

# The Binfield Beacon



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

**May 2026**



Wood Lane - S McCarthy

## **This Month**

**Flower Rota - page 3**

**Party on the Pitch - page 11**

**May Day Celebration - page 14**

**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)*

### MAY 2026

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

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service
	7.00pm	Informal Worship at St Marks

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Said Common Worship Communion
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**PLEASE NOTE BINFIELD 10K ONLY ONE SERVICE 9AM**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service with Communion

Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal Service

### JUNE 2026

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service

## DIARY

### MAY 2026

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Practice the presence of God at The Rectory
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church

### JUNE 2026

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Adult Choir practice at St Mark's Church
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk

**INFORMAL WORSHIP**  
*and Prayer evening*  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
**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.



## WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S WALK

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



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

**6th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den**  
**20th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den**  
**3rd June - 9am meet Foxes' Den**  
**17th June - 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**



## PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The next month's Practice the Presence of God session takes place on **Monday 18th May 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 19th May at 12 noon**

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

## 3G

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

St Mark's Church on Popeswood Road, Binfield.

**DATES:**

**6th, 13th, 20th May and 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June**

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 2nd May and 6th June**

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)**

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RECTOR



## THE POWER OF SMALL GESTURES

Derik Fay tells the story of when he was seven years old. He says, I used to carry a Dukes of Hazzard lunchbox to school. I did this to hide the fact that I actually didn't have anything for lunch, just like I hid the bruises underneath my clothing. One day, I asked the teacher to get a drink of water, I needed the drink to quench the hunger in my stomach. When I got back to the classroom, to my surprise, inside my empty lunchbox was an apple and an Oreo cookie. In that moment, when the tears fell from my eyes, I realised the power of small gestures, far more than my lunch box had been filled in that moment.

He says that almost 40 years later, he still remembers it like it was yesterday. He goes on to say, I implore all of you to try to find opportunities in life to fill someone else's lunch box. You will never understand how your small gestures may impact someone else, or when you yourself may need someone else to fill your lunch box.

Jesus said, ***"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."***  
*Matthew's gospel, chapter 25 verse 40*

*Story taken from @derikfay, youtube. The power of small gestures.*

**Luke Taylor**

Verse of the Month

May 2026

Let us acknowledge the Lord;  
let us press on to acknowledge  
him.

As surely as the sun rises,  
he will appear;  
he will come to us like the winter  
rains,  
like the spring rains that water  
the earth.

HOSEA 6:3

CONTRIBUTED BY DAN CREASEY



## CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

A huge thanks to Stephanie Cann who is stepping down after many, many years of doing the beautiful flower arrangements in All Saints Church. Her invaluable advice, creativity, and generosity will be very much missed.

Stephanie is a hard act to follow, but now we're asking if anyone would like to join our volunteer team in helping us arrange the flowers in All Saints Church.

There is a rota and we work in pairs to cover a calendar month of Sunday services once every 3 months.

No prior knowledge is needed as we're not professional florists but we work in pairs supporting each other, together with an enthusiasm for flowers.

There is a flower fund to cover expenses.

If you are interested, please contact either  
**Trudy on [trudy1inge@gmail.com](mailto:trudy1inge@gmail.com) or Linda Wilcocks on 07708 731294**

**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:**  
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[steve\\_elaine\\_whatley@hotmail.com](mailto:steve_elaine_whatley@hotmail.com)

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**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 EMILIE 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 June issue is:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 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 **BINFIELDS 10K**



Wishing all the runners good luck!

Come and find us at the water station at All Saints' Church and at our BBQ on Foxley Fields.

Any extra helpers welcome!



**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 – water station and BBQ  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June:** Spring Plant Sale at The Foxes' Den

## Update

We are hoping to enjoy a gorgeously sunny May Day Bank Holiday, but come rain or shine, there will be plenty to do indoors and out at our **Nature Fun Day**. Jointly run with the wonderful Binfield Environment Group, come along to find stalls from local eco groups, crafts, food and even some bat friends! Don't forget to bring your completed nature trail from your free booklet to claim your prize...

As ever, we're ready to support the **Binfield 10k** with our water station at All Saints' Church and BBQ on Foxley Fields where we'll be ready to serve hot food to runners and their families during the event. If you would like to join the teams at either venue, we'd love to hear from you!

Also coming up soon is our wonderful **Plant Sale**. The quality and quantity of plants available last year blew us away! Pop along to snag your pots during the Foxes' Den opening hours.

We also wanted to offer a thanks to John, Quiz Master of our recent **Quiz Night**, and all his helpers who made it yet another successful and fun evening. The Quiz raised a brilliant £680 for the Church Care project. Every event and donation helps us to keep our church spaces going for everyone in the community!

**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**



**NATURE FUN DAY**

11-3PM ST. MARK'S CHURCH

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT GROUPS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND QUIZ ON SITE, REFRESHMENTS, ICE CREAM, BARBECUE AND BATS!



SCAN ME

**PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 6th June 2026**



Find us at  
The Foxes' Den Cafe,  
Binfield  
(during opening hours)



Donations of plants and seedlings welcome!



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## 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



## May at The Foxes Den: Sunshine, Sips & Community Spirit!

As the days grow longer and the sunshine (hopefully) begins to warm our days, May is a lovely time to get out and enjoy everything our local community has to offer. Here at The Foxes Den, we'll be ready with refreshing drinks and plenty of welcoming smiles.

On **Sunday 3rd May**, a wonderful **Maypole Event** will be taking place on Foxley Fields from **12pm – 4pm**. While the event isn't organised by us, we're looking forward to seeing the community come together for a fun, free day out for all ages. Our doors will be open and our much loved *Foxy Bar* will also be making an appearance, perfect for popping by and picking up a refreshing drink as you enjoy the day.

Later in the month, on **Sunday 17th May** the **Binfield 10K** returns. We'd like to wish the very best of luck to everyone taking part, what a fantastic achievement! Whether you're running, supporting or cheering from the sidelines, we'll be open serving our delicious treats and tasty drinks throughout the day.

Here's to a month of fresh air, community spirit and hopefully plenty of sunshine. Don't forget to stop by and try one of our iced teas, they're the perfect way to cool down on a sunny May Day.

Wishing everyone a very happy May! *Kerrin & Niamh x*  
[foxesden.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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..



**May**

BLOSSOM	DRIZZLE	MEADOW
BUMBLE BEE	FORECAST	MIST
BUTTERFLY	GARDEN	PUDDLE
CLOUDS	JACKET	RAINBOW
DAISY	LAVENDER	SHOWERS
SUNSHINE	UMBRELLA	WINDY

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

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## NATURE AND THE GIANT TIPI: HOW NEWBOLD SCHOOL IS TRANSFORMING OUTDOOR LEARNING

In the heart of Binfield, one local school is nurturing not only young minds, but also a deeper appreciation for God's creation and the value of community.

At Newbold School, pupils take part in weekly sessions in the nearby woods of Newbold College. Though only a short walk away, the space feels like a true step into the wild. Through the Forest School programme, children move beyond the traditional classroom to explore nature first-hand, developing skills such as problem-solving, teamwork and observation. Teachers have seen a clear impact, with pupils returning more focused, confident and engaged in their learning.

As the programme has grown, so too has the ambition to extend this approach across the curriculum. Early plans for a traditional outdoor classroom were reconsidered, as staff and pupils reflected on the importance of protecting the environment they were learning from. Instead, inspiration came from a simpler, more sustainable idea—one already familiar to the children.

A large tipi, made from natural materials and designed to sit lightly on the land, now stands at the edge of the woodland. Offering shelter while remaining open to the sights and sounds of nature, it provides a unique space for lessons, storytelling and quiet reflection.

The project itself became a powerful example of community spirit. Staff and volunteers undertook the Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds, supported by the school's Parent, Teacher and Friends Association. The school has also connected with wider initiatives, including a nature-based learning project linked with the University of Reading, further enriching pupils' understanding of sustainability and climate education.

Today, the tipi is more than just a structure - it represents a way of learning rooted in faith, care for creation and community. By blending outdoor exploration with structured teaching, the school is helping children grow not only academically, but spiritually and socially too. **J Crissey**



## The **BINFIELD 10K**

**When?** 10am Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Where?** The start and finish lines are on Foxley Fields and then the route heads north. For a map and road closure info please head to [www.binfield10k.co.uk/road-closures/](http://www.binfield10k.co.uk/road-closures/)

**Who?** You! We'd love you to get involved – our runner places have already sold out but we need the fabulous people of Binfield to volunteer or cheer the runners on the day ([volunteer@binfield10k.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@binfield10k.co.uk)).

**How?** This event is organised entirely by volunteers and has raised tens of thousands of pounds for local charities, clubs and groups over the years. We couldn't do it without the whole community and especially our sponsors: David Cliff Estate Agents, Interior Resolutions Ltd, Alfa Chemicals, Waylands Volvo, The Ryslip Group, BW Reed & Son, Bagshot LDR, Advantage Print Room, Fonehouse & The Victoria Arms. Thank you! This year we are pleased to announce our chosen main charity is The Cowshed which helps local families across the area.



[enquiries@binfield10k.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@binfield10k.co.uk)  
[www.binfield10k.co.uk](http://www.binfield10k.co.uk)

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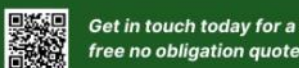
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



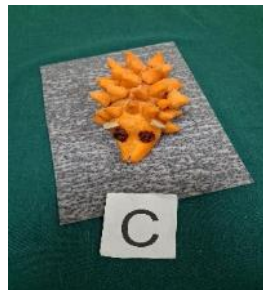
The poster features a blue background with a string of colorful bunting (red, yellow, blue) at the top. In the center, the text 'Party On The PITCH' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'PITCH' in red and 'Party On The' in blue. Below this, the date and time are listed: 'Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026' and '4pm – 10pm'. To the left is the Binfield FC logo (1952) and to the right is the Scouts logo (1st Binfield Air Scouts). Two soccer balls are positioned on either side of the central text. Below the date and time, the event details are listed: 'Live music, children's entertainer, fun and games stalls, licensed bar, BBQ, pizza van, ice cream, inflatable assault course and more!'. Ticket information follows: 'Tickets on sale now at [ticketsource.co.uk/partyonthepitch](https://ticketsource.co.uk/partyonthepitch)', 'Prices: £12/adult, £8/child/senior, Under 3's go free (ticket required)', and 'Book in advance to bring your own alcohol or park onsite'. At the bottom, there is a green grass-like border. On the left, under 'Useful information:', it says: '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. Measures to ensure guest safety (security personnel, bag checks and wrist bands for adults/children) will be in place. This will be a mostly cashless event.' Below this are two contact links: 'www.facebook.com/partyonthepitchbinfield' and 'partyonthepitch@1stbinfieldscouts.org.uk'.



## BINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

Since our last report we have enjoyed some varied and interesting evenings. In February our members were amazed to hear all about a wonderful place almost on our doorstep – Jealotts Hill Community Landshare Project. This is a very successful 6.5 acre horticulture garden cultivated by volunteers and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds and diversity. There is so much going on there all year round so do look it up. It is open every Saturday 10 – 1 with so much to see (including toilets!)

March was our AGM and included the presentation of awards. Christine Leonard won the Annual Challenge for 5 tomatoes on a plate. Points are also awarded for competition entries each month and the winners for most points were jointly Trudy Inge and Christine Leonard, 3<sup>rd</sup> was Elaine Mctaggart, 4<sup>th</sup> was Carol Frazer. Well done, everyone. Our speaker after the AGM was Louise Camby about Help our Hedgehogs. This was a fascinating talk, learning amongst other things that there are 17 different species of hedgehogs, they mostly live between 2 and 5 years but sometimes 10! They have 5 to 7 thousand quills and they do not shed any. The competition for a hedgehog made from fruit or vegetables produced some excellent entries with Jenny Baxter's winning.



Have you ever heard of The Three Growbags? They are 3 sisters who run an online blog on how to grow happy plants. In April we welcomed one sister, Louise Warren, with her useful talk on how to choose the right plant for the right place, enjoying the right temperature for hardiness and with the right soil PH. You will then have success and happy plants!!

Now see photo below for some of April's lovely competition entries, winner was Belinda Thornhill

May 7<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Plant Sale which is always very popular. It begins at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall and you will be sure of some great bargains, many healthy plants will have been grown by our members so come along and fill the gaps in your gardens. There will be tea and cake and a big tombola.



If you enjoy gardening or nature, see our future programme on [binfieldgardenclub9.wordpress.com](https://binfieldgardenclub9.wordpress.com).

Visitors and guests always welcome. First Thursday of the month at 7.15pm Binfield Memorial Hall.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## ECO CHURCH WATCH

On my BBC online news, I found the advice from the RSPB about trichomonosis, a particularly

unpleasant and contagious parasitic disease affecting some of our favourite garden birds including greenfinches and chaffinches. The greenfinch population has declined by 65 per cent in 30 years. Although the research sounded alarming, the RSPB believe we can all help in reversing the decline in the affected species by improving food hygiene practices.

The motto is 'Feed Seasonally, Feed Safely.' As summer and autumn carry more risk of disease spreading in the heat and with more younger birds around, the RSPB suggest not filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Nature provides enough seeds and insects for parents and chicks alike during this time, so it is unnecessary as well as harmful to top up your feeders. At most, it is suggested adding a few mealworms or fat-balls to offer variety to the birds' diets. From 1<sup>st</sup> November, until 30<sup>th</sup> April, bird feeders can be filled with nutritious delights such as peanuts and seeds to help the birds maintain fat reserves in the colder time of year and towards the breeding season.

Crowded bird tables and feeders only encourage disease, so it makes sense to clean out feeders and the water bath once a week. It is important to clean up bird droppings and left over food beneath feeders. The RSPB advise lessening the risk of disease spreading by moving feeders around the garden each



week, to prevent contaminated matter building up, and spacing feeders out so there are less birds in any one area at the same time.

The research indicated a higher risk factor when birds feed on flat surfaces. In response, the RSPB advocates not feeding birds on flat surfaces such as bird tables, feeder trays or window feeders. They also suggest feeding in moderation, so food is eaten and not left. (See the RSPB website for further details.)

On a happier note, The UK's bird song reaches its zenith during May and is celebrated by International Dawn Chorus Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May each year. Melodious sounds, ranging from the early rising male blackbird's fluty, rich voice through to the late rising male wood pigeon's low-pitched, rough cooing, are heard in the air. The chorus is an equivalent of a bird dating-app whereby males show off their singing skills to gain a mate and warn potential rivals not to encroach on their territory. It is worth getting up early to hear the sounds whether in your garden, local park or RSPB reserve. Use a bird app to match the bird to the sounds such as Bird Sound Identifier UK, Collins Bird Guide App or BirdTrack from the British Trust for Ornithology. The RSPB have a free bird sound identifying system especially for beginners which identifies 15 common bird songs.

Another thing to note is that May is also the peak nesting period, so it is important to be aware of nesting activity and fledglings. Why not enjoy the garden without being too tidy? 'No Mow May,' introduced by Plantlife in 2019, not only encourages diversity of plants and pollinators, but also helps to provide insects for insect-eating birds to feast upon as well. It is also illegal to damage or destroy a nest during the breeding season as stated in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In other words, just 'Chill out,' rest and enjoy the nature surrounding you and you will certainly save money and time on getting the mower fixed or buying fuel for it.

*Kate Ellison-Bourne*



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# 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 Celebration

10 May | 2:30 pm- 4:30pm  
Foxes Den

Thank you Afternoon with Tea, Cake and Prosecco

Luke and Gisele would like to thank those in the community who volunteer their time, effort or skills, in any capacity, occasionally or regularly, 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 an afternoon with free tea, cake and prosecco 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 May 2026 edition of Binfield Parish Council News. We are looking forward to sharing the latest parish updates, and our May Day Celebration on Sunday 3 May.

## May 2026 Meetings

Tuesday 12 May	<b>Parish Council</b> For the agenda pack please visit our website <a href="#">Minutes and Agendas   Binfield Parish Council</a>	8pm
Tuesday 26 May	<b>Planning and Transportation Committee</b> For the agenda pack please visit our website <a href="#">Minutes and Agendas   Binfield Parish Council</a>	8pm

## Upcoming Events

### May Day Celebration – Sunday 3 May, Foxley Fields—12:00–4:00pm

Come along and celebrate May Day with us at Foxley Fields! Enjoy a wonderful afternoon of traditional maypole dancing, alongside lively entertainment from OBJ Morris dancers.

There will be plenty to see and do, including: Taking part in Maypole dancing, Traditional garden games, Community Stalls, Food and drink available to purchase (or feel free to bring a picnic)

Don't miss our Flower Crown Competition – get creative and bring along your eco-friendly crown made from reused and recycled materials. Win prizes across all ages.

We'll also be shining a spotlight on nature, so take the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and walk to the event if you can, as parking is limited.



### Binfield Parish Spring Grant Applications 2026 are now open!

Our community grant applications are now open and will close on 31 May 2026. Applications forms can be found on our website or pop into the parish office to pick up a copy of the application form or email [office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) for a word format to be emailed to you.

# News from Binfield Parish Council



## **10K Binfield Community Litter Pick—Saturday 16 May 2026—10am-12pm**

As part of the Binfield 10K weekend there will be a community litter pick to tidy the route in advance of the run on Sunday 17 May. Please register outside on Foxley Fields outside the parish office on the day and pick up a kit. We have kits available for adults and children to borrow.

## **Binfield 10K—Sunday 17 May 2026**

Binfield 10K is back on Sunday 17 May. For any additional information regarding road closures please look at their website [www.binfield10k.co.uk](http://www.binfield10k.co.uk).

## **The Great Big Green Week 6-14 June 2026**

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. During the week, communities, schools, businesses, churches, mosques and more join in a wave of support for action to protect the planet. If you would like to get involved in anyway, please do contact us at the Parish Office and we can see what we can do to help. Please keep an eye on our website, social media and noticeboards for any events advertised. Please see the link to find out more. [The Great Big Green Week](#)

## **Armed Forces Day - Saturday 27 June, Binfield Community Centre 12:00-pm- 4:00pm**

Join us in celebrating our Armed Forces with a fantastic community event at Binfield Community Centre. Highlights include: Vintage live music, community stalls, refreshments available to purchase, RBL and RNA merchandise and stalls, rides and activities for children. Pop along with family and friends as we come together to honour and celebrate our Armed Forces. Further details to follow.

## **Summer of Fun 2026**

Summer of Fun is returning for 2026, organised and funded by your Parish and Town Councils. Get ready for a fantastic family fun day packed with free activities for all ages. These are a series of free event days for families in the Borough over the School Summer holiday period and run from 11am-3pm.

**Binfield Parish Council's event will be on Friday 24 July 2026 at Farley Wood Community centre, RG42 1FW.**

## **Bereavement Support Coffee Morning - Every Tuesday 10:00am-11:30am, Binfield Community Centre.**

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

**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.

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](mailto:events@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or pop in and see us at the Parish Office.

**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

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