the Bible, **Jesus didn't come to rub it in, he came to rub it out. (God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John chapter 3 verse 17.)**

Happy Easter.

*Luke Taylor*

## EASTER SERVICES

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL AT 7:30PM  
A quiet, reflective service

**GOOD FRIDAY** - 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL AT 2PM  
An hour at the cross

**EASTER SUNDAY** - 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT  
8.15AM - BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER COMMUNION  
9.30AM - COMMON WORSHIP COMMUNION  
11.00AM - INFORMAL EASTER CELEBRATION  
with an egg hunt after the 11am


*Everybody welcome*

VERSE OF THE MONTH  
APRIL 2026


The Lord will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a  
sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:II

Contributed by Emilie Creasey



**From the Registers:**



### Funeral

Muriel (Carole) Jean Marwood

Photo by [Lucy Gooding](#) on

**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

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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

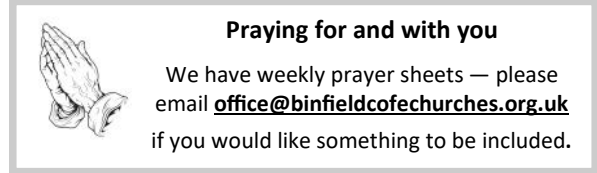
<b>St Mark's Church</b>	<b>All Saints' Church</b>
Popeswood Road	Church Hill
Binfield RG42 4AH	Binfield RG42 5NS



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**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**  
**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**



**Baptisms**

BAPTISMS ARE TAKEN WITHIN THE 11AM SERVICE ON THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

BAPTISM IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO LIVES IN THE PARISH OR IS ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND A REGULAR WORSHIPPER.

FOR FULL DETAILS ON HOW TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT HAYLEY AT THE CHURCH OFFICE - [OFFICE@BINFIELDCOFECHURCHES.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@BINFIELDCOFECHURCHES.ORG.UK) OR 01344 421079



**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](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



**The Binfield Beacon**

The deadline for Beacon Contributions for the May issue is:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Please email:  
[beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)



**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.

# 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

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May:** Eco Nature Fun Day @St Mark's 11-3pm  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Binfield 10k  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June:** Spring Plant Sale at The Foxes' Den

## Update

We are excited that plans for the Welcoming Spaces project are moving along, with the outside areas of All Saints' being the initial focus. We need to start with modernising the drainage system, which is urgently needed during the heavier rain we have been experiencing. Wheelchair friendly access is really important to us and therefore will also be a key aim. We will share further updates as plans become more formalised, but contributions to our fundraising will all be helping with this vital work.

The early May Day holiday sees the return of the Nature Fun Day. Look out for the free nature trail booklet available from local Primary schools and community centres. Bring your completed the trail quiz to the Fun Day to claim a prize! Stalls will include lots of local groups offering activities including nest box making and some friendly bats to meet. Further children's activities will be on offer along with refreshments, ice cream van and a barbecue.

Supporting the Binfield 10k with both a water station by All Saints' and a BBQ on Foxley Fields is a real pleasure. If you would like to join the teams at either venue we'd love to see you.



## 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)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## 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

## Brewing Up a Beautiful April!

April has arrived! Spring is well and truly in the air here at The Foxes Den. We hope everyone has enjoyed or is still enjoying the Binfield Easter Egg Hunt. We also hope everyone has a wonderful Easter filled with family, friends and of course plenty of chocolate!

Speaking of chocolate... keep your eyes peeled this month, as we'll have plenty of treats featuring everyone's favourite mini eggs.

With the days getting a little longer and brighter, April is a lovely time to stop by. Whether the weather brings sunshine or one of those classic spring showers, we're here to help make the month a little brighter with great coffee, delicious cakes and hearty lunches.

The Foxes Den has always been about more than just coffee. It's a place where the community comes together, whether that's friends catching up over a slice of cake, families popping in after a walk or neighbours stopping for a quick coffee and chat. It's these everyday moments that make The Foxes Den such a special place within the Binfield community.

We look forward to welcoming you throughout April, whatever the weather, for good food, great coffee and plenty of springtime cheer.

**Happy April, everyone!**

Kerrin & Niamh x  
foxesden.co.uk @foxesdenbinfield 01344 305500  
Benetfeld Road, Binfield. RG42 4EW

**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..



## Active April



1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today

2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today

3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do

4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water

5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today

6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels

7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening

8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh

9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise

10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement

11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge

12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside

13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time

14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation

15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)

16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things

17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth

18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class

19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often

20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today

21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day

22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it

23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour

24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting

25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself

26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes

27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil



28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat

29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in

30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today



**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

**Happier · Kinder · Together**

# PUZZLE PAGE



## WORDSEARCH

SPRING  
APRIL  
EASTER  
FLOWER  
RAIN  
LAMB  
GARDEN  
HOPE  
RAINBOW  
EASTER EGG  
CHICK  
DAFFODILS  
PARADE  
LENT  
GOOD FRIDAY  
MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

## PUZZLE

Unscramble the Spring words

1. OWRELF    2. NIOBRAW    3. NRGEAD    4. TESAER    5. SIRNPG

## SPRING QUIZ

1. What season begins in March in the UK?
2. What holiday do Christians celebrate in spring remembering Jesus rising from the dead?
3. What colourful insects are often seen in spring gardens?
4. What April holiday is known for jokes and pranks?
5. What weather do April showers help bring in May?

Answers on page 10



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**DANCE**  
**DANCE**

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where a colour version of the Beacon is published online each month.



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## ANSWERS TO PUZZLE PAGE 7

### Puzzle Answers

1. Flower
2. Rainbow
3. Garden
4. Easter
5. Spring

### Quiz Answers

1. Spring
2. Easter
3. Butterflies
4. April Fools' Day
5. Flowers

## COMMUNITY NEWS



# Party On The PITCH



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**4pm – 10pm**

**Live music, children's entertainer, fun and games stalls, licensed bar, BBQ, pizza, ice cream, inflatable assault course, bubble football and lots more!**

**Ticket sales go live 1<sup>st</sup> May – don't miss out!**

If you are involved with a **local community group** and would like to run a stall or activity (at no cost), please email us for details

[www.facebook.com/partyonthepitchbinfield](http://www.facebook.com/partyonthepitchbinfield)

[partyonthepitch@1stbinfieldscouts.org.uk](mailto:partyonthepitch@1stbinfieldscouts.org.uk)

## ClothesBank

## SPRING GIVEAWAY APRIL

ClothesBank Bracknell are currently receiving more referrals than ever before...

### YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING:

- Good quality, clean secondhand clothing/footwear
- Money so that we can purchase clothes/footwear to fill the gaps we have in any of our clothing boxes

### We specifically need - BRAND NEW

- Mens PJ's Vests, Boxers and Socks -S/M/L/XL
- Womens PJ's, Socks and Bralets - S/M/L/XL
- Girls PJ's and Knickers-all ages
- Boys PJ's Boxers and Socks-all ages

*For hygiene reasons we can't give away second hand clothes for any of these items so all need to be BRAND NEW please*



**THANK YOU**

### We also really need shoes and trainers

If you have any adult or children's trainers and/or shoes in any size in **nearly new or good condition** that you would like to donate, please can you leave them:

On the bench in the porch at The Rectory, Terrace Road North, Binfield, RG42 5JG or they can be dropped off at St. Mark's Church Office at the following times:

### St Mark's Church Office Opening Hours -

**Term Time:**

**Monday, Wednesday & Thursday  
9.30am - 1.30pm**



**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.**



## ECO CHURCH WATCH

After a particularly wet winter and early spring, you can imagine my excitement as I

changed the subject and exclaimed to my friend and neighbour. 'Wow, Spring's finally arrived!' She exclaimed, 'It's certainly good to feel the sun's warmth at last.' 'Didn't you see that flash of fluttering yellow?' I continued, 'The Brimstone?' But she had not seen the herald of Spring as it flew quickly over the wall. Imagine both of our delight when the buttery coloured butterfly came back again.

It is very apt to have such a harbinger of the season as it is a large, early, strong and fast flying butterfly and this was a male flaunting its bright buttery wings. Rather unfortunately the name 'Brimstone' derives from the old name of sulphur, but, luckily, the butterfly only resembles the colour and not the scent of sulphur. Incidentally, the word 'butterfly' is believed to derive from the colour of the male. In contrast, the female is a lighter, quieter, paler yellow. Both have the distinct angular shaped wings, with veining, that resembles a leaf.

Whilst common in England and Wales, it is less frequent in Ireland and rare in Scotland, although there have been some sightings in Southern Scotland in recent years. Its population has improved in Northern England too. One reason for this could be climate change with warmer summers, but another could be the planting of more buckthorns, under the countryside stewardship scheme. The larvae and caterpillars are dependant on this vital food source. There are two types of buckthorns that form the crucial larval food supply. These are Alder buckthorn and Common buckthorn. The former thrives on acidic soil and is a large, thornless glossy green-leaved shrub producing red berries in Autumn. The latter is thornless and grows on alkaline soil producing red berries that turn black and is a native hedgerow species.



The male Brimstone emerges from woodland hibernation seeking a mate who emerges a week or two later. A spiralling courtship display demonstrates their agility and strength in the air. The eggs are laid on leaf buds at the shoot tip and on the underside of young buckthorn leaves. They start as icy-blue, turning through green to a creamy-yellow and are bottle-shaped. Unfortunately, blue-tits especially find them an irresistible feast as eggs, larvae and pupa. Ironically, the pupa resembles a blue tit with beak and eyes, but this doesn't help it against its main predator. The female Brimstone lays eggs from March through to June. The early laid eggs are the most likely to be tit fodder because, as the temperatures rise, the eggs hatch quicker leaving a smaller window for bird attacks. The Brimstone has a trick to try and defeat the tits by laying eggs on smaller, more isolated bushes as the birds must waste more time going to isolated plants and are more attracted by the bigger, bushier plants grouped together. If you grow your own buckthorns, it is best, therefore, to keep the plants apart and prune hard.

Another amazing fact about the Brimstone is its longevity. It is the longest lived of British butterflies and can live for a year. It hibernates over Winter and this gives it a natural incentive to survive and breed the following Spring.

If Brimstones come into your garden from their woodland hibernation spots, there are things you can do to help them apart from planting Buckthorn. The adults like purple flowers such as teasels, thistles and knapweed. I grow teasels for their seeds for birds and for butterflies to feast on their nectar. I have a clump of knapweed which is attractive at the edge of my wildflower patch and is also a butterfly feasting station.

Just another thought, butterflies are symbols of renewal and resurrection which is a beautiful thought for Easter time.

**Kate Ellison-Bourne**

# CHURCH NEWS

## Binfield Church Fete

Join us for a day of community, cake, and just a little bunting.



11:00 AM -  
3:00 PM

SEPT 13,  
2026

St. Mark's  
Church, Binfield

More Information:  
[www.binfieldchurchfete.co.uk](http://www.binfieldchurchfete.co.uk)

## Help The Fete

Be part of the team behind the tents for a day of community, cake, and just a little bunting.



### External Stall Coordinator

Oversees the admin and communication for all stallholders, ensuring traders are confirmed, informed, and fully prepared for the day.



### Auction & Raffle Assistant

Supports outreach to local businesses and sponsors to secure donated prizes for the silent auction and raffle.



### Event Logistics Assistant

Assists with operations, supporting setup and pack-down, AV coordination, signage, gazebos, cones, and general site logistics.

Please email us at  
[binfieldchurchfete@gmail.com](mailto:binfieldchurchfete@gmail.com)  
if you have any questions or would like to get involved

## Thank you Afternoon Tea

10 May | 2:30 pm- 4.30pm  
Foxes Den

Thank you Afternoon Tea.

Luke and Gisele would like to thank those in the community who volunteer their time, effort or skills to help with any part of the life of All Saints with St Marks churches.

To celebrate and thank you for your kindness we are putting on a free afternoon tea at Foxes Den on Sunday 10th May from 2:30-4:30pm. Please come and put your feet up, and enjoy the food, drink and company.

# News from Binfield Parish Council



Welcome to the April 2026 edition of Binfield Parish Council News.  
We are looking forward to sharing the latest parish updates, and upcoming events with residents.

## **April 2026 Meeting**

Tuesday 14 April	<b>Parish Council</b> For the agenda pack please visit our website <a href="#">Minutes and Agendas   Binfield Parish Council</a>	8pm
Tuesday 28 April	<b>Planning and Transportation Committee</b> For the agenda pack please visit our website <a href="#">Minutes and Agendas   Binfield Parish Council</a>	8pm

## ***May Day Celebration at Foxley Fields!***

***Sunday 3rd May 2026 12pm-4pm***

**Free community event for all ages**

Join us at Foxley Fields for an afternoon of traditional May Day fun, live entertainment, family fun activities, and community stalls. This year's event also celebrates National Walking Month, encouraging everyone to get outdoors and enjoy nature throughout May. We are there encouraging as many of our visitors as possible to walk to our event.

### **Live Entertainment**

- Traditional Maypole Dancing that you can take part in
- Live performances' from OBJ Morris Dancers
- Music and commentary throughout the afternoon with DJ Dan Gilbert

### **Community Stalls and Activities**

Explore a great selection of local group stalls, including:

4th Binfield Guides, 3rd Binfield Brownies, Binfield Badger Group, Binfield WI, Binfield Environment Group (BEG), and Abby's Heroes.

### **Food and Refreshments**

The Foxes' Den will have a wide variety of drinks and snacks to purchase including a bar and a BBQ. Or you can bring along your own picnic.

### **Nature, Diversity and Walking**

This year's theme celebrates nature and diversity, while encouraging outdoor activity as part of National Walking Month (1st-31st May). Visitors can enjoy walking-friendly information and nature-focused activities during the event.

### **Flower Crown Competition—Reuse, Recycle and Create**

Join our eco-friendly Flower Crown Competition and get creative using:

- Real or dried flowers
- Reused and recycled materials
- Twine, ribbon, leaves, grasses, and natural elements.

We encourage sustainable crafting—reuse what you have at home wherever possible, Prizes will be awarded across age groups

### **Possible May Queen & King**

We are exploring a crowning of a May Queen and King as part of the festivities. Further details to follow.

Everyone is welcome, bring along friends, family and neighbours for a day of tradition, creativity and community spirit!

# News from Binfield Parish Council



## **Caring for Binfield: Climate Change and Our Local Biodiversity**

As spring arrives in Binfield, many of us look out onto greener gardens, blossoming hedgerows, and the first buzz of bees. Yet, beneath these beautiful signs of renewal lies a pressing question: how can we, as a community, play our part in supporting our area's climate and precious biodiversity?

### **Why Biodiversity Matters to Binfield**

Biodiversity simply means the rich variety of plant, animal, and insect life around us. In Binfield, our trees, grass verges, and ponds offer a home to countless species, from slow worms and hedgehogs to wildflowers and bees. Biodiversity supports everything—from the pollination of crops to healthy soils, resilient gardens, and even our own wellbeing.

### **Climate Change: Local Impact, Local Action**

Whilst the headlines often focus on global issues, climate change is truly felt at home. In recent years, you may have noticed:

- Wetter winters and drier, hotter summer spells
- Occasional flash floods or prolonged droughts affecting our green spaces

Small changes here in Binfield matter: each pond preserved, wild corner left unmown, and flower planted helps local wildlife to thrive and builds climate resilience.

### **What Is Being Done Locally?**

Your Parish Council is supporting efforts to protect green spaces and is always enthusiastic to work alongside residents, schools, and local groups such as the Binfield Environment Group.

### **How You Can Help**

- Plant nectar-rich flowers or create a small wild area in your garden
- Leave some areas uncut until autumn for insects and ground-nesting birds
- Join the Binfield Environment Group and our local litter picks
- Consider switching to peat-free compost and reducing pesticide use

Share your sightings of wildlife with local groups—it all helps!

### **Working Together**

Tackling climate change and nurturing Binfield's biodiversity is a shared journey. Every resident, school, and business has a part to play. Together, we can ensure that Binfield remains a thriving, beautiful place for both people and nature, now and for generations to come.

If you'd like to be more involved, or have suggestions for how we can do more, please contact the Parish Council at [office@binfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **Parish Office Easter Opening Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday, 3 April through to Easter Monday, 6 April. The office will reopen at 9.00am on Tuesday, 7 April.

**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)

[www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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To our green fingered friends...

We're planning to run our popular sale on Saturday June 6th 2026 \*new date\*

**Spring Plant Sale**

We'd really appreciate any donations of plants or cuttings. Please think of us as you plant out any new seeds or seedlings, and email us for more info!

fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk



**EASTER SERVICES**

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL AT 7:30PM  
A quiet, reflective service

**GOOD FRIDAY** - 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL AT 2PM  
An hour at the cross

**EASTER SUNDAY** - 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT  
8.15AM - BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER COMMUNION  
9.30AM - COMMON WORSHIP COMMUNION  
11.00AM - INFORMAL EASTER CELEBRATION with an egg hunt after the 11am

*Everybody welcome*

MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**ECO NATURE FUN DAY**

11-3PM ST. MARK'S CHURCH

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