# Froyle Village Magazine



December 2026 & January 2027

No 534

https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/village-magazine




## News from the Parish Council (PC)

*Parish Clerk* - Andrew Potter
E: clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk
W: www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

The PC met on 16 November where its first business was to co-opt Nigel Basey as a Parish Councillor. Nigel has been a resident in Lower Froyle for 25 years and has recently retired after a successful career in retail logistics. The PC is delighted that he will bring his energy and experience to the working of the PC. There are still two vacancies so if you would like to join the PC to help us regrow to our full complement of eight Councillors please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors whose contact details are available on the website and noticeboards. The PC has also received the resignation of Andrew Potter as Parish Clerk after over seven years serving the PC and Froyle community in this role. A replacement is now being sought and there is an advert with link to the job description on the PC website. While Parish Councillors are voluntary roles, the Clerk is employed by the PC in a part-time paid position working on average 16 hours per week and is home based. An appointment is hoped for early in the New Year to allow a hand over before Andrew leaves the position latest in May 2027.

Our Hampshire County (HCC) Councillor Antonia Cox (AC) joined the meeting and provided an update on various HCC works in and around the village especially related to Highways. She confirmed that the remaining works to white line the H&C junction on the A31 will not be done until Spring 2027 as an overnight road closure is required and that she has taken up the issue of flooding down the footpath from Westburn Fields to Park Lane with the relevant HCC departments.

Phil Roberts presented a report from the Chair which included an update on the progress being made with Jason Smith and AFC Froyle to reintroduce football on the Rec. A pitch inspection has been undertaken and goal posts delivered. They are purchasing a line marking machine with funds provided as a grant by our District Councillor, so once this has been purchased the pitch can be laid out and a date to start playing agreed.

The PC had its regular meeting with Redbrown (Froyle Estate) at which the reopening of the permissive path through Round Wood was confirmed and work is progressing on the permissive path along the field above Bamber Lane. Thanks were expressed for their help with the bonfire on 5 Nov as without it we could not have bonfire night celebrations in the village. Noise from the grain dryer over recent weeks was explained as being to cool the grain while it is in storage as it would otherwise spoil. With cooler weather the need for this should soon end.

Details of the revised plans for the five houses on Saintbury Hill were provided. Rather than modern houses the plans are now for more of a farm building look with two new semi-detached barns and a quasi-farmhouse. The PC's concerns over access via Bamber Lane were reiterated and AC advised in her report that she will get Highways to review the proposal from an access perspective after they raised no concerns last time. A new planning application EHDC-26-1584-FUL has now been submitted for the updated proposal and this can be accessed on the EHDC Planning Portal. The PC will review and consider its responses, but any resident may submit their own comments. The PC were also made aware of plans by Redbrown to investigate infill housing developments in disused farmyards and on land around the village that is not suitable for commercial cultivation. More details will be provided when available.

Four new planning applications had been received since the last meeting for tree works and listed building consent which the PC agreed not to comment on. The PC planning group revisited the application for 25 houses on H&C Hill and submitted an additional objection related to drainage and disposal of rainwater.

The planned felling in mid-November of the diseased flowering cherry tree at Hadwick's Corner in Lower Froyle has been postponed. A new date will be advised to residents when known as some traffic control on the corner may be required. The PC accepted a quote for cutting the Rec beech hedge along Ryebridge Lane and prune trees around the Rec boundary. A date for this work has been requested from the contractor.

A burglary has been reported in Lower Froyle and residents are reminded to be mindful of security. If you see anything suspicious including on home security and doorbell cameras, please report this to the police.

The PC undertook a review of the draft budget for 2027/28 noting that expenditure will increase as the salary for the new Clerk will be based on Local Authority pay scales and is higher than currently paid. Unfortunately, this gives the PC little scope to fund new purchases or put money into reserves for future expenses. Sign off of the budget and precept will be done at the next PC meeting on 14 December. There is another meeting scheduled on 11 January before the next magazine is published both at 19.00 in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend. Any items for the agenda must be submitted to the Clerk by Wed 9 December and 6 January respectively.

Finally, with the return of wet weather and an uncertain forecast for this winter, please take this opportunity to check and clear any gullies or ditches bordering your property, to minimise flooding where possible.

As this is the last issue before the year end festivities, the Parish Council wishes all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





FROYLE VILLAGE HALL

Bookings:
Sarah Zorab
01420 520361
www.froylevillagehall.co.uk



Bonfire Night and Fireworks 2026 went off with a blaze and many bangs once again. The weather was kind with a clear sky providing the perfect conditions for a wonderful roaring fire, sparkling fireworks and a great evening for all the family. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who gave up their time to collect pallets and firewood, build the bonfire, arrange fireworks, shop, set up stalls, barbeque burgers, mulled wine and make hot chocolate, sell goodies, collect donations, provide first aid and much more. The evening is a huge team effort and would not happen without you, so thank you all.



This year once again we were very fortunate to have the support of a number of local businesses; Loaf Bakery, Froyle Estate (Redbrown Ltd) and Triple FFF brewery. We are delighted to announce that we made a healthy surplus this year which will go towards the running costs of the village hall.

## Upcoming Event

On Friday 5 February we will welcome the Race Night back to the village hall. This is a fast, fun, perhaps slightly raucous evening! Tickets are £15 per person and include supper. A paid bar will be available. And, of course, there will be lots of betting - and some winning! Please contact wmunt@froylevillagehall.co.uk to book your tickets.

## 100 Club

It is that time of year again where we all renew our 100 Club membership to ensure we are part of the prize draws for 2027. Please ensure you renew your subscriptions in time. If you have not yet joined and would like to, please contact William Knowles on wbk@wbknowles.com. Refer to page 9 for more details.

A reminder – the Hall will be closed in the first week of January for redecoration.

As this is the last magazine for 2026 on behalf of the whole village hall committee, please let me wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

*Gillian Paul, Chair*






**To book the hall** contact Sarah Zorab 01420 520361 or email to: bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk or visit the website for the booking calendar, hire charges and terms and conditions of hire at www.froylevillagehall.co.uk



# The Meeting Place

The Meeting Place takes place every Friday morning in the Village Hall from 10am-12 noon, so do come and join us for delicious home made cake, hot drinks and good conversation.

Well behaved dogs are welcome too. Treats provided!

We also now have an ever changing selection of books and jigsaws to borrow.

On Friday 4 December, Treloar will have a sales table with gifts and Christmas cards. All donations for refreshments will go to Treloar, so please come and support them and find that last minute gift!

The Christmas Meeting place will take place on Friday 18 December, when we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies as well as cake and coffee.

There will be a Christmas raffle and a quiz and we will hopefully sing some carols.

| DECEMBER Kitchen Helpers | | DECEMBER Cake Bakers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4th | (Treloar) John Sexton | 4th | Jenny Gove, Sarah Roberts |
| 11th | Jan Elliott | 11th | Janet Dobson |
| 18th | Christmas Meeting Place Team | 18th | Christmas Meeting Place Team |
| 25th | No Meeting Place | 25th | No Meeting Place |

**JANUARY Kitchen Helpers**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | TBA |
| 8th | Lori Taylor |
| 15th | David Robertson |
| 22nd | Corinna Whines |
| 29th | Jenny Bryan-Brown |

**JANUARY Cake Bakers**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | Sally Turvill | Brian Jones | Sue Lelliott |
| 8th | Andrea Kozak | Jo Mills | Barbara Graham-Clarke |
| 15th | Lisa Bowler | Rachel Chancellor | Deborah Addison |
| 22nd | Emma Archer-Perkins | Lauraine Bourne | Susie Robertson |
| 29th | Lucia Lindblom | Elizabeth Sealey | Jenny Gove |

Please organise swaps amongst yourselves, but do contact us if necessary.



We try and remind the bakers, but please do let us know if you can't bake for any reason. It's also helpful to know what cakes are coming, just so we don't get three of the same variety!

Cakes can be left in the porch at Wykeham House, Lower Froyle on Thursdays or brought to the hall after 9.30am on Fridays.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who makes Friday mornings so special.

We couldn't do it without the kitchen helpers, cake bakers, table movers, floor sweepers, crocheters, and the regular customers. **YOU ARE ALL BRILLIANT!**

*Gill, Janet, Jenny, Jo, Susie and Sally*

*Gill Bradley 520484* *Susie Robertson 520820* *Jenny Gove 23697*

*gahbradley@gmail.com* *sjrinfroyle@gmail.com* *govejenny@gmail.com*

## FROYLE CROCHET GROUP

A few of us from the Froyle Crochet Group had the great pleasure of dropping off four crochet blankets at Phyllis Tuckwell this week. Rachel, a "Living Well Sister" was delighted to receive them and will assign them to those most in need. Barbara and I were especially delighted that Ann Figgins could join us, as she generously gave her time to crochet so many of the blankets. Thanks to Ann, we were also able to donate another blanket to Ukraine.




If you'd like to learn how to crochet, help us make blankets or donate wool, please let us know at froylecrochet@katiesnowball.com. We get together at the Meeting Place in the village hall every Friday, 10-12.

## THE WINCHESTER BEACON

The Winchester Beacon homeless shelter is open 365 days a year and provides accommodation, food and vital support services to enable the residents to rebuild their lives. They rely heavily on volunteer help.

A few of us in Froyle, cook and deliver a frozen meal in foil dishes for 10 people every six weeks and the Beacon has asked if anyone else would like to join in.

We make curry for them, but something like lasagne, cottage pie or a stew are equally well received. Home cooks do need to follow simple food regulations.

There is no payment, but they are offering volunteer cooks surplus tins of pulses, pasta etc at the moment.

If you would like more information or to help, then please contact me.

*Susie Robertson*

*sjrinfroyle@gmail.com, 07527518438*

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## 2026 POPPY APPEAL

"A big thank you to the collectors and all
who donated to this year's appeal.
Whilst we can't get a total amount raised in the village
due to contactless donations, cash raised was
£560 which was a significant increase on the previous year.
So well done Froyle."

*Ian Whitmore*



## FROYLE 100 CLUB RENEWAL REMINDER!

Those of you who are members of the 100 Club will know that the annual subscription is due for renewal on 1 January. If you pay by standing order/regular bank transfer, you don't need to do anything. For those who paid this year by cash or one-off bank transfer, it would be great if you could renew by bank transfer if possible – although cash is of course still welcome from those of you who feel more comfortable paying by cash – just let me know.

Anyone else who would like to join the 100 Club, or who doesn't know what on earth I am talking about and would like to know more, please do get in touch. The 100 Club is an easy, light-hearted way to raise money for the village hall while paying back over the year as a whole to the lucky winners of the monthly draw (four winners each month) in total about one half of the annual subscription money. You get given a number, which is entered into the monthly draw – this takes place at the Meeting Place in Froyle Village Hall. Membership is not limited to 100….

The annual subscription per person is £24 (£2 per month, as some people prefer to think of it). The top prize each month is currently £50. The more subscribers we have, the more money we make for the village hall and the greater the winnings!

Subscriptions by bank transfer should be made to the Froyle Village Hall bank account:

Sort code: 30-90-15

Account number: 01305140

As a reference, put 100 Club and your name (or your number if you have it).

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## ……AND THE NOVEMBER DRAW

The winners in the November 2026 draw were:

1st – Vicky Poulson

2nd – Roger Cooper

3rd – Barry Clark

4th – Linda Bulpitt

Congratulations to all!

*William Knowles*

*Tel: 07775 928933, email: wbk@wbknowles.com*

Froyle Gardening Club

## DECEMBER AND JANUARY IN THE POTTING SHED

Time to reflect on the year behind us or look forward to the year ahead? I think this year it is about the year we have just had and what we can do to help in the coming year. If we are going to have another hot summer then we need to put our gardens into a better position to survive. Improve the water holding capacity of the soil – add organic matter. Use whatever you can get. Try not to disturb the soil too much. It may help water enter initially but eventually the soil structure will break down and water will not be able to get into the soil and be stored for use next year.

'Is my plant dead?' is the question people have kept asking me this autumn. It might not be. Some shoots may be dead at the tip but lower down they could still be alive. Be patient and we will see what survives the winter and then act accordingly in the spring.

Other jobs to be getting on with are the hellebore leaves which can be cut back to allow the new flowers below to have light. I would suggest gentle cutting back on other herbaceous plant as some are still flowering and green therefore putting essential feed back into plant for next year. Although a good frost will kill them back.

The New Year will mean we can start to do any winter pruning on apples and pears. Clean sharp tools at the ready. If the weather does get mild again think about attacking the wisteria at this time to encourage flower buds. Mine still has green shoots so I may leave it till February. Cut laterals back to four or five buds from the main stem.

Prepare for sowing sweet peas, broad beans and onions from seed. If you have a greenhouse with heat then you may get away with sowing tomatoes and aubergines in January to give you a longer season of harvest.

Seasons Greeting to All.

*Geoff Hawkins*

### The Club's AGM is to be held on Wednesday 9 December

Details of the agenda will be sent to you via email. If you do not have email then contact Barbara Wheatley for a copy.

Please come along and support your club. It should be a fun evening.

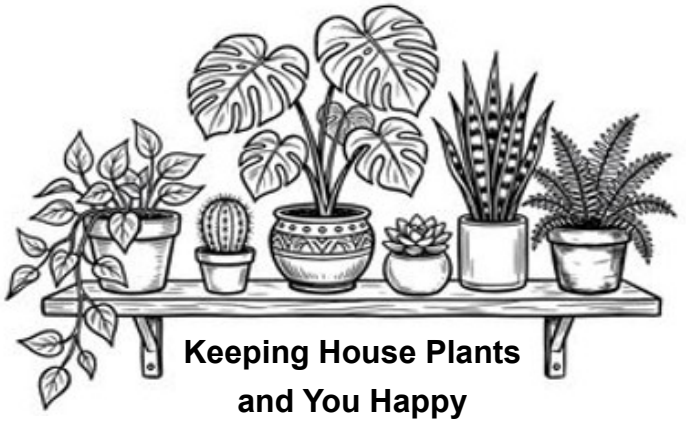


## COME AND ENJOY THE GARDEN CLUB AGM - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9th 7.30




There will be mince pies, wine, a bit of business and some entertaining advice from well-known local gardeners! Tickets will be on sale for our New Year Party on January 9th and we have a list of inspiring talks for 2027. An overview of orchids, an insight from a designer of gold medal winning gardens on preparing for Chelsea. An illustrated tour of stately homes and gardens, spring flowers of Italy, tips for propagating and herbs for well-being.
Renew your subscription and enjoy all these talks and more for £10.

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## Keeping House Plants and You Happy

After Geoff's Garden Club talk in November, we discovered how he keeps so happy and healthy – it's all down to his house plants and Rosemary!

He explained that plants not only cheer us up by looking lovely, they filter some of the toxins from the atmosphere and release oxygen. Look on the FGC website for some of Geoff's pictures and advice on how to keep you and your house plants looking good.

## MORE TREES IN YOUR GARDEN

This is an excellent time of year to be planting trees in your garden, so here are a few tips about choosing the right tree for you.

- **Height and spread:** This is probably the most important factor. Even small ornamental trees may reach a height of six to eight meters or more. If this is too big, consider a weeping form, as these rarely increase much in height, or choose a large shrub.
- **Season of interest:** Think about flowering time, foliage, fruit and bark. If you only have room for one tree, choose one with more than one season of interest such as fruit or autumn colour following on from flowers, or coloured or textured bark
- **Deciduous or evergreen?:** Both types of trees have their advantages. Evergreens will provide colour and shape to a winter garden, but obviously, score low on blossom and autumn colours.
- **Trees for specific locations:** Consider how much light your tree will get in the location you intend to plant it, whether the soil is usually damp or dry, whether it is going to be happy with your soil ph (ie, is it acid, neutral or alkaline).
- **Trees and buildings:** Many properties in Froyle have a clay soil, so there may be shrinkage risks in having large trees close to a building. You may need to get professional advice if you wish to plant close to a building.

Below are a few more of my favourite garden trees, chosen for blossom, autumn colour, or wildlife interest.

- **Cornel Cherry** is a small, open tree with bright yellow flowers in very early spring, so it is very useful for early pollinators. Lovely autumn shades, too, and the decorative red fruits are good autumn forage for songbirds and dormice.
- **Spindle Tree:** We see this all around us in the hedges of Froyle, and it rarely occurs to us to use it in the garden; but, allowed to grow free form it makes a very nice, easy to grow little tree, about 3m at most, not fussy about conditions and will cheerfully grow in exposed areas. There are several cultivars which have spectacular autumn colours. The real wow factor of course is the fruit. It's like psychedelic popcorn, in orange and hot pink.
- **Elder:** Lots of people hate elder, and I have heard it called a weed tree; and that's a shame, because it is a really useful, hardy tree, which can grow to 15m, but doesn't mind if you give it a chop, manages well in a bit of shade, and can be very pretty, especially in the spring, covered in beautiful creamy white flowers. It's either a bushy tree, or a tall bush, depending on your point of view. It has lots of wildlife benefit, obviously; the flowers provide nectar for a variety of insects and the berries are eaten by birds and mammals. Small mammals, such as dormice and bank voles, eat both the berries and the flowers. If you want something a bit more striking than the species elder bush, there are many lovely cultivars, such as Black Lace, with dramatic black foliage, and beautiful deep pink flowers.

*Sue Lelliott, Froyle Tree Warden*





## FROYLE WILDLIFE

## Year's End Review

In 2026, we continued to look after the wildflower areas on Froyle Recreation Ground and the wildlife pond area near Gid Lane. Our website publishes regular posts about our activities such as the talks in the village hall and our walks locally. At the AGM in October, members received the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts that are also sent to the Charities Commission. Barry Clark presented a pictorial summary.



On Froyle recreation ground, we installed a large bee and insect hotel to benefit pollinators, we put up four additional bird nest boxes on mature trees and we planted snowdrop bulbs 'in the green' around the perimeter. Thanks to the volunteers who helped and to EHDC who funded the costs. In the year, volunteers spent 116 hours of work on Froyle rec maintaining the wildflower areas, willow dome and installing the biodiversity enhancements.



Managing the wildflower meadow surrounding the Froyle Wildlife Pond has involved volunteers for 153 hours of hands on work to maintain the habitat. Work included removing perennial weeds (especially field horsetail); mowing paths to enable access for visitors; and selective cutting using scythes in autumn. We also removed excess pond vegetation. The high number of plants, insects and amphibians that would otherwise be absent from the area is due to our management which includes grazing in winter months.



The wildflower meadow surrounding the pond has thrived and the pond continues to support breeding amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies. On the pond edge Purple Loosestrife, Tufted Vetch and Birds-foot trefoil flower in July. In this summer's drought though, the water level dropped by nearly three feet, the lowest level in ten years.

Froyle Wildlife is a registered charity run by a small group of trustees who meet three times a year to organise activities, walk and talks. We want to find an additional trustee next year.



Please let me know if you can help to support our local community and wildlife. For more information contact 01420 23520.

Do tell us about wildlife that you see in Froyle with or without photos by email to info@froylewildlife.co.uk or Instagram with #froylewildlife. Also, we have a Froyle Wildlife WhatsApp group for news, information and your photos, send me your mobile number if you would like to be included.

*Barry Clark*

## White-tailed Eagle Reintroduction

Our talk in October welcomed Imogen Lloyd of Forestry England who gave us a fascinating talk about the Isle of Wight-based White-tailed Eagle reintroduction project. These eagles are Britain's largest bird of prey which were widespread across England until persecution by humans wiped out all 1,500 breeding pairs by 1780. Imogen is part of the current project team with first-hand experience of releasing these amazing birds in southern England and monitoring their activities and feeding habits post-release.

Also known as sea eagles, the white-tailed eagle is unmistakable, largely due to its size; an adult stands 90cm tall and has an eight-foot wingspan. However, its distinctive white tail does not fully develop until it is sexually mature from four to five years old. They can live typically for 20-30 years. They nest up trees, on cliffs and even on the ground.

The current Isle of Wight project is licensed to release 60 birds between 2019 – 2029. Seven to eight week-old birds are translocated from Scotland (there are many breeding pairs there, with 200 breeding pairs on the Isle of Mull alone) to the release site on the Isle of Wight. They are fed fish for six weeks until they are big and strong enough for release. They have solar powered tags attached so that their movements can be tracked, and after release they continue to be fed until they decide to go it alone. 50 birds have now been released and, so far, five pairs have paired up and established a territory. Successful breeding has now started, and in 2023 the project witnessed its first sea eagle fledging in England for 240 years! There have now been nine fledged chicks. The project's goal is to achieve six to ten breeding pairs, numbers which should represent a sustainable population.

Apart from releasing a further ten birds, the project is now monitoring the 'travel plans' and diet of juvenile and breeding birds. Young birds tend to explore as far as Scotland and fly across to the continent before eventually returning to 'home' territory in the south of England where they typically stay with a view to breed. Hundreds of eagle diet records have been captured, confirming fish as their favourite food followed by birds (ducks and geese typically) and mammals (rabbits and hares).

Currently the best places to see these spectacular birds are Christchurch Harbour and Poole Harbour. A first sighting in Froyle was recorded in 2020 when an eagle landed in one of our fields. Hopefully we will have more visits in the future.

*Alan Dyos*

# CHRISTMAS AT MILL FARM 1945

***Here is the another extract from 'Mill Farm: people and animals under one roof' by Elisabeth Castonier. Elisabeth was a writer and journalist who fled Germany after her books were burnt by the Nazis. She came to England and in 1944 she decided to join her friend Jane Napier who ran Mill Farm on the other side of the A31.***

We invited a few prisoners of war to spend this first Christmas evening of peace with us. Italians, Germans and an Austrian came. The Italians asked to cook their national dishes: minestrone and, of course, spaghetti. The Germans and the Austrian undertook the Germanic food: roast goose, sauerkraut and potatoes. Jane provided beer, wine and cider, and a Christmas pudding which, according to tradition, had to boil slowly for four hours. The kitchen table had been extended and particularly beautifully decorated by Jane with fir branches, tinsel, ribbons and gold angel hair. There was a present for every guest.

Fiori, the effeminate Italian, had burnt his fingers baking cakes and behaved like an hysterical cook, beginning to cry and having to be bandaged and comforted. The Germans looked on with contemptuous smiles. We were all very hungry when we were finally able to sit down to eat.

First, the Italian dishes were served: minestrone in the large, golden-shining copper pan normally used only for preserving: two soup tureens full of spaghetti; a flower vase of tomato sauce; a vegetable dish with grated cheese. And all at once the copper pan, soup tureens, flower vase and vegetable dish were empty, and we sat there like the overfed figures in Bruegel's '*Land of Cockaigne'*. Even Jane, who had enjoyed all this foreign fare and could eat a great deal, was now rather sleepy and quieter than usual.

Franz from Saxony aptly, though inelegantly, remarked:

*"And if we now have to squeeze down the goose, our bellies will burst and there'll be a bang, like this!"* And he made a loud noise!

Father Christian, always concerned for everyone's welfare as though we were his six under-age children, thought perhaps a little walk would be advisable. *"So everything can settle a bit, as it were."*

The suggestion was accepted, and to the amazement of the parrot Pollykeye, who had watched our celebration screaming, dancing and singing, and to the bewilderment of the cats, who had gathered expectantly and were waiting for goose bones, the kitchen emptied of people. Only Suzy the sheep went on sleeping unconcernedly under the table.

We walked slowly along the path, across the yard, as far as the stone bridge under which our swans slept. Then to the calf shed, from which the animals' warm vapour drifted into the mild, damp winter night, which could just as well have been an October night. The train crept slowly along beyond the marsh meadows. The Austrian said in his excessively polite way:

*"Well now, if it pleases the ladies and gentlemen, I reckon the little goose should be ready by now, and it will take a while to finish the sauce and dish it up."*



The goose was enormous, and with it came mountains of sauerkraut and potatoes, baked apples and redcurrant jelly. Our faces became red and shiny; we spoke little and rather breathlessly. So, when Jane set the Christmas pudding on the table, surrounded according to ancient custom by blue, flickering flames of brandy, no one dared refuse the brown monster and rum butter. But they all said quietly:

*"Just a very little, please, thank you. Oh, that's already much too much."*

Later, I heard Franz from Saxony say quietly to Christian from Holstein: *"Looks like dried cow dung, doesn't it?"*

Then the glasses were filled with wine, Jane rose and gave the traditional toast, briefly and to the point:

*"The King."* Then, *"Our absent friends."*

We clinked glasses, repeated her words and remembered those we loved and those who had already reached the final destination of their lives. The Austrian cleared his throat and said modestly:

*"And, if you please, to peace lasting and our being allowed to go home soon."*

The men smoked, we listened to the King's address on the wireless and sang Christmas songs in different languages. This excited Pollykeye so much that she had screaming fits, danced like a dervish on her perch and finally had to be covered up. Later, with little halting speeches, we received gifts from our guests who had so often helped with the harvest during the war: small handmade objects, paperweights, vases made from bottles; and Fiori had sewn us a tea cosy and embroidered it in splendid colours with flowers from his homeland.

The cats devoured scraps of potato and sauce, milk and bread and cake crumbs, and slept in deep comas in their various usual places. Only Duchess Nana had not moved from her chair and pink silk cushion. Her Christmas meal, finely cut goose skin with cream, had to be served to her in bed.

It was a lovely, peaceful celebration in the first winter of peace. We had all eaten and drunk far too much. But as Father Christian so rightly said:

*"Who knows what'll be happening next year?*

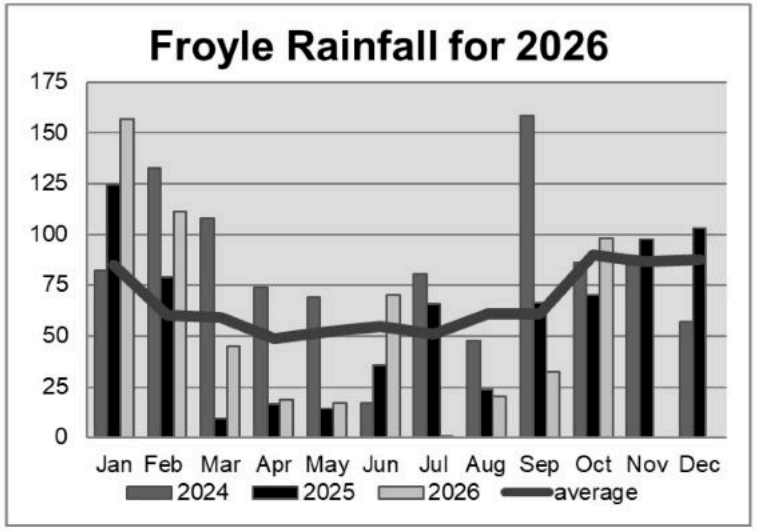
*Nick Whines 01420 23130 Froyle Archive.*

*Mill Farm with little bridge on right*



## Froyle Rainfall for October, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| This year | 98 mm | 3.9 ins |
| Last year | 70 mm | 2.8 ins |
| Wettest October (1987) – the wettest ever month | 226 mm | 8.9 ins |
| Driest October (1978) | 7 mm | 0.3 ins |
| October long-term average – the wettest month | 89.8 mm | 3.5 ins |
| Total rainfall for the year so far | 569.5 mm | 22.4 ins |
| Long-term average for the year so far | 622 mm | 24.5 ins |




For only the fourth time this year, we have had above average rainfall for the month. And accordingly, at close on one hundred mm, it is very likely that the total rainfall for the final quarter of 2026 will be above the annual average of 255mm.



*"The Umbrella Man"*







## LENT SOUP LUNCHES 2027



Once again, Easter is early next year, so our soup lunches begin early in February. They comprise home made soups, along with bread and cheese. All donations go to the charity chosen by the host/ess.

- **10 Feb:** Yvonne and Jenny in the Village Hall; donations to Naomi House & Jack's Place
- **17 Feb:** Jo Mills at Brecklands LF; donations to Asthma Lung UK
- **24 Feb:** John and Vivienne Sexton at Brewery House LF; donations to St Michael's Hospice
- **3 March:** Caroline Findlay at Beech Cottage LF; donations to Amyloidosis UK
- **10 March:** Mary Ginsberg at Park Edge UF; donations to Trussell Trust
- **17 March:** Emily Halse at Lombardy House LF; donations to Leukaemia Care UK

Everyone welcome! If directions to a particular venue are needed, please contact me; *govejenny@gmail.com*

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## ALTON FOOD BANK
## PLEASE SUPPORT

Thank you for your continued support of the Alton Foodbank. We have seen a large drop in donations recently: with winter soon upon us, please can you generously donate if you are able from the following list:

| | |
|---|---|
| Tinned vegetables | Tinned meat |
| Tinned soup | Washing powder |
| Toilet roll | Cereals |
| Sponge puddings | Peanut butter |
| UHT milk | Tea bags |

There is a donation box in the village hall, or you can drop off at Froyle, Bentley or Binsted churches, and at all local supermarkets. If you have any queries, please call me.

*Louise Marston*
*07785 350381*



## CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

If only we could stop the wars,
the fighting and the grief.
If only we could stretch our purse
for everyone's relief.
If only we could save the world,
from every kind of harm.
If only we could be there
for each red flag alarm.
If only we were able
to stop the constant greed.
Then every hungry open mouth
could satisfy its need.

So - maybe - Father Christmas
could laden up his sleigh
with huge boxes of love
for us to open Christmas day.
He could drop them in an instant,
those reindeer love to fly.
He'd be finished in an hour or two
before sunrise wakes the sky.
Then all around the world
what a wondrous sight we'd see.
As the light of love dawned everywhere
twinkling merrily.

*Lynda Ben-David*
*Christmas 2026*



# The Real Nativity 2026

**St Mary's Church, Upper Froyle,**
**22nd December, 6pm**

*We had such a great time last year*
*we've brought it back by popular demand!*

The Real Nativity will be visiting Froyle again
before it moves off to another village in the benefice next year.

**Come and join us and follow the Christmas story**
**from the appearance of the Angel Gabriel**
**to the birth of Jesus.**

Wrap-up warm, wear appropriate footwear for a field
and bring a torch. There'll be warm drinks and mince pies
to get things started.

There's plenty of parking, follow the road signs in Froyle
and the Traffic Marshall's directions to the car park.
It's a short walk from the car park to the venue.

If you can be with us from 5:45pm, we can start promptly at 6pm
and you'll be away by 7pm.

*It's an evening to get your Christmas*
*off to a great start and a night to remember,*
*there'll be Donkey's, Sheep, Shepherds*
*and so much more. Do come, you'll be amazed...!*





## ST MARY'S NEWS

Our Remembrance Sunday service was, as always, a dignified and moving event. Our thanks to all who contributed. The decorations in the church were quite splendid – the 'poppy spitfire (see below) and poppy cascade were on display as last year and much admired not only during services but by visitors at other times from further afield (a couple from Brisbane were most impressed).

We now look forward to a very busy festive season: as this magazine goes to press, we are about to hold our Christmas Fair in the church (on Saturday 21 Nov – always a warm and entertaining event involving much hard work by our tireless fundraising group), followed on Saturday 28 Nov by our Advent-by-Candlelight choral service at 6.30pm.

As we get closer to Christmas, our services become more family focussed:

- Sunday 13 December at 6.30pm, we have our ***Froyle Family Carols*** service. There is also a Binsted Family Carol Service in Binsted church the following Sunday 20 December, starting at 6pm. Both were very well attended last year.
- Tuesday 23 December, ***"The Real Nativity"***: our "live" re-enactment of the Christmas story returns after a very successful such event last year - inspired by the amazing event held in Binsted for many years. Like last year, we start in the field opposite the church at 5.45pm for refreshments, (parking will be at West End farm yard) with the main event starting at 6pm. Bring clothing and footwear suitable for singing in a cold field on a winter's night! We then move into the church itself: for more details, see page opposite.
- Christmas Eve 5.30pm, ***Froyle Crib Service***: a quiet, gentle telling by Matt of the Christmas story, with the help of Froyle's lovely 19th century painted-plaster nativity scene figures (Mary, Joseph, wise men, animals and, of course, baby Jesus). This contrasts with the glorious sparkle and razzmatazz of the Bentley Christingle, held slightly earlier on Christmas Eve at 4pm in Bentley church.

All this culminates in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holy Communion services held across the benefice – check out the times on pages 24 and 25.

Happy Christmas!

*Simon Marshall, Jack Stephenson, Churchwardens*



# ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTES

**Vicar: The Reverend Matt Boyes** *07469 270590 E:* matt@benbinfro.co.uk
**Administrators:** *01420 23339* E: admin@benbinfro.org W: www.benbinfro.co.uk



**Benefice Pastoral Care**
Nick Carter *01420 489122*
nick.carter1945@outlook.com
**Anna Chaplain:**
The Rev Fran Harrison *07765 058593*
annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

**Church Wardens:**
Simon Marshall *07734 214419*
sm517@icloud.com
Jack Stephenson *01420 23216*
romanhorse@hotmail.co.uk
**Anna Friend:** Sarah Roberts
*07831 294852* sarahrfroyle@gmail.com

## DECEMBER SERVICES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 6 Dec | 9.30am | Binsted | Holy Communion & Children's church |
| | 11.00am | Oakhanger | Holy Communion |
| | 6.00pm | Bentley | Praise |
| Sunday 13 Dec | 9.30am | Bentley | Morning Worship & Children's church |
| | **11.00am** | **Froyle** | **Holy Communion** |
| | 6.00pm | Kingsley | Praise |
| | **6.30pm** | **Froyle** | **Carol Service** |
| Sunday 20 Dec | **9.30am** | **Froyle** | **Morning Worship** |
| | 11.00am | Kingsley | Holy Communion |
| | 4.00pm | Oakhanger | Christingle |
| | 6.00pm | Binsted | Carol Service |
| Monday 21 Dec | 7.30pm | Bentley | Carols at The Star Inn |
| Tuesday 22 Dec | **6.00pm** | **Froyle** | **The Real Nativity** |
| Thursday 24 Dec | 4.00pm | Bentley | Christingle |
| *Christmas Eve* | **5.30pm** | **Froyle** | **Crib Service** |
| | 10.00pm | Bentley | Late Night Communion |
| | 10.00pm | Binsted | Late Night Communion |
| | **11.30pm** | **Froyle** | **Midnight Holy Communion** |
| | 11.30pm | Kingsley | Midnight Holy Communion |



## December Services continued

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Friday 25 Dec | 9.30am | Bentley | Holy Communion |
| *Christmas Day* | 9.30am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| | **11.00am** | **Froyle** | **Holy Communion** |
| | 11.00am | Oakhanger | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 27 Dec | 11.00am | Bentley | Joint Holy Communion |

## JANUARY SERVICES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 3 Jan | 9.30am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| | 11.00am | Oakhanger | Holy Communion |
| | 6.00pm | Bentley | Praise |
| Sunday 10 Jan | 9.30am | Bentley | Morning Worship & Children's church |
| | **11.00am** | **Froyle** | **Holy Communion** |
| | 6.00pm | Kingsley | Praise |
| Sunday 17 Jan | **9.30am** | **Froyle** | **Morning Worship** |
| | 11.00am | Kingsley | Holy Communion |
| | **4.00pm** | **Froyle** | **Messy Church** |
| Sunday 24 Jan | 9.30am | Bentley | Holy Communion & Children's church |
| | 11.00am | Binsted | Morning Worship |
| | **6.30pm** | **Froyle** | **Evensong** |
| Sunday 31 Jan | 11.00am | Binsted | Joint Benefice Service |

## Decorating St Mary's Church for Christmas

Decorating St Mary's Church for Christmas will take place on
**Saturday 19 December starting at 9am.**



Our theme this year will be Christmas Trees and Angels.

Many hands make light work, so we hope to see as many of you as possible! Most of the decorations will be on window sills as we anticipate a full church for The Real Nativity on Tuesday 22 December.

We look forward to seeing you!



*Gill Bradley 520484*

# THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

C.S. Lewis in “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” tells of Narnia under the spell of the White Witch where the land is covered in ice and snow, where “it is always winter, but never Christmas”. The first sign of Aslan moving, is that Father Christmas appears and gives gifts to the children.

Hopefully we won’t have perpetual snow this year! But this is a picture of a world where hope is missing and everything is frozen. The message of Christmas is that God has moved and is continuing to move in his world.

Elsewhere, Lewis describes the idea of someone who so deeply loves dogs that they study everything that can be known about dogs, their behaviour, healthy nutrition, the right amount of exercise for each breed, even what each bark and growl might mean depending on its pitch. Yet even if that person studied dogs all their life, they would never fully know what it is like to be a dog. For that to happen they would have to become a dog. He uses this analogy to describe the Incarnation, which is the Christian belief that God so loved his world that he took on human nature and lived a fully, authentic human life. That God, without ceasing to be God, became one of us, one with us.

God’s knowledge of us is therefore, not a detached, distant knowledge. But he knows us because he has stepped into his own creation. Within theatre, when a writer steps onto the stage, the play ends because illusion cannot mix with reality. But in the Incarnation, the Creator steps into the world to participate fully in it and to understand human life from the inside.

This is the great story of Christmas that Nativity plays and films seek to portray. That life is different now, that hope has come, that we have a God who knows us and loves us. That God’s great plan of winning his creation back to himself is working itself out. The baby in Bethlehem grows to be God on the cross at Easter. That the innocent Jesus dies to break the power of evil, of spiritual winter, in order to give hope and new gifts to his people. That the world was forever changed by that birth in a manger. The Christian writer J. John says that the hinge of history is the stable door in Bethlehem. That human history is forever changed with the birth of Jesus.

If you want to find out more or have a good discussion, we will be running the Alpha course from 7 January. Why not make a New Year Resolution and come along and be well fed and join in the discussion yourself?

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*Matt Boyes*

*Rector of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle*



**Interested to know more about the Christian faith?**

Come along to Alpha,

**Thursdays from 7th January 2027**

**7:30pm**

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## MEET THE TEAM – David Perryman

1. **Quick-fire questions!**
   a. Tea or coffee? Coffee - I have one cup of tea a month at a meeting where I have never been asked.
   b. Winter or summer? Summer!
   c. Sunrise or sunset? Sunset, I never seem to notice sunrise!
   d. Sweet or savoury? Hard to choose - I just love food!
   e. Apple or android? Android - Apple is too expensive for me
   f. Air guitar or air drums? I don't think so
   g. Movies or books? Books - I always have three on the go

2. **What's your favourite way to start the day?** Getting things done - mainly in the study eg sermon preparation, before Mary appears for breakfast.

3. **Tell us more about your role at Benbinfro and how you ended up here.** I retired from being a Vicar in Bath 19 years ago. We came here to be near family in Four Marks, our daughter had a slight connection with James Campbell, who was then Vicar of Bentley and Binsted. We were welcomed into Bentley Church. James left about six months later, just when the Bishop gave me PTO (permission to take services), so I helped out a bit in the vacancy, which went on for over two years, and then Yann kindly used me for services and I helped run a couple of Alpha courses. Since then, as age creeps on, I have continued to help on Sundays, but doing less.

4. **What things in your role do you look forward to the most?** I continue to consider it a privilege to be trusted to take services and preach and it helps to keep in touch with people across our enlarged benefice.

5. **Outside of parish life, what things do you get nerdy or excited about?** When we wonder if we should downsize to a flat, I realise how much I would miss having a garage and tools to fix things. I am also glad we still manage our caravan for holidays - though not a lot longer I fear.

6. **What's your most embarrassing moment?** When I was a curate in Costa Geriatica, sometimes doing several funerals a week - I was praying extempore with a family, referring to 'not a sparrow falling without God knowing', I looked down at the paper in my hand and realised that the deceased was Mr Sparrow.

7. **If you could invent one thing to make your life better, what would you invent and why?** A teleport system so as to get places without motorways, airports and traffic queues.

8. **To finish, what is your go-to bible verse when you need some encouragement, and how can it help encourage others?** Proverbs 3. 5-6 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.* It has been translated *In everything you do put God first.* A good principle for living.








## Growing a Greener Community at Bentley Primary School

At Bentley CE Primary School, our children have been busy finding practical ways to care for the environment, from picking up litter to planting bulbs for spring.

Our pupil Eco Team is organised into smaller subcommittees, each focusing on a different environmental issue. **Team Ocean, Team Food and Team Energy are all groups of children**, who help lead projects and encourage the wider school community to get involved.

**Team Ocean** has been encouraging children to use our Litter Picker Backpacks outside school. Supported by their families, pupils have been heading out at weekends to help keep their neighbourhoods clean. We are grateful to everyone who has supported them. These small acts make a visible difference and help children understand the part they can play in looking after our community.

Meanwhile, **Team Food** has begun monitoring and weighing food waste from school lunches. This will help the children understand how much is thrown away and explore ways to reduce it. We are also encouraging families to think about lunchbox packaging. A “naked lunchbox”, with food placed directly into reusable compartments, is a simple way to cut down on single-use wrappers.

From 9–20 November, **Team Energy** lead our second Switch Off Fortnight. Last year, switching off unused lights and classroom whiteboards saved the school an impressive £50 in just two weeks! The children are keen to build on that success, reducing both our energy bills and our carbon emissions. As the colder weather arrives, their campaign is a timely reminder for us all to consider where we could save energy at home.

Outside, our **Attenborough Garden** is entering a quieter season, with dried seed heads and the last colourful asters providing autumn interest. Our Nature Guardians have been planting bulbs, giving us something to look forward to when spring arrives.



We were particularly delighted that the garden received a special mention in The Garden, the Royal Horticultural Society’s monthly magazine. In an article about school gardening, RHS Director General Clare Matterson highlighted our pollinator-friendly garden and the children’s efforts to help tackle declining butterfly numbers.



“Among the many lovely examples of impact, pupils at Bentley Church of England Primary School in Hampshire created a pollinator-friendly garden to help tackle the decline in butterfly numbers. They named their newly opened green space The Attenborough Garden, in celebration of Sir David Attenborough’s 100th birthday in May this year. One pupil said: “I especially liked planting the wildflowers because it was peaceful and calming.” I think we can all relate to that.”

Through all these activities, our children are discovering that caring for the world starts with the choices we make each day. We are proud of their commitment and grateful to the families and wider community who support their work.

*Vicky Hallett,*

*Headteacher Bentley CE Primary School*

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## Jars, Physics, and a Global-Class Brew in Alton

I needed preserving jars, and Alton High Street came up trumps against the out-of-town outlets. At Home Hardware, two teenagers sorted me out with everything for my jelly-making, wrapping the glass in yards of unpractised bubble wrapping that mostly—though not entirely—silenced the clatter.

Every proper excursion requires a coffee treat, and Google Maps had already promised me "global-class coffee" at **Two-40 Coffee Company**. Pour-over. My style. Out of curiosity, I asked the girls at the till where the best coffee in town was; their answer proved our requirements didn't quite match, and a quick look at their choice confirmed my suspicions. Still, coffee is hardly top of the agenda at that age.

Clutching my bulky, faintly rattling parcel, I strode up the High Street and tucked into the tiny shop in the alley near Iceland. Inside, Henry was turning out drinks—poured, brewed, espressoed, any milk, any way—with the precision of an astrophysicist, while happily making a hot chocolate for the young girl ahead of me in the queue. A shop for everyone.

While a standard cappuccino won't break the bank, I was there for the full pour-over performance—treating myself to a £10 rare Ethiopian brew that arrived on a tray with a glass of sparkling water and first-rate company. In a town where corporate giant M&S is closing to protect its efficiencies, seeing an independent pour that kind of enterprise, generosity, and hope back into a threatened high street is something to celebrate.

To slow my tempo and savour the afternoon, I flicked through a ledge of books and picked up The Physics of Filter Coffee.

Henry smiled across the counter. "Ah," he said. "That’s the other astrophysicist."

*Ara (short for Arabella)*

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Or contact me direct on **rachelschancellor@outlook.com.**

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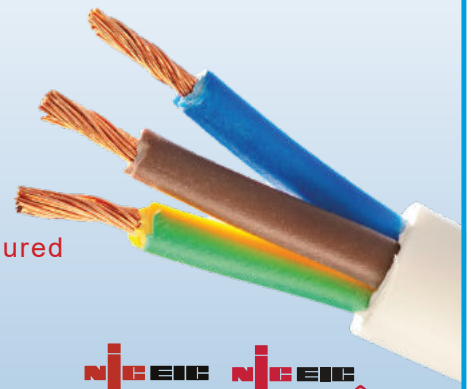
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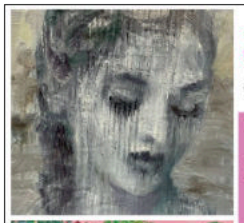
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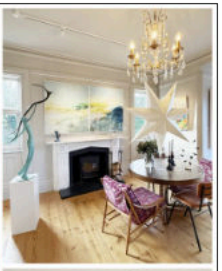
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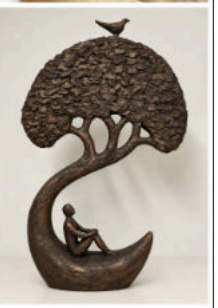
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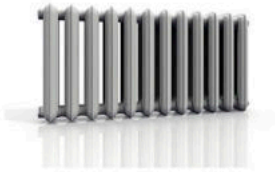
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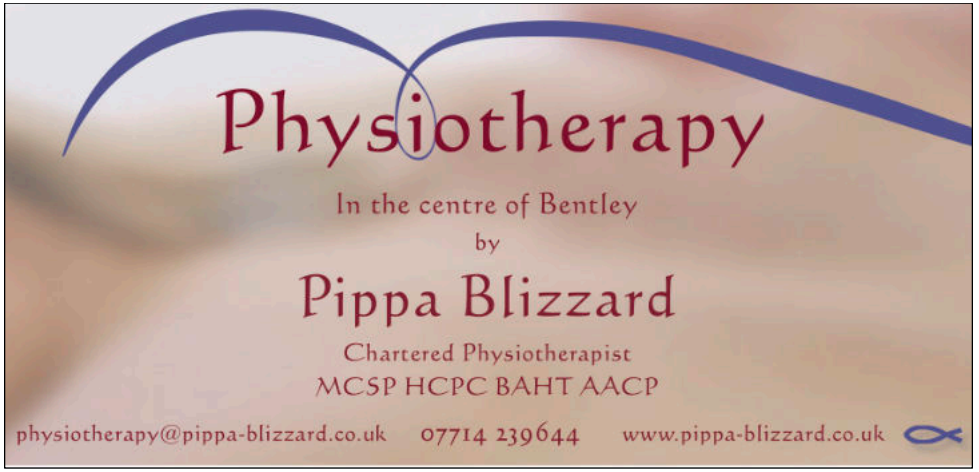
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## Advertising rates 2026/2027

For Froyle businesses: £41+VAT/year, £25+VAT/half year for advertisements of **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers**.

For non-Froyle businesses: £62+VAT/year, £38+VAT/half year for **up to half a page/a third of a page on inside covers**.

For both residents and non-residents: £125+VAT/year, £75+VAT/half year for **a full page,** £140.00+VAT/year **for inside cover full page.**

The advertising year begins with the April edition, and the half-year with either the April or October edition.

We are happy to include one-off advertisements or notices free of charge for events associated with or put on by the village, as long as they are not for profit or part of a commercial venture. Otherwise the charge is £12.50+VAT per insertion.

All advertising must be requested and paid for through the Parish Clerk at froylemageditor@gmail.com **and copied to** clerk@froyleparishcouncil.co.uk.

We are pleased that local trades and service providers advertise with us and we do hope that you support them. However we do not check or endorse them in any way.

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## NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

The magazine is published in A5 size, portrait orientation, both online and in print. The online version is in colour but the printed version is in black and white.

**Posters/Adverts**

If you want a full page design your page in portrait layout. For half pages use landscape. You can send your copy in any size but it will be resized to fit on A5 portrait. To see how it will look is to design a full page as A5 portrait and a half page as A6 landscape.

Please submit artwork and copy as a JPG/PNG picture or PDF file, with, if available, the original Word or Powerpoint document and any photographs.

**Articles**

Please send text and pictures separately as well as in your complete article. As a rough guide a page is about 500 words – with no pictures.

Pictures should be high resolution JPEG or PNG files.

**General**

All magazine contributions should be submitted to froylemageditor@gmail.com. Please refer to the back cover for next month's magazine deadline.

In the event of any question over including or excluding any item or part of an item, or in relation to any other matter, the Editor's decision is final.

# Village Events December 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1<br>1130 Senior Residents Advent Lunch | 2 | 3<br>1330 Wreath making | 4<br>1000-1200 Meeting place (Treloar) | 5 |
| 6<br>1600 Life drawing | 7<br>Rubbish Food waste<br>1330 Art group | 8 | 9<br>1900 FGC AGM | 10<br>Garden waste | 11<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 12 |
| 13<br>1100 HC<br>1830 Family Carols | 14<br>Recycling & glass - Food waste<br>1900 PC mtg | 15<br>1000 Life drawing | 16 | 17 | 18<br>1000-1200 Christmas Meeting place | 19<br>0900 Decorate St Mary's Church |
| 20<br>0930 Morning Worship | 21<br>Rubbish Food waste | 22<br>18.00 The Real Nativity | 23 | 24<br>1730 Crib Service<br>2330 Midnight HC | 25<br>1100 HC | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29<br>Recycling & glass Food waste | 30 | 31 | | |

# Village Events January 2027

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 | | | | | 1<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 2 |
| 3<br>1600 Life drawing | 4 | 5<br>Rubbish Food waste | 6 | 7<br>Garden waste | 8<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 9<br>1230 FGC lunch |
| 10<br>1100 HC | 11<br>Recycling & glass - Food waste<br>1900 PC mtg | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 16 |
| 17<br>0930 Morning Worship<br>1600 Messy Church | 18<br>Rubbish Food waste | 19<br>1000 Life drawing | 20 | 21<br>Garden waste | 22<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 23 |
| 24<br>1830 Evensong | 25<br>Recycling & glass Food waste | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29<br>1000-1200 Meeting place | 30 |

# Froyle Directory

**Froyle Parish Council** Ⓕ www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk
Andrew Potter, Clerk ✉ clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk ☎ ✆ 07979 030571
**Froyle Residents Email List** email to join ✉ clerk@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk

**East Hampshire District Council** www.easthants.gov.uk
Tony Costigan, District Councillor ✉ tony.costigan@easthants.gov.uk ☎ 07770 666896

**Hampshire County Council** www.hants.gov.uk
Antonia Cox, County Councillor ✉ antonia.cox@hants.gov.uk ☎ 07703 318981

**Froyle Village Hall** Ⓕ www.froylevillagehall.co.uk
Chair: Gillian Paul: chairman@froylevillagehall.co.uk ☎ 07774880885
Bookings: Sarah Zorab ✉ bookings@froylevillagehall.co.uk ☎ 01420 520361
**The Meeting Place - Fridays 10-12 at the Village Hall** Susie Robertson ☎ 01420 520820

**Froyle Gardening Club** Ⓕ www.froylegardeningclub.co.uk
Geoff Hawkins ✉ info@froylegardeningclub.co.uk ☎ 01420 88176

**Froyle Wildlife** www.froylewildlife.co.uk - Barry Clark ☎ 01420 23520

**Tree Warden** Sue Lelliott ✉ tree.warden@froyleparishcouncil.org.uk ☎ 01420 22015

**Speedwatch Group** Gordon Mitchell ✉ champersg@hotmail.com ☎ 01420 23851

**Police Community Support Officers ☎ 101**
PC Alex Routt ✉ alex.routt@hampshire.police.uk or 07891 484 670
PC Jess Hornsby ✉ jessica.hornsby@hampshire.police.uk

**Froyle Archive** www.froyle.com/archive

**The Benefice of Bentley, Binsted & Froyle** Ⓕ www.benbinfro.co.uk
Matt Boyes, Vicar - ✉ matt@benbinfro.co.uk ☎ 07469 270590
Sarah Roberts, Anna Friend - ✉ sarahrfroyle@gmail.com ☎ ✆ 07831 294852
St Mary's Church Flower Rota - Gill Bradley ☎ 01420 520484

**Bentley, Binsted and Froyle Care Group** - Bookings ☎ 07775 458873

Ⓕ **Froyle on Facebook** - *Froyle Residents, Froyle Noticeboard*
**Froyle on Instagram** *#froylevillage @froylevillage*

**Key: ☎ Telephone ✉ Email Ⓕ Facebook ✆ WhatsApp**

## FEBRUARY DEADLINE: FRIDAY 22 JANUARY 2027

For Notes to Contributors, please see page 43.