



ROWLEDGE Review

90p

January 2023



**Christmas
at Rowledge
School**
Page 16

**Bishop Jo
presented
with #hungry
sweatshirt**
Page 8

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From the Vicarage

As the January edition of the Rowledge Review lands I wonder if you have already packed away your Christmas decorations for another year? It seems that, no matter how meticulously I pack away our tree lights, they always appear to be jumbled in a knot when they are brought back down from the loft the following December! But I'm not sure we should move on from Christmas too quickly. Perhaps we should try to live as 'Christmas people' all year round. The poet, Michael Dougherty puts it like this:



*When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules
The work of Christmas begins:
To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,
To bring Christ's light to the world.*

These are noble aspirations but where can we even start to 'heal a broken planet' or 'feed the hungry?' Take our own nation as an example. "What possible difference could I ever make" – said the almost 70 million people of the UK! Alone we can only make small (though none the less significant) improvements for those who live in our homes, or streets, or communities. Together (and I would add, with the power of God) we can change nations.

When Jesus was asked by his follows how they should pray, he encouraged them to pray "*Your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:10). What a vision that is! That life on earth might be less problem and more paradise. I'd sign up for that straight away.

So let me encourage you in 2023 to ask yourself, what small things can I do, both as an individual, but also as part of a wider community of family, friends, neighbours, political party members, or colleagues, to see the message of Christmas permeate throughout the whole year?

With my prayers and blessings for the new year.

Rev. Russ Gant, Vicar



Do you know anyone who is grieving from bereavement and needs more support or time?

Meeting weekly in Farnham, the group is supported by pastoral assistants and bereavement visitors attached to various Farnham Christian churches, and allows an opportunity for those who are bereaved and lonely to meet others who understand.

**Bereavement Café meet every Monday afternoon 3 - 4:30pm for tea and chat at
The Spire Café, Farnham United Reformed Church,
South Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QU**

If you would like more details please contact Mary on **07999 368128**
or info@friendstogetherbereavement.org

There are also occasional evening groups for those who need to talk and share about a bereavement. Parents, Spouses, Children, Friends... Do you know anyone who is grieving and would like support?

Contact Mary on
07999 368128 for
details during
Covid-19

You are also welcome to bring someone you know who may benefit from the support group, but not want to attend on their own. Accompanying friends are also welcome.

St James' Church Website

Take a look at our website.

Full of interesting information and details of everything going on at St James'.



We'd love to hear your comments.

www.stjamesrowledge.org.uk

For all the latest information, visit us online at stjamesrowledge.org.uk





St. James' Church
Rowledge

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St. JAMES' CHURCH – January services

We are now able to meet as a whole congregation in church weekly, physically, for worship, however we are continuing with our live-streamed services each Sunday for those who prefer that style, or are not ready to return to the church building.

Do join us live on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchRowledge

Sunday services 9.15am and 10.45am.

See our website for details.

stjamesrowledge.org.uk

If you want to receive email invitations to any of our online resources, email vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk



1st January – Epiphany

Galatians 4: 4-7. Luke 2: 15-20

"God who names us"

9.15 Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45 Morning Worship + Holy Communion

8th January – 1st of Epiphany

Acts 10: 34-43. Matthew 3: 13-17

"The Baptism of the Lord"

9.15 Holy Communion (CW)

10.45 Morning Worship

15th January – 2nd of Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9. John 1: 29-42

"The Spotless Lamb"

9.15 Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45 Morning Worship + Baptism

22nd January – 3rd of Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18. Matthew 4: 12-23

"Light and Darkness"

9.15 Holy Communion (CW)

10.45 Morning Worship

29th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Hebrews 2: 14-18. Luke 2: 22-40

"Waiting Faithfully"

9.15 Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45 Morning Worship



IN OUR PRAYERS

If you have any specific prayer requests you are invited to email

prayer@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

(or contact Russ by phone) who will ensure the church prays for your situation.

St James' welcomes Bishop Jo

We welcomed Bishop Jo Bailey Wells of Dorking to St James' Church on Sunday 20th November to confirm 15 young people and adults from both St James' and St Bartholomew's, Haslemere. We also had the privilege of praying for the Bishop as she leaves Dorking to take up a new role within the church.

During the service Bishop Jo was presented with a #hungry sweatshirt...which she proudly wore after the service (see front cover).





Coffee Mug raises funds Children's Hospice



Shooting Star
Children's Hospices

The pop-up community cafe that is run by St. James' Church on the second Saturday of each month, welcomed customers in December who generously donated towards the work of the Shooting Stars Children's Hospice in Guildford.

Over £400 was donated over the course of the morning which will help Shooting Stars as they care for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. The charity provides care from the point of diagnosis to end of life and throughout bereavement, as well as offering a range of nursing, practical, emotional, and medical support.

Coffee mug is next open on Saturday 14th January from 10am to 12noon in the St. James' Church Centre. The team

would love to welcome you to sample homemade cakes and great coffee!



PARISH REGISTER



Weddings

Amelia Sugiarto and Adam Fulwood – 16th December

Funerals

Elvera 'Kitty' Scovell (96)

Mary Parker (84 years)

Church is OPEN!

Open Daily 9am - 5pm.

St James' Church is OPEN for **individual private prayers and Sunday worship**.
If visiting, please try to be socially distanced from other individuals or households.

It is sacred space within the village,
a refuge for quiet and reflection,
and everyone is welcome
to visit, or come and sit,
to think, to pray, to find
some space.



Morning Prayers



St. James' Church
Rowledge

Every Wednesday via Zoom
From 9.15am for half an hour

Email Vicar for Zoom link:
vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

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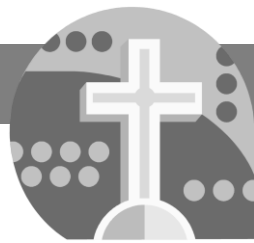
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METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church - open for worship on Sundays at 10.00am.

Preachers for January:

Sunday 1st January

Rev'd David Ashby

Sunday 8th January

Rev'd Philip Simpkins - Covenant/ Holy Communion

Sunday 15th January

Annah Mwadiwa

Sunday 22nd January

Rev'd Dr Michael Hopkins

Sunday 29th January

Sue Smith

Cameo meets on Wednesdays at 2.00pm

Cameo meets at 2.00pm in the Methodist Hall for board games and tea.

Wednesday 11th January

Wednesday 25th January

Healing Service

The healing Service this month is at 3.00pm in the Church on **Wednesday 4th January.**

House Group

Meetings at David & Aileen's home at 10.30am

Tuesday 17th January

01252 795438

Sunday Lunch

You are invited to Lunch at The Methodist Hall at **12.30pm on Sunday 22nd January.**

Please book via Aileen Ashby 01252 795438

Our Prayer Chain

Led by Mike & Joyce, our Prayer Chain can be accessed on: **01252 793363**

If you would like to speak to our Minister, Philip Simpkins, his number is: 01420 83167



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Will I be fat in Heaven? Author J. John by Peter Ivermee

J John is one of the church's greatest communicators, blessed with gifts of teaching, humour, storytelling and integrity. In this book he suggests answers to 38 puzzling questions about God, the Bible, good and evil, life after death and Heaven and Hell. In 179 pages in a fairly large font, it would be challenging to provide conclusive answers to all these questions, but he does give some very good suggestions, often with several alternative thoughts.

Whilst this book might not be ideal for a theologian or someone who would want to research these questions endlessly J John does give a very interesting and cogent thoughts which could well start a discussion. It would be ideal for someone who really doesn't have all the answers, a new Christian or a young person. I intend to pass my copy onto my 14-year-old grandson who I think will probably find it interesting. As with everything J. John writes or delivers in his talks this book communicates in a light-hearted, amusing and down to earth way.



As to the title of the book in all the 38 questions that he raises this is probably the only facetious one. Having dealt with questions such as what about all the bloodshed that seems to be commanded by God in the Old Testament? why do there seem to be contradictions in the Bible? why does God allow evil? why do some good people die young and some bad people live a long time? do we get a second opportunity after death? isn't the church full of hypocrites? what's the point of praying? when does life begin?

So, will we be fat in heaven? He gives 5 thoughts on the subject ending with "No! I will be happy and content with everything". If you buy this book, I'm sure it will answer quite a few of the questions that have been nagging at you, and some which you hadn't thought of. You'll probably also want to pass it on to a relative or friend so that it can interest and amuse them too.



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Farnham Foodbank



At this difficult time, please do support your local Foodbank.

Donations can be made at St. James' Church, Rowledge Co-Op, Waitrose or at Anne Blackman, 12 Prospect Road or Mike Randall at Poplars, 7 The Avenue.

There is a huge increase in need at the moment, especially from those families who would usually be reliant on school dinners.

To access the Foodbank should you be in need, please see contact details below.

<https://farnham.foodbank.org.uk>

info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk

The Church Office, Church Lane,
Rowledge, GU10 4EN.

PHONE - 01252 792402

EMAIL - admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

The Foodbank would also be very grateful for any financial contributions you feel moved to make.

"The Foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."

Foodbank Vouchers

St James' Church is now able to issue Foodbank vouchers for those in need. To be eligible for an emergency food parcel as an individual or a family, you will need to be referred with a voucher from the church office.

Your referral will be completely confidential. If you or someone you know is in need then please contact the church office on 01252 792 402.

Foodbank need:

- Toilet Rolls
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Tinned potatoes
- Instant mashed potato
- Long life sponge puddings
- Squash (for children)
- Jams

Foodbank THANK YOU message

At Farnham Foodbank we have seen an increase in demand for emergency food support over the past year, with the rising cost of living making it harder for many people to afford even the essentials for daily life. This winter our focus is on meeting this growing need for food while also working with others to help address the underlying causes that bring people to the Foodbank in the first place. Thanks to generous donations of food and finance from supporters like yourselves we are able to help make life for these struggling individuals and families a little easier and for that we are truly grateful. All of us at the Foodbank wish you a very happy Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year.

Many thanks - **Harriet Lanyon**

Farnham Foodbank Project Manager

If you have any queries, do contact:
Anne Blackman (01252 793344)

Christmas at Rowledge School

On Saturday 26th November, Rowledge School had their school fair. Not only were there lots of fun stalls, animals from Miller's Ark joined us for a live nativity.

Everyone loved stroking the donkeys, goats, sheep...and especially the little pigs! Father Christmas came to the fair and shared some presents with the children.





During the Christmas Fair, parents had the opportunity to bid for experiences with their favourite members of staff to raise funds for the school. This included a dinner at Pizza Express with Ms Oliver, a Nerf gun battle, movie nights, Christmas crafts and cooking, hot chocolate and cake at Forest Lodge and a trip to Hogmoor Enclosure.



BIG NEWS FROM



YOUR DISTRICT – YOUR VIEWS

Help create a Local Plan that tackles tough issues

You can take part in a Local Plan consultation that will help shape the future of your community (closes 16th January)

We want the views of local residents on the issues and priorities that will impact East Hampshire (outside the South Downs National Park Authority) up to 2040.

The Local Plan affects how the district will grow over the next 20 years, so we will be asking tough questions on important issues such as the climate emergency and population change - and we need to know your views.

Your input to the Local Plan will help shape the future of your community, and for the first time we are using a new online platform that will make it easier than ever to get involved.

Our new Local Plan consultation is live right now. So please get involved ...we can't do it without you!

The consultation started on Monday 21 November and will run for eight weeks until Friday 16 January.

See our website to participate. You can browse the various topics covered by the consultation and leave your comments quickly and easily.



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Other School News

Rowledge CofE
Primary School



Voluntary one-way system and parking

Parents and Residents

The school has issued a reminder to parents about the voluntary one-way system for drop off and pick up times. Please would residents also try to follow these guidelines, as it prevents congestion and accidents!

Please do use our voluntary one way system - drive down Recreation Rd and around, driving out of School Rd onto Fullers Rd, rather than driving down School Rd.

Also, PLEASE don't park anywhere near junctions and try to park courteously. Some of our neighbours are feeling anxious about pulling out of their drives onto the wrong side of the road when cars are parked both sides of their driveways. Whilst, this is legal parking, it is tricky to get out. PLEASE PARK AND STRIDE if you can. Use the pub, club and forest car parks as much as possible. Thank you.

Rowledge Village Fayre

Rowledge Village Fayre Committee is looking for new volunteers to ensure it can continue.

**URGENT
APPEAL!**

For over 40 years, the Village Fayre has been an extremely popular and well attended community event in Rowledge. In the last decade it has given back over £25,000 to various local beneficiaries including Rowledge School, Church, Village Hall, Playgroups, Scouts, Brownies, Cricket and Tennis Club, Food Bank, Citizens Advice, Surrey Search and Rescue. It has also provided funds for improving areas in the village e.g. the surfacing of Browns Walk and the maintenance of life-saving defibrillators in the village.

There is an urgent need for new volunteers to keep this popular event going. Some of the current committee are moving on and this provides a great opportunity for new members to partner up and learn the ropes as preparations get under way for the 2023 fayre.

No previous experience is needed – just enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute to your community.

Please come and talk to us about how you as an individual or as a group of friends can help support the 2023 Fayre and beyond. Many hands make light work.

Help is urgently needed - please don't assume that someone else is going to step forward!

Please contact Kelly on **07940 549102**

Or email **rowledgefayre@gmail.com**



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Not so #Hungry!

The best night celebrating with our St James' youth group **#hungry** before Christmas!
A huge thank you to the amazing team who made it happen!



Little Fishes Nativity

Such a joy to welcome our amazing Nursery School children into St James' Church for their brilliant Nativity before Christmas. The children were all superstars!



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6 December 2022 – 25 February 2023
Gordon Rushmer: A World in Watercolour



Gordon Rushmer is a well-known and highly regarded landscape painter. Opening this exhibition in early December is apt as Rushmer notes 'I've always been most at home in barren windswept places and winter has always been my most fruitful season.' The paintings selected for this exhibition celebrate Rushmer's keen sensitivity to the places and the landscapes within which he works, and his command of working in watercolour.

Exhibition held in The Flora Twort Gallery.

7 December 2022 – 28 January 2023
Out of This World! Space Race Toys
Kids Go Free!

Over the holiday period, enjoy a family visit to Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery. Experience a blast from the past with a presentation of over 20 original space-inspired toys, games, books and annuals. Everything from ray guns, space patrol walkie-talkies and Spring-Hell Jacks 'Moon Shoes'.

Exhibition held in the Museum Learning Space.



Spring-Hell Jacks. c.1960s



Dan Dare Playing Cards, c.1950s

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*The "What's happening in Rowledge...
...and who to contact?" section*

ROWLEDGE VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR 2022



**Dates for
your diary**

Christmas Carols in the Square - Monday 19th December at 7pm

Rowledge Village Fayre 2023 - Monday 1st May 2023 - *NEW DATE!!*

All ROWLEDGE Event Organisers!!!!

Please email the Editor with event dates for 2023, so we can include it in all future issues of the Rowledge Review. Email: rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk

Rowledge Activities - Weekly Calendar



Time	Group	Age	Venue
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Children's Events**Mon-Fri**

09.00-15.30	Rowledge Preschool	2-4	Village Hall
09.00-15.00	Little Fishes Nursery School	2-4	St James Church

Tuesday

17.00-18.15	Beavers	5-8	Village Hall
18.15-19.30	Cubs	8-10	Village Hall
19.30-21.15	Scouts	10-14	Village Hall

Wednesday

09.15-11.00	Baby & Toddler Group (term time)	0-4	Village Hall
15.00-19.30	Ballet	3-13	Village Hall
16.45-18.00	Octave children's choir	7+	St James Church
17.00-18.00	Rainbows	5-7	Methodist Hall
18.30-20.00	Guides	10-14	Methodist Hall
19.00-20.30	#hungry (youth group)	11-16	St James Church Hall

Thursday

18.15-19.45	Brownies	5.30-7	School Hall
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**Adults' Events**

Many group times
changing – check,
organisers (overleaf)

Monday

08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers	St James Church
19.30-21.30	Pilates	Village Hall

Tuesday

09.30-10.30	Zumba Gold (term time only)	Village Club
09.00-11.15	Pilates	Rowledge Club
14.00-17.00	Quilters (fortnightly)	Methodist Hall
19.00-20.00	Pilates	St James Church Hall
19.30-21.15	Community Choir	Frensham Heights School
19.45- 22.00	Women's Institute (3 rd Tuesday)	The Rowledge Club
20.00-22.30	After 8 ladies group (2 nd Tuesday)	Homes

Wednesday

08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers	St James Church
10.30- 12.00	Mother's Union	St James Church
14.00-15.00	Nordic Walking	Forest (St James gate)
14.00-16.00	Cameo social group (2 nd &4 th Wed)	Methodist Hall
15.00-16.00	Healing Service (1st Wed)	Methodist Church
19.00-22.00	Bridge	Village Club
18.30-19.30	Handbell ringers	St James Church
19.45-22.30	Badminton Club	Village Hall

Thursday

09.00-16.00	Patchers	Methodist Hall
10.00-12.00	Art Club	Village Hall
12.30-14.00	Luncheon Club (last Thursday)	Methodist Hall
19.30-22.00	Gardening Club (2 nd Thursday)	Village Hall
20.30-23.00	Men's Group (3 rd Thursday)	Hare and Hounds

Friday

08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers	St James Church
09.00-12.00	Coffee Spot	Village Hall
19.00-20.00	Choir practice	St James' Church

Saturday (second Saturday of month)

10.00 – 12.00	The Coffee Mug	St James' Church
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Contact details
are in the Village
Directory - in the
centre pages of
the Rowledge
Review.

ROWLEDGE DIRECTORY – 2023



ST JAMES' CHURCH – Church Lane, Rowledge, GUI0 4EN

Vicar	Revd Russ Gant	01252 792402	vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
Associate Minister	Revd Dr Russ Parker	07919 335291	russparker7@icloud.com
Churchwarden	Karen Fewster	01252 795169	karenfew@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Clive Jourdain	01252 794171	clive@clivejourdain.plus.com
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Little Fishes Nursery	Amber Delves	01252 794617	manager@littlefishesrowledge.org.uk

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Surrey	101	Hampshire	101
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Rowledge Review

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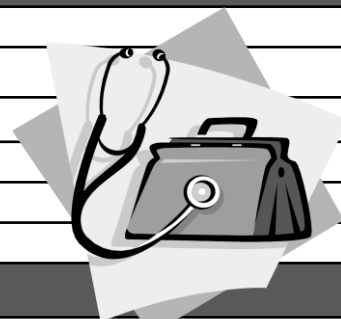
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Hampshire Victim Support	[24 hr]	01252 342777	



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The history of the proposed New Village Hall – Part 3 (1972-84)

Given the recent news that Planning Permission has been granted for a new Village Hall we thought that residents would like to see the history of discussions and failed attempts to build a new village hall over the course of the past 100 years.

The story so far, 1914 to 1972.....The large hall is a standard lightweight wood framed and was built to accommodate the Village Institute previously housed in Chapel Road. The small hall was added in 1926 and a deed was agreed covering the way the hall should operate and the roll of trustees etc. In 1939 it was proposed that a new brick hall should be built and a separate committee was set up. After the war fund raising for the new hall continued however by 1953 only 10% of the money required had been raised and the hall desperately needed major maintenance.

The fund money was thus used for hall maintenance and the new hall fund was wound up.

1972

The hall was surveyed three times, in 1953, 1973 and 1983 and each report condemned the building and so that the council would not contribute grants towards its renovation. **The correct solution was deemed to be to sell the site and build a new hall on a new site with adequate parking space**

The council could only offer a plot within the recreation ground which was rejected by the villagers.

The trustees suggested The Nest (too far from village centre), School Road, (too congested) within Ten Acre Woods and later within the Meadow Way development. However the plans were never affordable if land had to be purchased rather than granted by the council. Ultimately, once again it was necessary to spend the funds saved for a new hall on renovating the old hall.

1973

May.....One last request, would Courage consider a hall on land at rear of the Hare and Hounds site ? ‘

October.... The answer was a definite ‘ No’ and five years of discussions had come to nothing.

Now that there was no chance of Courage selling any land a letter was sent to the council asking for help in finding a new site.

A survey of the hall reported that hall was in a basically unsound state and would require £5,000 to £6,000 to put it right. The more of the hall that was inspected the worse the situation became the more one uncovered the more was found to need doing.

‘The generic solution was thought to be ‘to dispose of the present site and erect a modern structure with car parking on an alternative site’.

1974

February.... The trustees hoped for a site within the Mayfield development but nothing was forthcoming.

March.... Chairman David Wilson said, 'There is little likelihood of obtaining a site – David felt the village should realise that any chance of ever obtaining a new hall was rapidly receding. The village has rejected a hall in the recreation ground. It is unlikely the village would be able to find the money even if a site were to be found.

1975

July... Mr Aylwyn (an architect volunteer from the village) talked to Mr Wainwright the council Planning Officer who said that the current hall was in wrong position, He also said that no publicly owned land was available, however, he favoured the recreation ground if objections could be overcome.

The Mayfield project likely to be refused, but Mr Wainwright thought that if it were approved and there was to be a sudden rise in population, then a village hall site could be imposed as a planning condition (although that could produce an expensive site) 'Mr Wainwright recognised the urgency of the situation and will talk to the leisure and culture officer and other members of Waverley council and report back'.

1977

May... A public meeting was held in the village regarding the Mayfield site. 'Do we press for provision of a site for the village hall? It was agreed to urge FA to ask councillors to attempt to get a community centre provision within the site of Mayfield. The Village Hall Committee considered the village hall to play a very important part in the corporate life of the community of Rowledge. Mindful of the short expectation of life of the structure of the existing hall and that rebuilding the present location would be neither acceptable or practicable, the committee strongly hold the view that provision should be made for a suitable Community Centre in any plans for major development of the village.'

1978

July.... It was suggested that part of Rowledge school grounds as site for a new hall. Hants county council said it might be possible as joint venture but school would have to have 100% use during school day. The committee agreed that this would be of no use and dropped the idea.

1979

February.... Chairman, David Wilson reported a conversation with Councillor Mrs Anne Hoath regarding possible use of part of the Clare Lodge land belonging to Higgs and Hill. David Wilson also talked to Lady Anson and later a possible site meeting with Higgs and Hill was agreed. Wilson said that should a site be obtained, even with all the grants, the cost would be great if the land had to be purchased although not impossible.

There were reports of water coming into hall from road when raining and water into small hall.



1981

March.... Robin Radley was proposed as new Chairman by Vernon Cumpstey and seconded by Jeanne McLeod. The Chairman said Waverley Council won't give planning consent for new hall on present site due to lack of space for parking facilities.

David Wilson had written to Mr Wainwright in June regarding a possible site, however,

Mr Wainwright was not aware of any. David Wilson wrote to Surrey County Council regarding Ten Acre Wood at rear of Clifton Close. Mr Wainwright the Planning Officer said that a 3.2 acre site originally earmarked for primary school was no longer needed but could also be suitable for community use. However, residents would be likely to object to a community hall. Also the site was a long way from the centre of Rowledge.

1983...Following a new survey of the hall, plans for a major refurbishment of the hall were developed and grants sought. It seemed likely that both Waverley & Surrey councils would each contribute (£8000 assumed, no minutes available).

At the end of 1983 Mr John Sohns the owner of The Nest nursery on the Long Road passed away and left his estate, comprised of a nursery and out buildings on the Long Road to the village hall. John was the gardener to the Chairman Mr Oates and also a friend of the Boundary Players who performed regularly in the hall. John Sohns had no family.

The property was sold by the hall to be developed as a residential bungalow for £42,000

The village hall still owns approx. 2.3 acres but is too far from the centre of the village to be the location of a village hall. A sale for residential purposes would bring enough money to complete the new hall .

Unfortunately, the trustees have to date been unable to get planning permission for just two houses on the land over the past 30 years. This permission is key to the value of the land and efforts to get planning approval continue.

1984

On learning of the bequest Waverley and Surrey councils withdrew their offers of grants to the hall.

The new hall Vs repair debate continued with the recreation ground usually being the preferred site of a new hall, however, the anticipated £150,000 cost was thought to be out of reach. By now it was 20 years since the previous new hall ('Courage') project failed and once again it was necessary to spend the new hall fund , including all of the inheritance on refurbishing the old hall. Over the following 6 years the following large expenditures were made.

• New gable end at rear of large hall.	£ 4,100
• Replacement of corrugated iron walls & roof of main hall.	£24,600
• New stage curtains	£ 700
• New flooring throughout both halls	£5,000
• New kitchen, fixtures and fittings and rewiring.	£9,800
Total	£44,200

After ten years as Chairman Robin retired with the major refurbishment completed but a new hall was still not in sight. Hopefully with a refurbishment that would give the hall another 25 years of life until about 2015 a century after the original hall was constructed. Hopefully by then a new hall would be affordable.

Would the hall last another 25 years? Read Part 4 in the next edition of the Rowledge Review.



Rowledge, the Village Boundary – Perry Mitchell

I was recently asking some friends about which was the oldest house in Rowledge? Two suggestions were made: for a cottage once known as ‘Barney’s’, and another called ‘West End Cottage’. Both are in West End Lane (off Boundary Road) but are they in Rowledge? To answer this we have to first define what we mean by ‘Rowledge’!

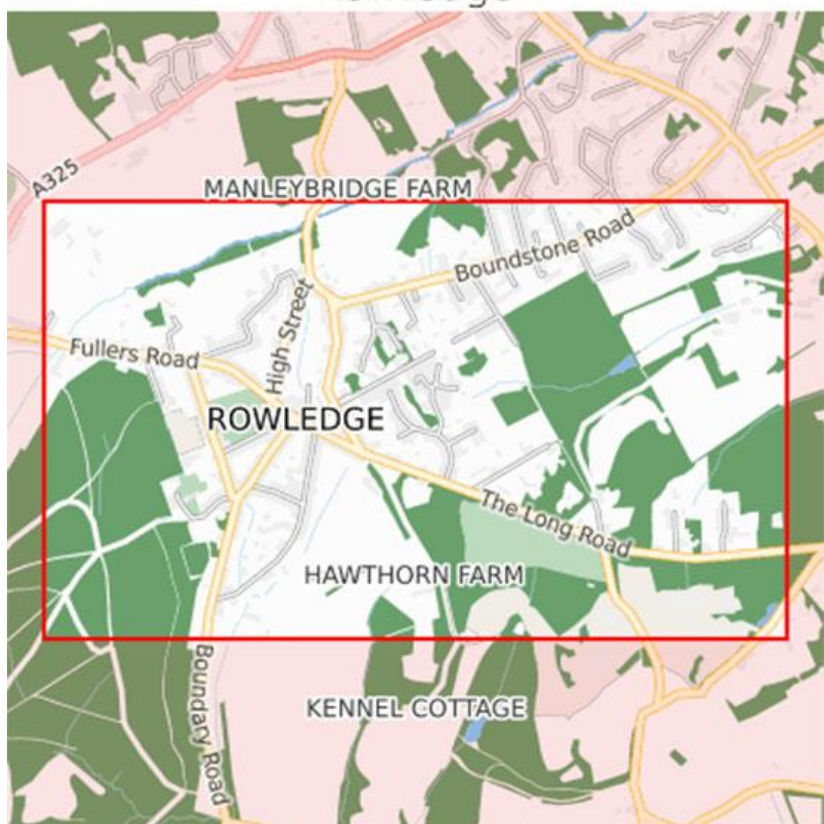
In a previous article I explained where the ‘Rowledge’ name had come from, this time I want to explore what defines Rowledge as a place and community.

I started by searching the Internet, trying to find a map showing the Rowledge village boundary. The only attempt I could find was this one.

It is not a bad attempt, but hardly accurate!

I would maintain that an accurate definition could derive from 4 possible sources; history, a parochial parish boundary, an administration boundary, and a common acceptance by a community. I would like to examine these in turn.

Map showing the extent of Rowledge



History

This is a very short paragraph for Rowledge, since it didn't exist as a defined village until 1871. It was originally simply an area of farmland and access to Alice Holt at the edge of Farnham Common, and latterly as a location for attractive retirement/country residences for rich gentlefolk. It was rapidly expanding from the Manley Bridge hamlet towards the Rowledge feature that named the village at the time of its inception.

St James Parish

In 1871 a new church was built on a parcel of Hampshire land donated by the Government from Alice Holt. The associated ecclesiastic parish was created by donation from the surrounding parishes of Bentley, Wrecclesham and Frensham. The story is well documented, particularly by Roy Waight in his book ‘Remote From Civilisation’. The new parish encompassed most of Alice Holt to the Farnham-Alton railway line, Bucks Horn Oak, Holt Pound to the border of Fullers Road, and all of what most would consider the Rowledge village to the north of West End Lane. There is a rather complicated border

with Wrecclesham parish, partly using the Bourne Stream around Manley Bridge but then meandering around parts of what we now call Boundstone. It is essentially the same to this day with a few tweaks (I understand that Bentley Station and environs is no longer in the parish). However, I don't think anybody would claim the entire parish of St James as being 'Rowledge'.

Administrative Boundary

To look at this historically we need to examine what existed at the time for local government. In 1871 there was no defined local democracy. Administration was in the hands of National Government, The Church and wealthy landowners. The local management was a complex mix that had evolved over hundreds of years, and whilst often efficient it had no democratic bedrock. The area of Rowledge was included in the 'Hundred of Farnham' once wholly owned by the Bishop of Winchester. It was also incorporated into 'Farnham Union' that controlled the Poor Laws for administration of relief and management of the Workhouse.

Due to the influence of the Liberal Party, first in coalition and later in sole power, two Acts of Parliament created what we now take as norm for local control. First was The Local Government Act 1888 which created County Councils, and then The Local Government Act 1894 which created the lower tiers of urban and rural elected councils. The Surrey part of Rowledge was then part of Farnham Urban District Council, sharing a Ward with neighbouring Wrecclesham. These would have been distinct village communities so why they were part of FUDC I can only guess. The membership of Farnham Union was probably a decisive factor. At a much later stage, Waverley was created to be the Borough Council, with Farnham Town Council remaining at the 'Parish' level. The Acts forced separation of Councils on County Borders, so the Hampshire side of Rowledge became part of Binsted Parish where it shares a 'zone' with Holt Pound. In short, nowhere in the local government scheme of things is there a clearly defined border for the single village of Rowledge.

In March 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission published the final recommendations of its review of council wards. The result for Waverley is quite dramatic for Rowledge. They suggested the existing Ward of Wrecclesham & Rowledge should be somewhat extended to include most of Boundstone, and that the new ward should be called 'Farnham Rowledge'. These recommendations have been accepted and are now the law. This is relevant to the voting for representation on Waverley Council. It is unclear to me whether this necessarily applies to the description of wards within Farnham Council. At the moment their web site shows no such inclination. The same commission report has resulted in the Hampshire side now being in the new 'Binsted, Bentley & Selborne Ward' of East Hampshire Council.

I have used the ward map supplied by the commission report to draw a composite map showing the respective areas of the parochial parish of St James and the Ward of Farnham-Rowledge. (The ward I have additionally shaded pink and the parish boundary is shown in blue.)



Community Boundary

And what of my suggestion that the 4th definition of a village boundary must be supplied by a common acceptance by the community. Here I suspect there will be even more disagreements! There is definitely an area of the St James parish in Hampshire that everybody would consider Rowledge, not least the church and school! There is probably little hope that 'Holt Pound' will survive, and will be wholly gobbled by the Rowledge name. The developers of the new 'Wickets' estate on the corner of Fullers Road and the A325 are calling it 'Rowledge' even though it is surrounded by Holt Pound.

The other Surrey side of Rowledge is more evasive. What would the current inhabitants of Boundstone prefer? Boundstone itself spread over the original Upper Bourne district, driven presumably by the marketing forces of Estate Agents. Now with no Post Office or Church, I suspect 'Boundstone's' days are numbered.

There are long term residents of Rowledge who grew up with an idea of the village boundaries and those of the surrounding communities that will be little influenced by any Estate Agent marketing 'nonsense'!

It will be fascinating to see things evolve.

Two teenage lads, part two....by Neil Pittaway

This is the second of my accounts of two teenage Rowledge lads buried at St. James' who drowned whilst bathing. Both are buried in the southern graveyard.

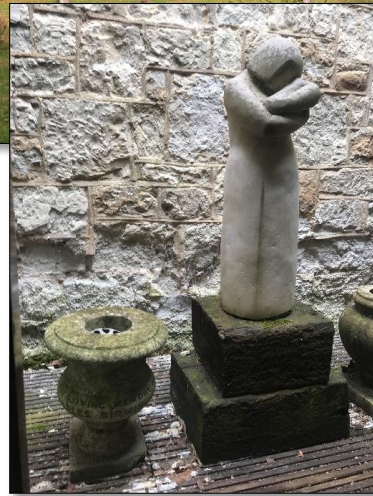
In October I brought you the tragic story of James Page who drowned whilst bathing in Frensham Great Pond in 1882. This month I bring you the story of Charles Birmingham who died in 1924 at Canford School near Wimborne Minster, East Dorset.

The grave of Charles Ernest Norman Birmingham is marked by a recently added 'desk' stone which is clearly visible from Church Lane and is in the right foreground of this picture where James Page's grave is on the left in front of the porch.

An original memorial urn for Charles, at some stage removed from his grave, once sat on the left of this group in the void at St. James' side vestibule.

Canford School which is close to the River Stour near Wimborne Minster, East Dorset was founded in 1923. This photograph taken at the time shows the school at Canford Manor which was associated with John of Gaunt, the third son of King Edward 111. The main building as shown here on the right was built in the early 1800s. The school was formed from a small private school based in Weston-Super-Mare.

To the left of the picture is the river Stour winding through the trees.



A picture taken last summer shows how little has changed but clearly shows the river where Charles died.

Rowledge Review

Either at the time Canford School opened, or very soon after, Charles Ernest Norman Birmingham was recruited as a young under butler and we know this as it is shown on his death certificate.

Under Butler Canford School	Natural Cause Heart failure while bathing in the river Stour.	Certificate received from S. H. W. Parkinson Coroner for Badbury & Boscombe Hundreds. Inquest held 19th June 1924.
--------------------------------	--	---

Charles died from heart failure whilst bathing in the river Stour. The records offices have no trace of the coroner's inquest record but the coroner's verdict is as on his death certificate. **'Natural Cause. Heart failure while bathing in the river Stour'.**

Nineteenth June 1924 The River Stour Canford, R. B.	Charles Edward Norman Birmingham	Males	<u>16</u> years
--	---	-------	--------------------

The certificate shows that Charles died on June 19th 1924 with the inquest held the same day. An addition to the record corrects his name and age to Ernest, not Edward and aged 17, not 16.

Charles was returned to Rowledge for his burial on June 23rd 1924. This his burial record.

Charles Ernest Norman Birmingham No. 583	Canford College Wimborne	June 23	17	H. Godfrey
--	-----------------------------	------------	----	------------

So, who was of Charles Ernest Norman Birmingham. His baptism record shown next for November 25th 1906 at St. James' gives us his parents, Walter William and Eliza Birmingham.

1906. Nov. 25 th	Charles Ernest Norman	Walter William and Eliza	Birmingham	Rowledge	Labourer	A. W. Parker Vicar.
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Walter and Eliza (nee Clear) had seven children and Charles was their second son. He was too young for service in WW1 and sadly there are apparently no other truly legible records for him between his baptism and burial except for line 6 of his parent's 1911 census which is water damaged and only just visible. They lived at Kennel Cottage, Frensham Hill where his father, Walter was a labourer.

Walter W. Birmingham	Head	41	Married	20	7	6	1	Labourer General
Eliza	Wife	37	do - do	-	-	-	-	
Charles	Daughter	12						Scholar
...
...
...
...

What is missing from this 1911 census is the name of Charles' older brother, Walter William Birmingham who had left home having enlisted with The Royal West Surrey Regiment, The Queens'.

By 1915 the family had moved to 'The Wilderness' opposite the Cherry Tree inn.

As I recalled in the February 2018 Rowledge Review, Sergeant Walter William Birmingham, M.M. fell on October 25th 1918 just seventeen days before Armistice Day. Walter was buried in France but his parents asked that a wooden cross marking his preliminary grave was sent back to Rowledge.



It is Walter's wooden cross that sits high in the porch of St. James' looking out over the southern graveyard and the grave of his younger brother, Charles, Both St. James' and Walter and Eliza tried very hard to have the cross placed inside the church but the commissioners would have none of it and in 1924, almost at the time that Charles was being buried, it was agreed to place his brother's cross high in the porch where nearly one hundred years on it remains, poignantly keeping watch over the grave of his brother.

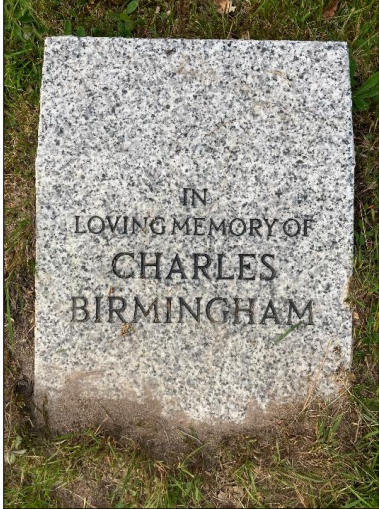
A plaque in the porch explains the cross:

Above you is the wooden cross which originally marked Walter's grave at Fontaine-au-Bois. It was returned to Rowledge and mounted here in 1924.

In 2019, Walter and Charles' great niece, Jaqueline de Bono visited Rowledge whilst on holiday from Melbourne. She had come to see her grandfather Richard Birmingham's name on the Memorial. He was Richard Thomas Birmingham who died in Egypt in 1943 during WW2. Richard was Walter and Charles' youngest brother and his name is completely illegible on the 1911 census.

Jaqueline was sad to see that her great uncle Charles had no memorial headstone showing on his grave so she arranged to have one made and placed in position.

At the time she was visiting her great uncle Walter's wooden cross had been taken down for repair but the Rev. Russ Gant and warden Dr Mike Randall were able to show it to her and before it was replaced, she was able to hold it, possibly the first member of the Birmingham family to do so in nearly a century?

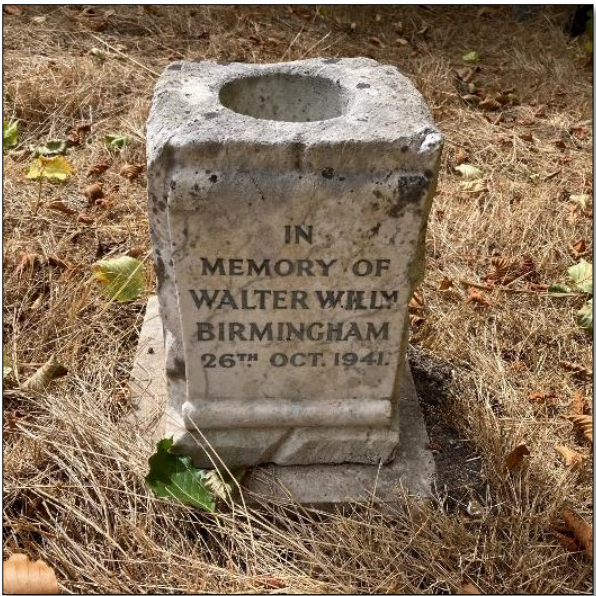


Whilst here, Jaqueline arranged for Charles' mother Eliza's missing headstone at St. James to be replaced and his father Walter's memorial vase cleaned.



Eliza's headstone shows the names of Walter and Eliza's six baptised children, Walter, Hettie, Winnie, Charles, Hilda and Richard. Their seventh child, as indicated by the 1911 census as having been born alive, must have died very quickly before being named, baptised or registered.

Charles' father, Walter died in 1941, two years before his youngest son Richard was killed in WW2 but his mother, Eliza lived until 1946 so she sadly saw the deaths of all three of her sons, Walter in WW1 1918, Richard in WW2 1943 and Charles Ernest Norman Birmingham, aged just 17 at Canford School, East Dorset in 1924.



Eliza's three daughters all survived her and married, Hettie (Henrietta) to Christopher Ralph, Winnie (Winifred) to Christopher's brother, Richard Ralph and Hilda (Hylda) to Edward Mankelow. Walter and Eliza had four grandchildren.

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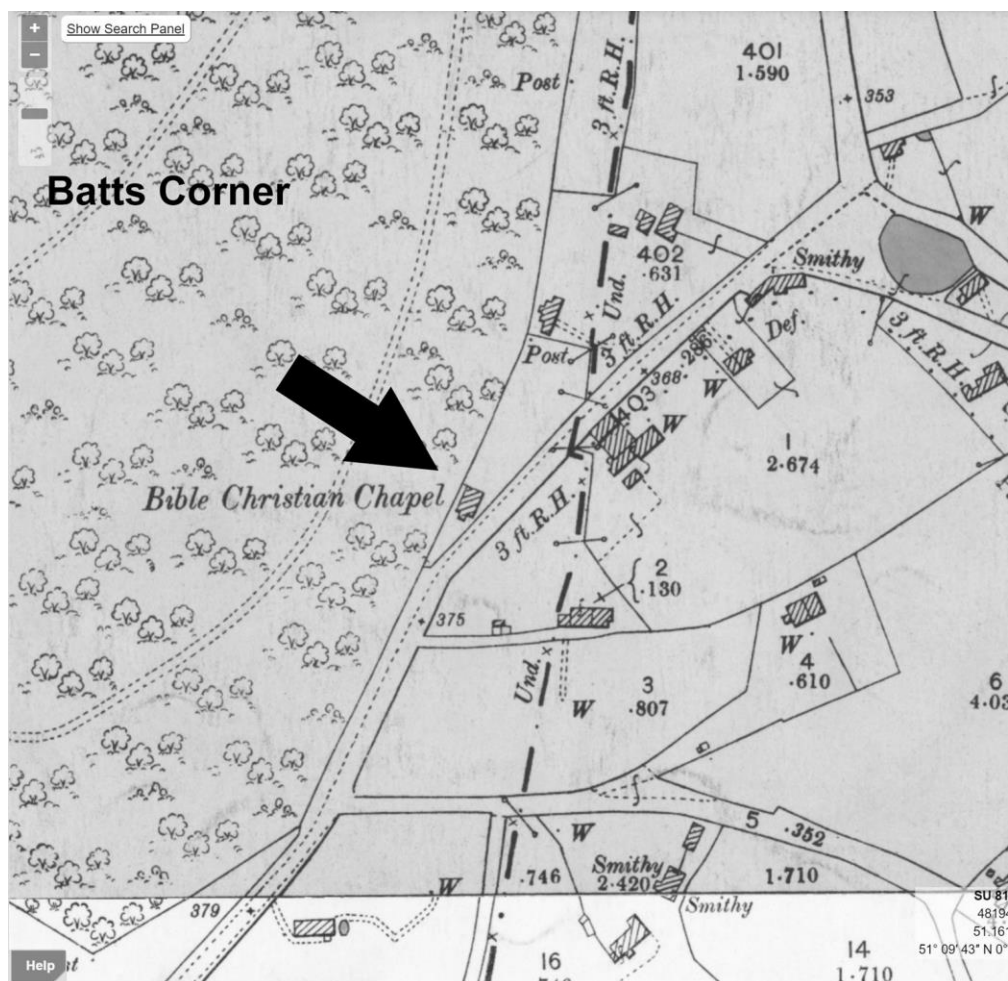
Bible Christians by Roy Waight

If you wander down Boundary Road to Batts Corner in Dockenfield or, more safely, take paths southwards through the Alice Holt, you come to a lovely, converted chapel at the forest edge, just before the point where Boundary Road meets Dockenfield Road. The building reminds us of the days when Methodist chapels proliferated in the Hampshire area and, in particular, those created by the Bible Christians. Looking at the late nineteenth century 25,000 O.S. maps available on the web (hint: key into Google 'SNL maps' and you will find a plethora of old maps which can be compared side by side with the corresponding satellite images) you find several chapels marked as 'Bible Christian Chapel' within a five mile radius of St. James's.

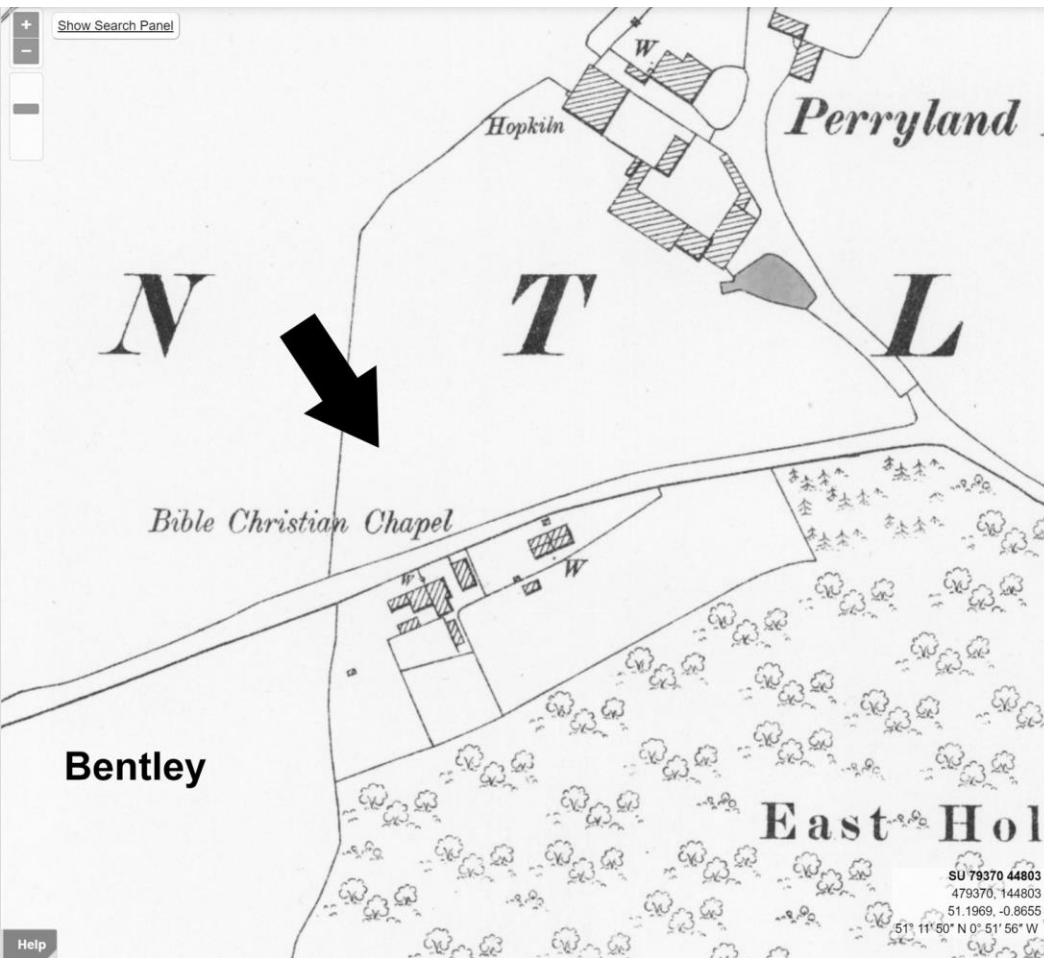
You find these chapels not only at Batts Corner in Dockenfield, but in Churt, Bentley, Blacknest and Crondall (I include extracts of maps taken from the OS 25,000 series in this article). Froyle also had one though it is not marked as such on the maps. All have now disappeared or been converted into residences. They attest to a period of fertile non-conformist enthusiasm in the north east corner of Hampshire. There is an ironic link with St. James's, if a somewhat tenuous one, since the Bishop of Winchester who

consecrated our church, Samuel Wilberforce, did his best to destroy these Bible Christians. This is all the more ironic because the opinions of the Bible Christians were not dissimilar to those of the evangelical wing of today's Anglican Church.

The Bible Christians were one of the several Methodist denominations that are now merged in the United Methodist Church. They were called Bible Christians because their first preachers appealed solely to the Bible in confirmation



The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Bible Christian Chapel at Batts Corner, still there.

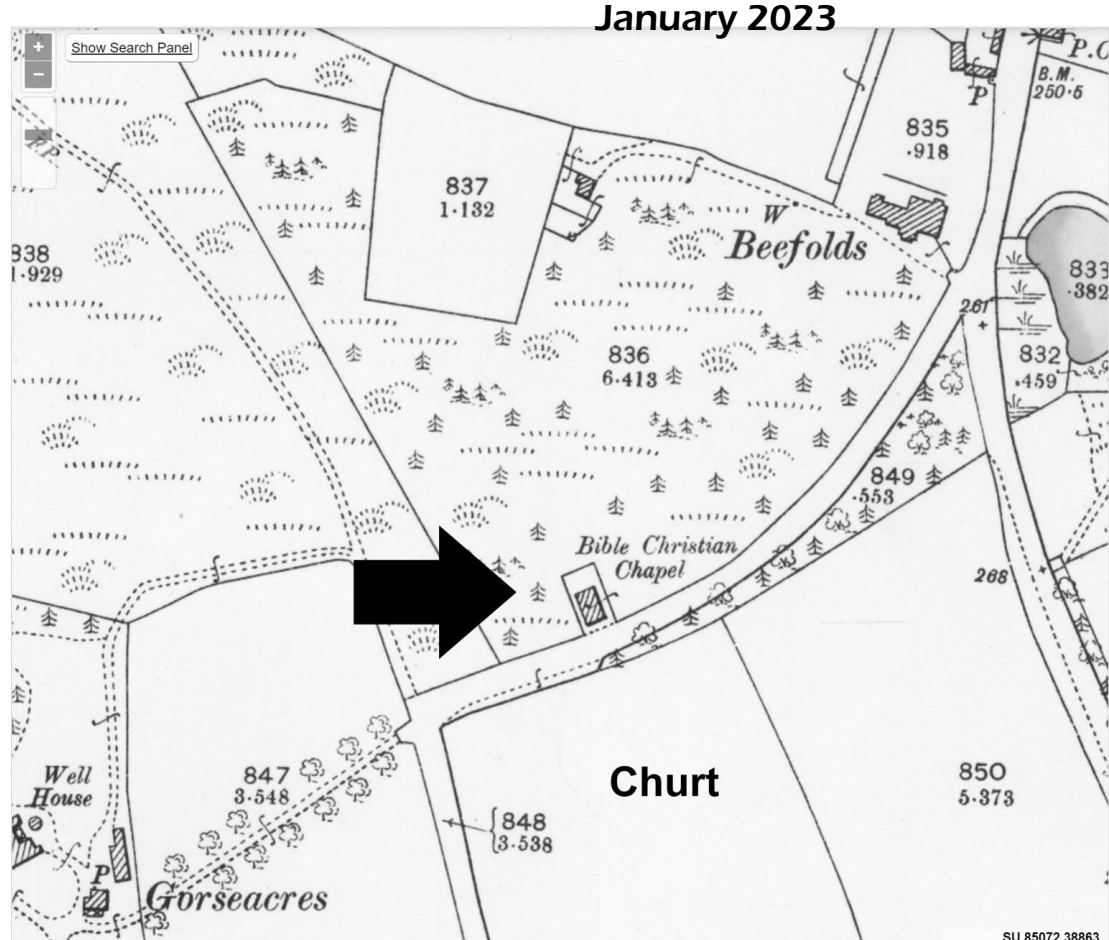


The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Bible Christian Chapel at Bentley, for a while highly successful, and now disappeared.

of their doctrines. The denomination arose in the agricultural districts and fishing villages of north Cornwall and Devon; a district only slightly influenced by John Wesley and the original Methodist movement. The founder of the Bible Christians was William O'Bryan (afterwards Bryant), and the movement was often called 'The Bryanites'. Bryant was motivated by several things: the Cornish congregations, some of whom were smugglers and wreckers who lured ships onto the rocks, he thought ungodly; the labourers he thought ignorant and drunken, and the parish clergy slothful, often intemperate, and largely given over to fox-hunting.

Bryant's movement grew rapidly. From the start it relied heavily (and unusually) on women ministers. The Bible Christians formally recognised what they called 'the ministry of women', calling the women 'female special agents'. A number of women appeared as leaders at the 'stations' – the places to which ministers were appointed by the Bible Christian Conference. The prevalence of women did not last as men progressively dominated and there were fewer than five of these women ministers by 1907, when the separate existence of the Bible Christians came to an end.

The Methodist movement, like most protestant churches, was given to fragmentation and Bryant's movement soon split. Bryant himself went to America (and his movement was soon to found churches over the old empire as well as in China). In England the Bible Christians passed into the hands of a great minister, James Thorne.



The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Bible Christian Chapel in Churt, now converted into cottages.

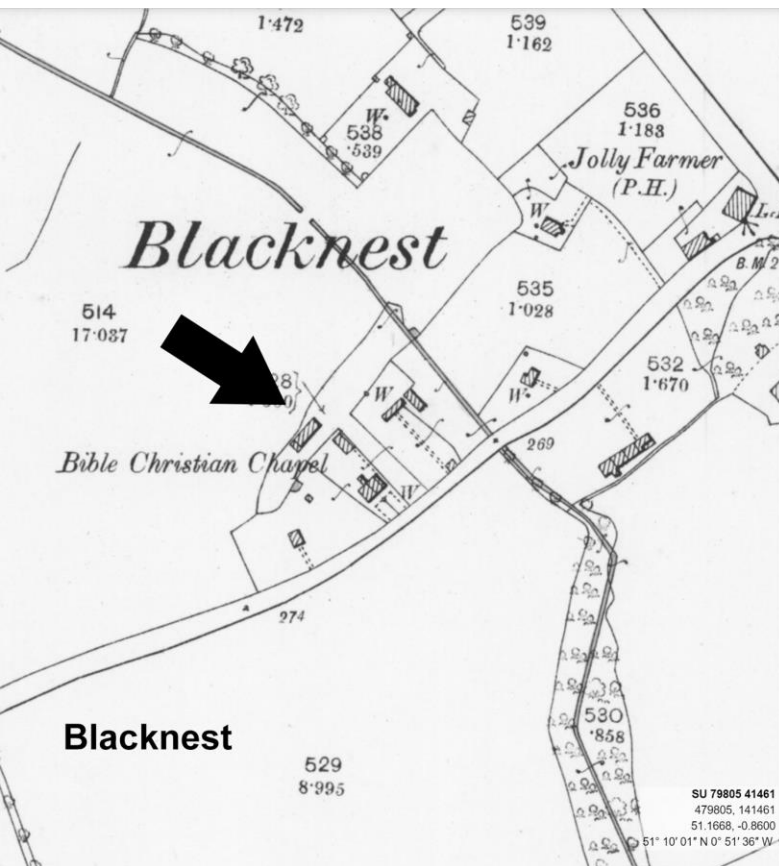
James Thorne, reared as an ordinary farm lad, proved to be a man of singular devotion and spiritual genius. Under him the Bible Christians grew rapidly in England. When James Thorne began preaching, the Bible Christians were but twenty-two in number. At the end of four years they were numerous in many parts of Devonshire. Thorne endured many hardships and much actual persecution, though his eloquence and earnestness generally disarmed opposition when he could obtain a hearing. In 1820, he visited Kent, where he also met with considerable success, and aided in founding several congregations of what were called "Arminian Bible Christians." He founded chapels for his co-religionists both in Devonshire and Kent. From this time onwards until 1844 he was chiefly occupied in journeying through Southern England, organising the society, and forming local congregations in various districts.

He also inspired the creation of Bible Christian chapels in North East Hampshire. Thorne was fitted for evangelical work by a ready wit and considerable dialectical skill, which stood him in good stead in controversy. He was no less aided by the fascination of his discourses, which rendered indifference impossible.

The Bible Christians were staunch radicals in politics and they were total abstainers to a man. They in time became convinced of the need to join the wider Methodist community. In 1907, the Bible Christian Church in England was therefore amalgamated with the United Methodist Free Churches and the Methodist New Connexion, to form the United Methodist Church.

During their hey-day, the Bible Christians faced much persecution. Landowners refused them sites, and in the Isle of Wight the people were reduced to worshipping

for many months in a quarry. The preachers were sometimes imprisoned and many times assaulted. The old Methodist body even excommunicated people who attended “Bryanite” meetings. The vicar of Brighstone, Samuel Wilberforce, later our own Bishop of Winchester, urged that their influence be countered by having their adherents sacked from their jobs and turned out from their cottages. Nonetheless, the movement grew. In 1906 the Bible Christians could boast 218 ministers, 32,549 members and 652 chapels, with 47,301 scholars in Sunday-schools. The mission to Hampshire was particularly successful, and nowhere more than in the Frensham area Pat Heather, in her comprehensive book *A Question of Faith* (published by the Farnham and District Museum Society in 2010), records how a chapel was built in Churt as early as 1821 and a preaching station, which they set up at Batts Corner in Dockenfield in 1828, was soon replaced by a chapel where one of the first preachers was Thomas Lintott, who had become unpopular at the nearby chapel at Blacknest (see the map). It is this Chapel that you can still see, a private residence, at Batts Corner.



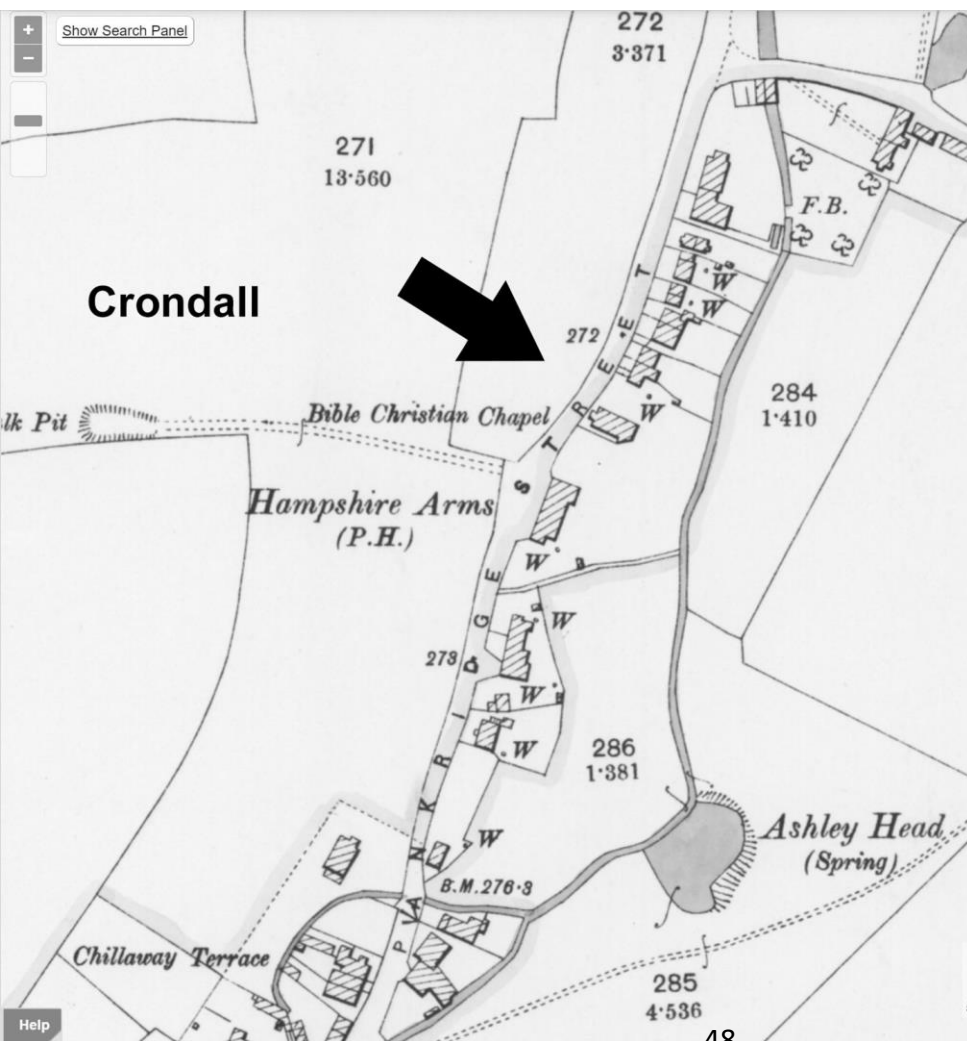
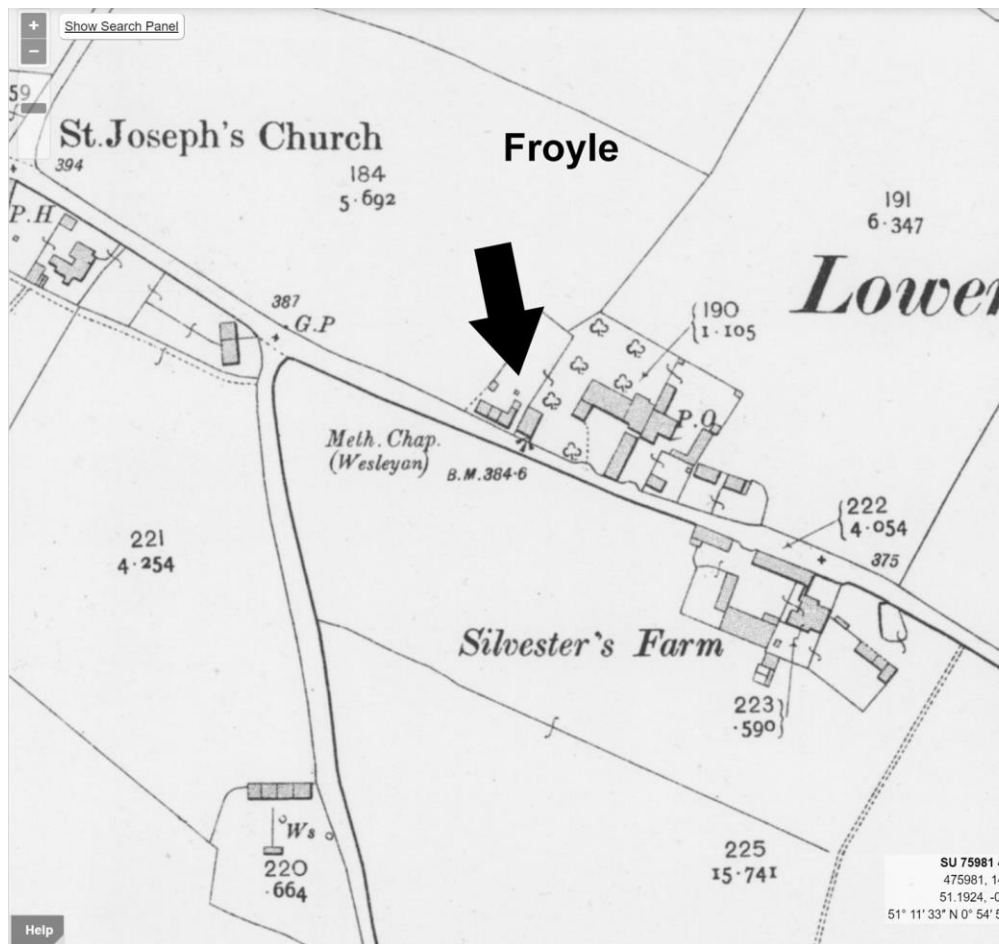
There was a Thomas Lintott, an agricultural labourer born in Liss near Petersfield in 1798, and I suspect that the Charles Frank Lintott on the Rowledge War Memorial may have been his grandson. It is possible that this Thomas Lintott is he who preached as a Bible Christian, but I can't be sure.

The various fragments of the Methodist movement were always somewhat fluid. Individual chapels might change their allegiance from one Methodist church to another. Froyle offers a good example.

The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Bible Christian Chapel at Blacknest, now seemingly disappeared.

For 150 years Methodists worshipped in Froyle until the chapel closed in 1998. Methodism had actually come to the village twenty years before the Chapel was built, during a Primitive Methodist Mission to Alton. In about 1849 the congregation changed their allegiance and joined the Bible Christian branch of the Methodist Church. However, after a few years the Society became extinct, probably because of the existence of a more flourishing Bible Christian Society at East Green, Bentley (see map) and the building of the chapel there in 1854.

The Wesleyan Methodists then took over, building on the missionary work of the Primitives and Bible Christians. Crondall, too, had for years a Bible Christian Chapel, still there, built in 1879. It had a capacity of 150 and replaced a smaller structure that had been built in 1838. The Crondall Bible Christians merged with the United Methodist Church in 1907 before eventually merging with Froyle in 1979.



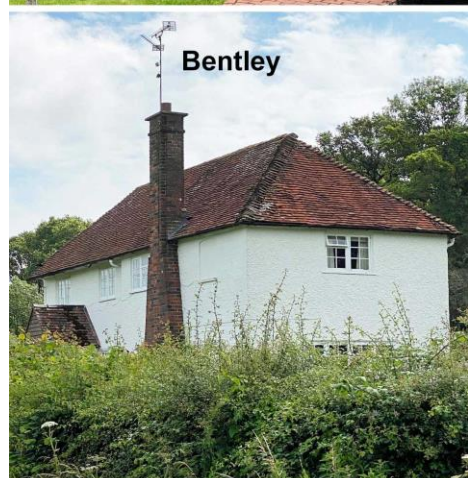
The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Methodist Chapel at Froyle, only recently closed after nearly 150 years of worship. It was briefly a Bible Christian mission before the Bentley chapel's popularity usurped it.

The 25,000 OS map from the late nineteenth century showing the Bible Christian Chapel at Crondall. Long disappeared.

The chapel in Churt has a somewhat later history. There James Clark Hook a well-known artist and the owner of a large estate at Silverbeck became at odds with the vicar of Churt and, in about 1875, he built a large building on a remote part of his estate for use as a Methodist Mission Room. He replaced it by a chapel which was built at Star Hill in 1883 and which served by both Methodist and Bible Christian ministers.

Hook was an interesting character and one of a number of impressive local artists. He was an enthusiastic Methodist. His father was a Judge of the Mixed Commission Court in Sierra Leone. His mother was the second daughter of the Bible scholar Dr Adam Clarke. Hook went to Italy for three years, having married fellow artist, Rosalie Burton. Hook spent time in Cornwall where his landscapes were so well-known they were dubbed "Hookscapes". It is possible that he became aware of the Bible Christians during his sojourns in Cornwall. In 1866, Hook built his country house, "Silverbeck", near Churt where he lived for the rest of his life.

Where once Bible Christian Chapels stood. Batts Corner, Churt and Crondall still stand and have been converted into residences. The chapel at Blacknest seems to have been demolished and was located behind the cottage called Quickthorns. Where once the Blacknest Chapel stood there is now a cottage, not, I suspect the Chapel which I suspect has been demolished.

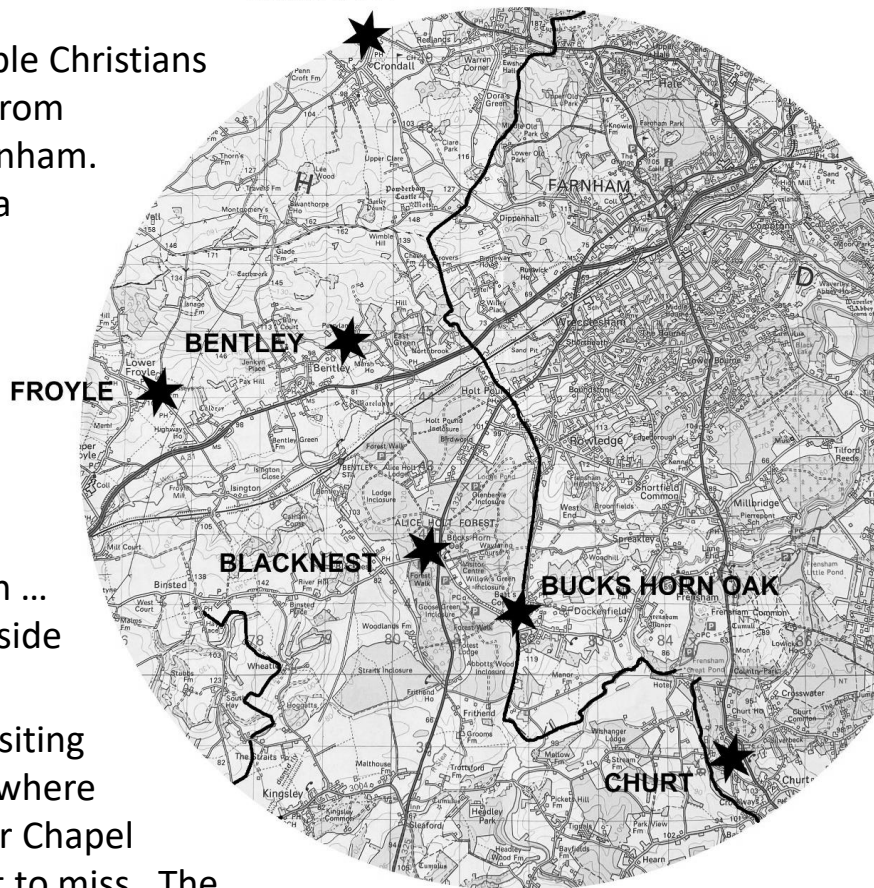


For nearly a hundred years the Bible Christians engaged with hundreds of locals from around the Hampshire side of Farnham. Anyone who enjoys walking with a purpose in mind might like to ramble to each of the Bible Christian Chapels which I have identified within a five mile radius of St. James and see if he can identify exactly where the chapel was. I have indicated the location of each in the map shown ... all but one are on the Hampshire side of the county boundary.

Recently I went on a pilgrimage visiting each of these chapels, or at least where they once stood. The Batts Corner Chapel I have mentioned and it is difficult to miss. The

Churt Chapel is at the top of the road that runs off from the Churt Road, just after Jumps Road. The situation is positively arcadian, the Chapel beautifully adapted to its purpose as a residence. The Crondall Chapel is just beside the Hampshire Arms and, again, impossible to miss. It is large and architecturally interesting, having an unusual, cleaved roof. The Blacknest and Bentley Chapels pose a conundrum. The location of the Blacknest Chapel seems to be in the garden of the cottage called Quickthorns. The lady living in the beautiful sixteenth century cottage behind Quickthorns assured me that the Chapel had been long demolished. Finding the Bentley Chapel involved driving along the single track Hole Lane for half a mile or more, and passing nervous horses on the way. There is now a remote cottage opposite Perrylands where the chapel once stood, but I suspect the chapel itself has also been demolished.

The chapels at Batts Corner, Churt and Crondall are all rather attractive. They share certain features in common, which is not surprising. I include photographs of the surviving chapels and the cottages which mark the location of the chapels at Blacknest and Bentley. Apart from the Crondall Chapel, which is on a busy street choked with parked cars, the other locations are all quiet and even remote. As I looked at them and photographed them I imagined the faithful servants of Christ, mostly agricultural labourers and their families, braving the disapproval of their betters and trekking towards these chapels. I reflected on the keenness of the passions and enthusiasms which built these little chapels. Today we often say of football, when we think of the passions it evokes, that it 'has become like a religion'. These chapels remind me of a time when, in our neck of the woods, 'religion was like a religion'.





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Fun time

At the beginning of this year I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds ... only 15 more to go!

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO BREAK MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. THAT WAY I SUCCEED AT SOMETHING!



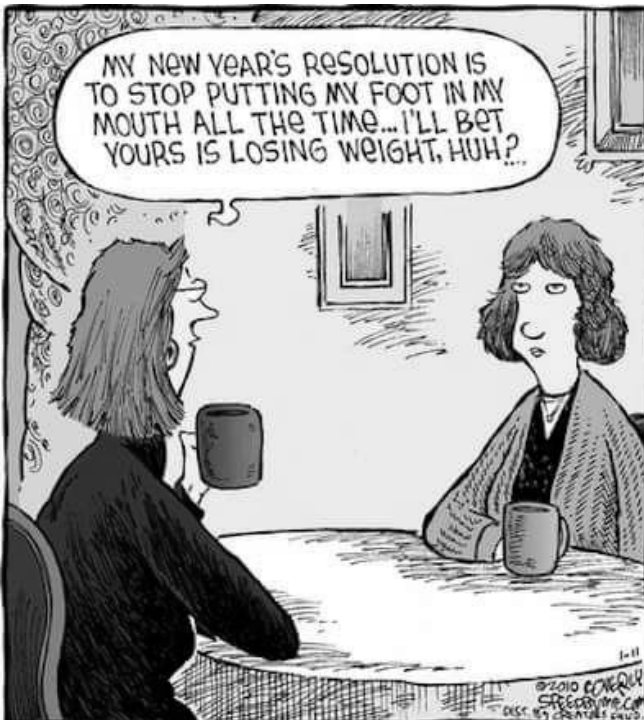
I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year ... but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.



I don't call them New Year's resolutions. I prefer the term "casual promises to myself that I'm under no legal obligation to fulfill."

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	2		9					
9		1						2
	7				1	9		
5				6	7			3
			5				2	
		7	2			8		
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	1		8				3	

Sudoku Each puzzle has a solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 9 space shape.



EDITORIAL

PLEASE NOTE: The official deadline for copy for the February issue of the Review is **FRIDAY 13th January 2023.... LATEST DATE!!**

Please either send articles through email: **rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk** or leave your masterpieces in the pigeonhole provided in St James' Church.

We always welcome your contributions and would love to hear from anyone who think they could contribute a series of articles on a theme – any subject considered.

Please also continue to notify us of any required changes to the Directory listing.

Please send articles to **rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk** not to Tony Carpenter's personal email account.

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