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# Benefield News

**Parish Council**

**St Mary's Church**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**CRICKET CLUB**





## Benefield Parish Council

Benefield Parish Council provides your local services. We strive to make this a better place to live, work and visit.

Visit us on <https://benefieldparish.com/parish-council> or contact [benefieldparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com](mailto:benefieldparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com)

As we approach Christmas, and the festivities it brings, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to every one of you.

Christmas is a time for family, togetherness, and reflection. We are so fortunate to live in such a fine and safe village, so please, as we celebrate this festive period, spare a thought for those less fortunate than us, both here in the UK and overseas.

2025 has been a year of both challenges for some and achievements for others. I hope that you will agree that overall, and together, we have continued to build a vibrant, and improved village community. I want to thank all the volunteers who support the Cricket and Social Club groups, the Village Hall and Church, and residents who have dedicated their time and energy to improving our lives here in Benefield. Whether you help to maintain our beautiful environment, support local initiatives, or simply look out for a neighbour, your efforts make a huge difference. I would also like to thank my fellow colleagues and councillors who have supported me in my twelve months as Chair of the Parish Council and who remain committed to serving the best interests of our village. As we plan for the year ahead, we welcome your ideas and input. Benefield is a special place, and together, we can ensure it continues to thrive for generations to come.

As you gather with family and friends this Christmas, may your celebrations be filled with joy, peace, and love. Let us take this time to appreciate all that we share as a community and look forward to a bright, healthy, and happy New Year.

Finally I would like to offer a warm welcome to those whose first Christmas this is in the village, both newly moved here from elsewhere or newly arrived and yet to celebrate your first Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

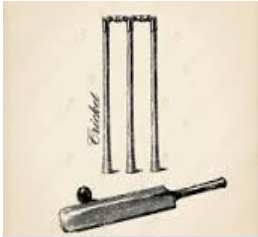
With warm regards

Paul Faulkner, Chair Benefield Parish Council.

## Benefield Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 1st & 3rd of the month	9.15am	Sunday Service	Church
Last Friday of the month	7pm – 9.30pm	Food night. Fish n chips or other + quiz	Cricket Club
First Sunday of month	9am – 11am	Pop up cafe	Village hall
Sunday (alternate)	7pm	Quiz night	Cricket Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month	7pm	Book Club	Cricket Club
May to September	1pm to 6pm	Saturday and Sunday cricket matches. Club open on match days	Cricket Club
June to September	7.30pm	Friday BBQ at least one per month.	Cricket Club

Date	Day	Time	Event	Venue
7 December	Sunday	3pm	Children's Christmas Crafts.	Church
7 December	Sunday	4pm	Christingle Service	Church
7 December	Sunday	2pm to 5.30pm	Mindfulness retreats .Book via restwith.ec@gmail.com	Cricket Club
12 December	Friday	7pm	Cheese & Port	Cricket Club
21 December	Sunday	5pm	Carol Service.	Church
24 December	Wednesday	7pm to late	Christmas Eve party with buffet, quiz and raffle.	Cricket Club
25 December	Thursday	9.15am	Christmas Day family service	Church
31 December	Wednesday	7pm	New Years Eve party. Chinese food.	Cricket Club
13 February	Friday	7pm	Race Night with pancakes served.	Cricket Club
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday	7pm	Bingo. Food TBA	Cricket Club
21 March	Saturday	7pm	Spud Night.	Village Hall
31 May	Sunday	TBC	Hanging Basket Workshop	Village Hall
20 June	Saturday	TBC	BBQ	Village Hall
26 June to 6 July			Cricket Club to be a venue for the Oundle Fringe.	Cricket Club



## BENEFIELD CRICKET & SOCIAL CLUB

Located in Upper Benefield with views of Lower Benefield, St Mary's Church spire and rolling countryside as far as the eye can see.

**The Clubhouse** is open to members every Friday night 7pm to 11pm. Family Membership £20 Individual Membership £10 p.a. Non-member residents and friends are welcome as guests.

The Club will also be open on **New Year's Eve** and for those who have not already overeaten, there will be a **Chinese buffet**. We will have a game of **Play Your Cards Right**. The jackpot was won earlier this year, but nevertheless, the top prize is currently standing at £150 and must be won on the night. The person closest to completing the game will be awarded the top prize. Worth turning out for and supporting the Cricket and Social Club.

The Events Committee are busy working on and planning the events calendar for 2026 and details of this will be published on the Benefield Facebook, WhatsApp sites and in the village newsletter in due course. Please check out the village events calendar in this edition for what has been arranged so far.

I am also pleased to say that we are working with the Oundle Fringe organisers to have the **Cricket Club included as one of the Fringe venues**. The Fringe will be staged from 26th June to 6th July. As their planning progresses, we will have a clearer picture on what they would like us to stage and will make sure this is communicated to you in good time.

We purchased a **defibrillator** earlier this year and this is kept at the club. However, we are fund raising to buy a **cabinet** so that it can be conveniently located outside. The method of our fund raising will be shared on WhatsApp and Facebook. Please feel to make a donation.

**Did You Know.** The Club is run by a team of volunteers that includes bar staff, maintenance, food preparation etc. We do not receive an annual budget so rely on the membership fees, profit from the bar and events and where possible from grants to keep the Club running. If you are not already a member, then why not consider becoming one, the annual membership is just £10 for a single or £20 for a family (family membership includes children up to the age of 18). Joining is simple, just contact a committee member or pop along on a Friday night.

The Club is fully licensed and is for hire to both members and non-members and is an ideal venue for parties, wedding receptions and wakes. Hire costs start at just £15 per hour. Please contact a committee member for more details.

On behalf of the committee members and all our volunteers, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



## The Church of St Mary the Virgin

Sunday Services are currently held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 9.15 am.

The **Church Warden** is Jane Berridge

Tel: 01832 205283/07808632448 [janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you to all the volunteers for your support to maintain the church and churchyard, and with the fundraising events during the year for the church roof fund. We do hope those of you who attended the events enjoyed them, we are pleased with the fundraising efforts and are delighted to have brought the Benefield community together on a number of different occasions.

If you have any ideas for further events, then please do get in touch!

To volunteer to help with the upkeep of your village church and churchyard or for any fundraising event ideas, please contact Jane Berridge, Churchwarden 07808632448 / [janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk)





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### 7th December 2025

**3pm Children's Christmas Crafts, Cake and Produce stall**, plus Benefield Calendars on sale too.

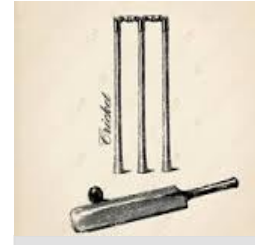
We would be grateful for any donations of cakes, jams, chutney etc to sell on the day to raise funds for the church upkeep.

### 4pm Christingle Service.



### 21st December at 5 pm

**Carol Service**, come along and sing your favourite carols and enjoy a glass of mulled wine.



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twice so an average of 91.5), Rob Wilkinson 176, Dan Blatch 165 and Aman Singh 162 – all except Robbie averaging 22-32.

There were 5 bowlers taking 14 or more wickets. Sam Levick with 17 wickets, Mike Draper (15) Elliot Ironmonger (15) and Dan Blatch (14). These bowlers accounted for over 80% of the overs bowled in the 2025 season.

The captains award for 2025 went to Harry Chudley and The Colin Nichols award went to Matt Shardlow for his hard work in getting the club up to date with safe-guarding policies and practices.

The ground has been put to bed for the winter. The square top dressed and seeded and outfield cut and rolled and mowers serviced and ready to go for 2026. Benefield CC will be in Rutland Division 3 next year.

Benefield Cricket Club welcome anyone with interest in playing irrespective of age, sex or competence. More details can be found on [www.benefield.play-cricket.com/Aboutus](http://www.benefield.play-cricket.com/Aboutus) or email our secretary at [Davidhomer959@btinternet.com](mailto:Davidhomer959@btinternet.com) or make yourselves known to the club.

On match days the clubhouse is open and spectators are always welcome.

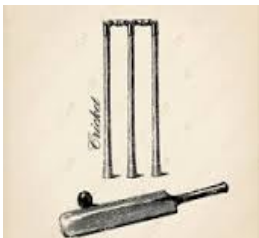
### SOCIAL CLUB

Another year nearly over and Christmas will soon be upon us.

I hope you agree that 2025 has been, for the Social Club, a very successful year. We have staged several events ranging from our monthly fish and chips and food nights, with professional quiz host, to live bands that included The Shaughrauns with ceilidh/barn dancing on the cricket field and Fascination, a covers band. There was also an Amps wine tasting evening.

We still have a few events before the year is out. Cheese and Port night, Christmas Eve party and a New Years Eve party. See Events Calendar for dates and times.

We are well into the planning of our **Christmas Eve party**. For those who have attended this in previous years, I am pleased to say that this will follow the traditional format which includes a buffet, raffle and quiz.



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### CRICKET CLUB

The 2025 season finished with Benefield CC winning Rutland West Division 4. The club won 10 of the 15 matches played on Sundays amassing 255 points with LGR X1 in second with 249 points – so a narrow win.

The players have recently attended the leagues end of season awards dinner to collect the trophy.



The 2025 season was notable for the runs and wickets being spread around the team. However, John Ironmonger had a great season with bat and ball scoring 592 runs (average of 74 and including 1 century) and taking 19 wickets (including 6 wickets for 9 runs). Other batters included Harry Chudley scoring 399 runs (including 1 century), Sam Levick 278, Robbie Head 183 (6 innings but only out



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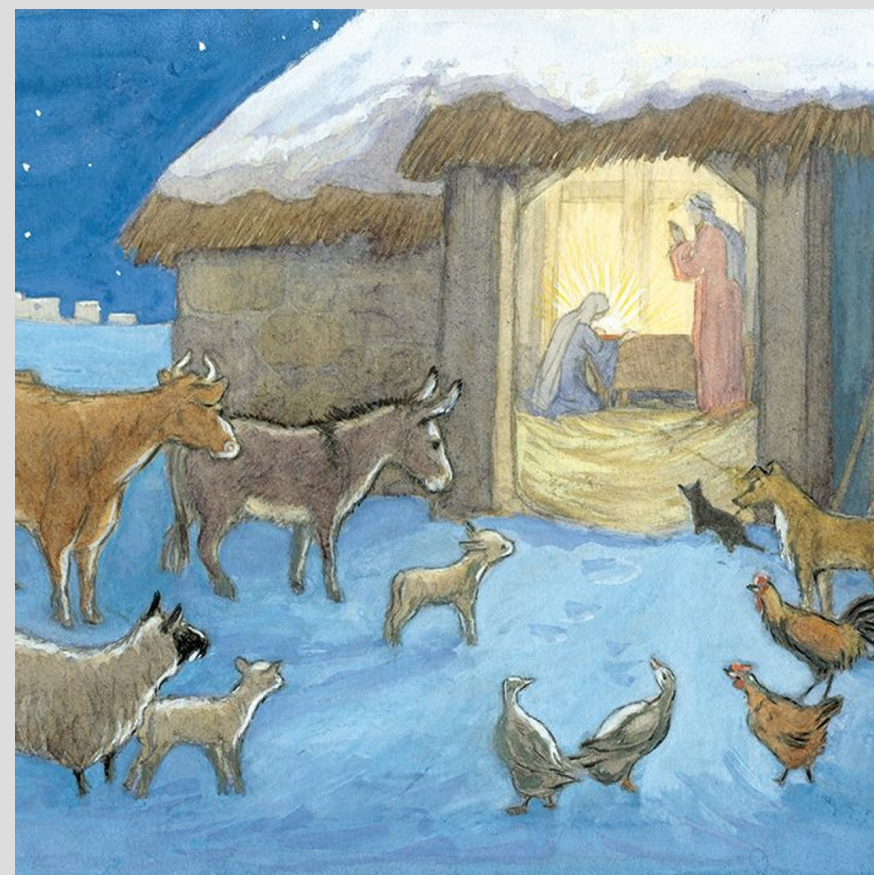
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**25th December at 9.15 am**

### Christmas Day Family Service





**The Village Hall** is a key asset to Benefield and relies on the support of the community. It is available to hire for £10/hour for residents and £15/hour for non-residents.

Bookings can be made by email  
[benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com)

Merry Christmas from Your Village Hall Team!

It's that magical time of year again, and we've got festive fun lined up for everyone!

Firstly...our **Fundraising Christmas Quiz!** Get ready to put your brains to the test with the usual quiz fun. The forms will be available at the Wreath Making Workshop on 29th November, and then we'll be dropping copies door to door on 30th November. We're asking for a small donation to get a copy, and the winning family could win £50! It's a brilliant way to get everyone involved, laugh together, and add a little extra sparkle to the Christmas period and all funds raised go directly to the upkeep of our village hall facility.

That's not all—our **Pop-Up Café** will continue throughout the winter! Warm yourself by the heater (yes, we'll turn them on this time!), enjoy the aroma of sizzling bacon, and grab a cup of cheer every 1st Sunday of the month, 9–11am. The Xmas quiz will be available at the 7th December event, so if we miss you with the door drop you have the final chance to collect one and see if you can solve it with friends over a cozy morning cuppa!

Looking ahead to **2026**, we've got some great events to pop in your diaries:

**Spud Night – 21st March:** Jacket potatoes with a choice of toppings, perfect for a winter warmer!

**AGM – 28th April:** Have your say and meet your Village Hall team.

**Hanging Basket Workshop—31st May** (TBC) Create a garden masterpiece and become the talk of the village.

**BBQ Night – 20th June** Summer, sun, and sizzling fun!

More details on all events will follow, and we can't wait to see you —let's make this festive season and the year ahead full of laughter, community spirit, and maybe a few quiz victories too!



Whilst we are often told that Clark Gable was stationed at Polebrook during WW2 we had our own celebrity visiting closer to home at Christmas 1944— Marlene Dietrich entertained the troops.



Although Marlene Dietrich was born in Berlin, she moved to the USA in 1930 and in 1939 she became an American citizen and renounced her German citizenship.

There were nearly 3,000 Americans stationed at Deenethorpe airbase during the war. It is said that local women did the laundry for the airmen and ground crews. In return, the airmen would often take kit bags full of food and supplies to the locals whom they knew from the laundry operations, or from their visits to the local pubs.



Also, it was not uncommon for the quartermaster to dispose of unopened cans of food in the local refuse tip to make room for the next shipment. The guards would "turn a blind eye" so local villagers could help themselves.

As shown in the photo, airmen and support personnel rode bicycles to get to the Wheatsheaf pub in Upper Benefield, or the Cardigan Arms in Deenethorpe. The Wheatsheaf, built in the 17th century, is still there, but is no longer a pub. The Cardigan Arms has also closed.