

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS  
**Twin Spires News**

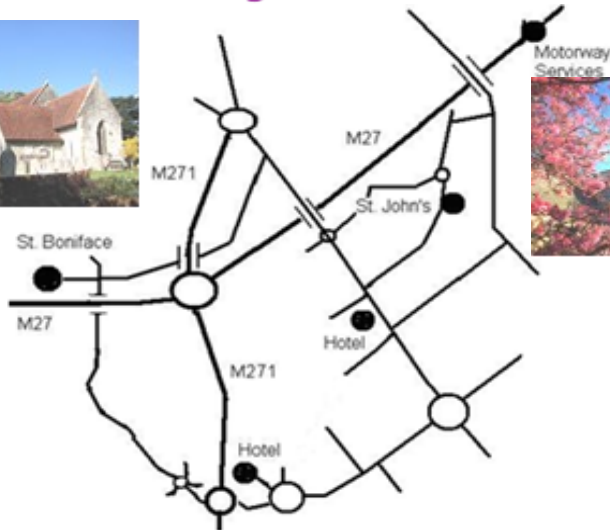
*Web Edition*

*April*  2025  
He is risen!



# twinspires

St Boniface St John's  
Nursling & Rownhams



St John's Church (SO16 8AH) is in Horns Drove, Rownhams.  
St Boniface Church (SO16 0YB) is in Church Lane, Nursling.

The Parish Office is usually staffed Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11.30am (excluding public holidays) and it is sometimes staffed remotely, so please do not call into the office in person, except by arrangement.

However, the answer machine and email are checked regularly.

Telephone: 023 8073 8293. Email: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

Our website is [www.twinspires.org.uk](http://www.twinspires.org.uk)

This magazine is available to read on our website. If you would like to have your own printed copy of Twin Spires News, it is available from either of our church buildings, price 60p per copy or £6 for 1 year (Jan to Dec). Copies may be delivered free within the area, by arrangement.

There are a number of ways you can donate to church funds (outlined on page 24). Bank Transfer is the preferred method. More information on 'giving' is available from the Office and the church website.

There is also a [link](#) which offers a very simple option for any one-off on-line gifts. Look for the donate button on our website, or use the QR code.

Donate



Registered Charity Number 1130927

Cover Image: 'The Angel in the Tomb' by Sandi O'Donnell

## Verse of the Month

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

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Dear Friends

As I have shared recently with our parish, our vision statement is 'Loving Jesus, one another, our community.' I have talked about the **UP** element of loving Jesus, the **IN** element of loving one another and the **OUT** element of loving those who live in our community.

The Apostle Peter is one of those characters who really resonates with many who journey through a thoughtful Lent. Peter's story can teach us much about our vision in the parish. In John 18:15 Peter is brought **IN** by another disciple and is left outside by the gate, whilst the disciple goes and talks to the priest who he knows. I wonder to what extent are we aware of what it feels like to be left out and anxious. Recently on a training course I became aware once more of how hard we have to work in new situations, we awkwardly attempt to laugh our way into a group to feel accepted. I wonder how that causes us to reflect on those who attend our churches for the first time, who are strangers, who are unknown. What lengths will we go to welcome those from 'Outside,' 'Into' to our church community?

Belonging is so important. Peter warms himself on the charcoal fire with the slaves and the Roman guards. Like others congregated around braziers of belonging, activists, the isolated and lonely, the infirm, the homeless, the anxious, we have a longing to find community, to find meaning, identity and hope. Sometimes gatherings enable light, warmth and connection and yet sometimes it keeps us in the shadows. I wonder how we as a church, moreover, how you individually, can facilitate for others a sense of solidarity of solace of love towards our neighbours, towards newcomers.

'You're not one of that man's disciples, are you?' Peter is asked. Peter is instantly on the back foot looking for escape, before he had time to think about 'who is Jesus.'

We live in a culture of free speech where we can speak openly. We can name Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we can make decisions about our time and money and how we hold power in ways that honour him. But do we?

How reluctant do we become when we have to share what we believe with others. How flickering and wavering we can become when we try to live His way, with God, our families, in church and with our community.

I wonder what is it we fear? Jesus who will pay the awesome price on the cross, seems not to fear anything. The light and truth of Jesus exposes the failings of those around him and it does us too. Peter denies Him, and so do we. Our belonging, our identity and behaviour come sharply into focus when we encounter Jesus. For now, we stand with Peter in dim light, unsure how to define ourselves or how to defend Jesus.

We know, however, that Jesus never abandons us in the half-lit embers, but brings truth and light. He never counts the cost of our unfaithfulness, but cancels our debt, so that we are freed. It means Jesus leaves nobody outside the gate. It gives us confidence to reach out to the stranger, the visitor, the newcomer, our community and welcome IN the same way that Peter did when compelled by the Holy spirit in Acts. It's why we are renaming our stewarding team to our 'welcome' team. Just as Christ welcomes us, so we too are called to welcome others into our midst, with radical hospitality.

That is what Easter demonstrates, a God who will never stop showing us how much He loves us, A God who will sacrifice His own Son for our wrongdoings. It's a story that changed the lives of those who knew Him and it can transform our lives too and the lives of the community in which we live. Jesus offers us new hope and new life.

There are many opportunities to share our love of Jesus this Easter. Why not come and join us on Palm Sunday or on Good Friday afternoon (see page 7) or through the Easter weekend as we remember and celebrate this wonderful real-life story. Why not be bold and invite your family, friends and neighbours – you and your guests will be made very welcome.



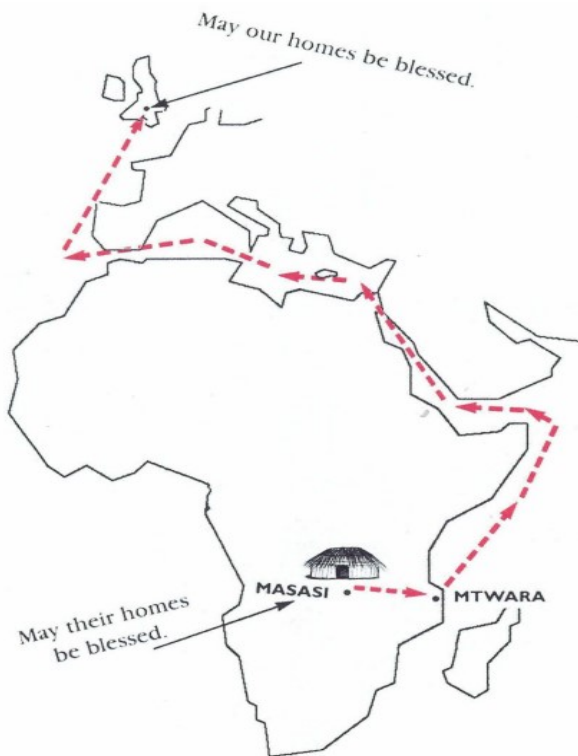
I hope that this Easter brings a break from the routine, with quality time with those you know and love. Maybe you can invite them along on Good Friday. But more than this, I hope you spend some time thinking about Peter and what he can teach us today, about Jesus' death and resurrection. Maybe you can spend some time thinking about who you can stand alongside in our church and our community as you share the resurrection light of Christ.

Blessings

*Rev Graeme*

## The Story Behind African Palm Crosses

Palm Crosses, a key part of Palm Sunday services across all denominations, hold a special story of craftsmanship and community.



The map shows the journey of the Palm Crosses, which are handmade by villagers in 8 small communities in the Masasi area of southern Tanzania:

**Mpeta,  
Namikunda,  
Mlundelunde,  
Mumbaka,  
Machombe,  
Chivirikiti,  
Makanyama, and  
Marika.**

The villagers use Dwarf Palms (*Hyphaene coriacea*), which grow wild and are not cultivated. The process begins near the area of Mbangara, where the palms are carefully harvested.

Once cut, the palms are dried and stripped, ready for weaving. Villagers then transport the materials back home on foot or by bicycle. In their homes, they skilfully weave each Palm Cross, with sizes varying between 15 and 25 cm due to their handmade nature.

From here, the crosses are gathered at a collection point in Mpeta before being transported to the nearest ports: Mtwara or Dar es Salaam. They are then shipped to churches in the UK and the USA, bringing with them the dedication and craftsmanship of Tanzanian communities.

This tradition not only enriches Palm Sunday services but also provides vital income for these communities. Each Palm Cross carries a message of faith, connection, and the incredible work of hands halfway across the world.



<https://africanpalms.co.uk/>

## Good Friday, the Day the Son of God Died for You

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm.

It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of 3 hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

## Good Friday, Jesus and the Thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

### So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18). **Parish Pump**

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## **Our Services for Easter**

(please see pages 14-15 for details of all our April services)

### **Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Holy Communion in St John's Church

### **Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

10am Service of Reflection in St John's Church

### **Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

10am Family Communion in St John's Church

11am Holy Communion in St Boniface Church

6.30pm Easter Praise in St John's Church

**Please join us for our**

**Free**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**FAMILY EVENT**

**Friday 18th April**  
**1-3pm**  
**CRAFTS - ACTIVITIES**  
**GAMES -**  
**REFRESHMENTS**  
**in ST JOHN'S CHURCH**  
**ROWNHAMS**



## Highlights from Standing Committee Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

### Safeguarding

- **Training** - The Diocese have offered to run a collective Basic Safeguarding training session, one evening, at St John's Church. Date TBC.
- **Crèche** - The Sunday morning crèche at St John's Church is no longer a church-led group. There is a creche area which is parent-led.

### Electoral Roll

2025 is a year when everyone across the Church of England needs to fully refresh the Electoral Roll, and **everyone** has to submit a new application, even if they live outside the area where they worship. Forms are available at both churches, or applications can be made on line by contacting [electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk)

### Health and Safety

There are now new lidded bins in St John's Church and Church Hall, to help deter unwanted vermin. Users should ensure bins are emptied regularly and not left overflowing with rubbish.

### Website

Ewan Brown is in the process of creating a new church website.

### St Boniface Church

The Quinquennial Report has been received and recommended actions will be prioritised.

### St John's Church

- **Pews to Chairs** - We are still awaiting a decision from the Chancellor.
- **Sound System** - A temporary fix has been applied, following the amplifier failure. A permanent solution will be investigated once we have the Chancellor's decision, as above.
- **Stewarding Team** - Currently our Sidespeople are known as Stewards. It has been agreed that they should be renamed 'The Welcome Team', as welcoming should be their main role at services. In-house training will be offered across both churches.
- **Church Hall** - The Church Hall Feasibility Study Group are obtaining views and comments from individuals and groups on what they would like or need from a new Church Hall. A public meeting will be held in the near future to obtain the views of the local community. All comments welcome to [pccsecretary@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@twinspires.org.uk)



## Vision

Graeme and a small group from St John's Church are attending the Diocesan GROW Course. Graeme stated that the vision emerging for our two churches is:

**Love God, love our neighbour and love our community**

## Future Dates

**APCM** – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 7pm St John's Church

**Standing Committee:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

*Christine Owen, PCC Secretary*

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## The Church Electoral Roll – Why Should You Be on it?

Notice is given that under the Church Representation Rules a **NEW** Church Electoral Roll for 2025 is being prepared.

**Every person who wishes to have their name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment.**

It is only by being on the Roll that you can have your say in how your local Church is run – usually by attending the APCM (Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm this year in St John's Church), but if we should ever have to call a Special General Meeting then you need to already be on the Roll to attend that too.

For ALL applicants, there are printed application forms available at each Church, however, I would encourage you to email [electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk) so I can send you a form electronically.

You can now complete the form electronically. Please print your name in the signature box and return it to the address mentioned above using the same account that I used to send you the form.

Alternatively completed and signed printed application forms from the congregation at St Boniface Church can be placed in the box provided or given to Graeme Dixon. At St John's Church please give your completed form to me, a member of the Welcome Team, or put it in the box at the back of Church.

If you are not sure if you qualify then do read the notes on the form and, if you are still in doubt, please ask.

The renewal of the Roll began on **1<sup>st</sup> of March** and completed forms need to be returned to me by **10<sup>th</sup> April** at the very latest, so please don't delay.

*Sue Muldowney, Church Electoral Roll Officer*

# Planning an Environmentally Friendly Holiday

If you haven't planned this year's holiday yet, here are some ideas for planning an environmentally friendly one.

Visiting new places and seeing God's creation is a good way to be refreshed and rested but how we travel, where we stay and what we do while we are there can either be positive or negative for the environment.



## Travel

It's rather obvious but the closer to home then it's likely that less emissions are involved in getting there. Think about how you are going to get there. driving or taking the train is better than flying (especially for short haul flights). Eurostar could get you to Europe.

If relevant, think about choosing a reputable, conservation-minded tour operator.

## Accommodation

If you are staying in a hotel then some are more environmentally friendly than others.

Wherever you stay then, as you would at home, think about

- Conserving water
- Limiting energy use
- Recycle and reducing waste
- Disposing properly of the waste that is left
- Choosing environmentally friendly transport eg walking, hiring bikes, catching the bus

## Activities

Think about whether your recreational activities might have a significant harmful effect on the environment; do they use fuel or damage nature? Golf courses require huge amounts of chemicals and water, thankfully some courses now recycle water.

## Souvenirs

Check they are not made from an endangered species including animal hides, tortoise-shell, ivory or coral.

Most importantly - Enjoy nature and the environment!

*Claire Thompson*

## Family Talent Show 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025

As last year, there was an impressive array of talent on show, and this time there seemed to be an emphasis on singing from a range of musicians of all ages and from music of various genres.

The short first half was compèred by Ewan Brown, who had checked out the enthusiasm of each performer, as a way of introducing each act. The youngsters impressed with a variety of songs and the girls doing the cheerleading routine were ably assisted by young Dominic.

We must not forget the poems read by Jayne Watson, our creative poet (you can read one of Jayne's poems below) and Christine Owen who read a lively selection. Marion Swinerd gave a hilarious monologue that, she says, came in a letter from Lee Abbey. In it her correspondent, a lady with a mature figure, complained of the difficulties of buying a bathing costume.

Some of the monologue draws the comparison with swimwear available for ladies/girls who have yet to "fill out", so the point is that the writer has a mature figure. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put on a good show: the performers, the compères Ewan and Graeme, and the lovely refreshments team? for supplying half time drinks and delicious cake.

*Mary Carter*

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### Not My Feet

Let me tend you, Lord,  
let me wash your feet:  
disciple to teacher,  
servant to master.

Bitter herbs sting my mouth  
as you wash my feet.

My Lord, my master, my friend,  
why do you refuse my request?

My anger rages like the sea of Galilee,  
my thoughts toss in the waters;  
yet again your hands restore peace  
as you remove my sandals.

I didn't understand  
why you chose me.  
I didn't understand  
why you washed my feet.

Obedient servant, the sacrificed lamb.  
Only now you are gone, do I understand.



© *Jayne Watson*

## Film Review: Conclave

*Conclave* won the BAFTA for best film and why it didn't win the Oscar baffles me. It's one of the best films I've seen in a long time, attested by the fact I now want to re-watch it as soon as possible.

The plot revolves around the choosing of a new pope, with Ralph Fiennes as Cardinal Lawrence, a man who is leading the election process and finds himself tangled up with intrigue and mischief. A good man trying to do his best by his own faith, conscience and duty towards the church.

Fiennes is outstanding (when is he not?) and the entire cast can't be faulted, although I'd like to make a special mention of Isabella Rossellini as a nun who plays such a crucial role in the story.

What elevates the film for me are some of the moments of spiritual insight.

***“Our faith is a living thing precisely because it walks hand-in-hand with doubt. If there was only certainty and no doubt, there would be no mystery. And therefore, no need for faith.”***

Those words may not appeal to everybody, but for me they speak volumes and perhaps reflect a humility that the church hasn't always shown and maybe should have.

**Ann Laird**



### **NEW Alpha Course**

**Explore** → Life  
→ Faith  
→ Meaning



**What** - A chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal way.



**How** - Each session involves watching an inspirational video focussing on elements of the Christian faith, then openly exploring the questions it provokes in smaller groups. No question is a silly one, and you can get involved as little or as much as you like.



**When** - Weekly starting **Weds 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at 7.30pm in **St John's Church Hall**.

For more details or to sign up:

email: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk) or phone: **023 80 738293** and leave a message.

## March's Masses

Thank you so much to all the kind folk who gave up their time to come along to March's litter pick. A shout out to newbies Ruth and I think it was Hannah (sorry if I got either of your names wrong). The sun was out and I believe we had 21 people litter picking along Bakers Drove that morning, which is an incredible turn out.

The usual discarded bits of food packaging, drinks cans and cigarette butts were found along with what looked to be a bag of camping crockery and utensils. These were extremely heavy to move so were left in situ along Baker's Drove stickered up. The main cache, which consisted of about 5 large bags were gathered by the road sign for Lakeside Avenue.



After a quick conflag, it was decided that next month we should meet outside the old Post Office on Horns Drove next to Routs Way. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.

**Sophie Ross**



# Church Services in April



Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. Tea and coffee are served after the 10am service. There is a crèche area available during services at St John's Church. We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

## St John's Church, Rownhams

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Lent 5

10am All Age Worship  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday

10am Palm Sunday service  
6.30pm Evening Prayer

### 17<sup>th</sup> April - Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

### 18<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday

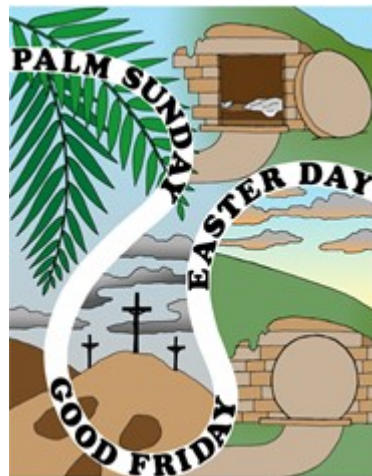
10am Service of Reflection

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day

10am Family Communion  
6.30pm Easter Praise

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Easter 2

10am Immerse Service  
4pm **LEGO** Church (Rownhams School)  
6.30pm Monthly Prayer Meeting



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## 17<sup>th</sup> April – What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'.

On the evening of Maundy Thursday, Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion. One of His final acts before death was the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”** His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

**Parish Pump**

# St Boniface Church, Nursling

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Lent 5**

11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday**

11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day**

11am Holy Communion

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Easter 2**

11am Morning Prayer



**In April Our Retiring Collection is for:**



Southampton City Mission (SCM) has been around for over 60 years. They try to equip the church (in all its flavours) to serve the city and people of Southampton. Part of the City Mission Movement UK, along with 20 other city missions who serve in their local contexts, SCM share the love of Jesus in word and action.

In this time of unprecedented need, SCM is incredibly grateful for donations, which are used across a range of poverty relief projects. There is a wealth of information on the SCM website: <https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/>, including a 'Shopping List' of current food requirements, prioritised by need, and an outline of different ways you can support the Charity.

## **Our Vision: As a Church Community We Seek to:**

<b>Encourage</b> everyone to grow to be more like Jesus, following Him at all stages of their lives;	<b>Be open</b> to being church in new ways and new places, while affirming and strengthening the old where it is still serving us well;	<b>Bear Witness</b> to the God in whom we believe by serving in our working, social and community lives, following the example of Jesus;	<b>Strive</b> to make the best use of all that God has given us to build up His Kingdom.
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## What's on During the Week

For the latest news, online links, videos of services and service sheets, please visit [www.twinspires.org.uk](http://www.twinspires.org.uk). To receive direct emails about news and events for our Churches, please contact the office to be added to our 'big distribution list' (023 8073 8293 or [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)). We have various mid-week homegroups - for details, please see page 2, or contact the office.

Our youth groups meet regularly **during school term time**, in addition to one-off events. Please contact [youth@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:youth@twinspires.org.uk) or the office for details.

### Weekday Morning Prayer:

Online via [Zoom](#) at **9am** on **Mondays**

Online via [Zoom](#) at **9.30am** on **Tuesdays**

Visit [www.twinspires.org.uk](http://www.twinspires.org.uk) for the [Morning Prayer Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 112 879 792 Password: 107871

Online via **Facebook Live** at **10am** on **Thursdays** (recording available all week) <https://www.facebook.com/NurslingAndRownhams/live/>

**Wednesdays 7am Early Prayer Time** in St John's Church

**Fridays 8.30am Morning Prayer** in St Boniface Church

**Mondays 9.30-11am Tots Café** in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p19)

**Mondays 7-8.15pm MORE** for ages 11-16 in St John's Church Hall

**Wednesdays 7-8.30pm BEACON Group** (ages 11-16) in St John's Church

**Wednesdays 7.30pm NEW Alpha** course starts 7<sup>th</sup> May in St John's Church Hall. For more details 023 8073 8293 or [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk) (see p12)

**Thursdays 1-4pm Ladies' Shed Group** (see p19)

**Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club** (See p20)

**Fridays 4.30-5.30 IGNITE** Youth Group  
for school years Reception – 2 in St John's Church Hall

**Fridays 6 - 7.30pm NET** for school years 3-6 in St John's Church Hall

**Mid-week Bible Study Home Groups** (See p2)

**First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group** 1<sup>st</sup> April in St John's Church Hall

**First Wednesdays 8-9pm CONNECT!** on [Zoom](#) 2<sup>nd</sup> April

A group for young adults

**First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April  
in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p19)

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10-11am Litter Pick** Meet outside  
the old Post Office on Horns Drove next to Routs Way (see p13)

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am Men's Breakfast** – in the Vicarage, contact  
[office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk), if you would like to come along

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> April 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall (see p18)



## Dates for Your Diary:



- + Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Preferably by email to [twinspiresnews@live.co.uk](mailto:twinspiresnews@live.co.uk) or, alternatively, to: Mary Carter, 12 Horsebridge Way (paper copy). Please check you receive an acknowledgement of your email.

- + **Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> April Final date return for Electoral Roll forms**
- + **Fri 18<sup>th</sup> April 1-3pm Good Friday Easter Event in St John's Church**
- + **Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April 6-8pm Trivia, Treats & Tunes in North Baddesley Village Hall (see p18)**
- + **Weds 30<sup>th</sup> April 7pm APCM in St John's Church**
- + **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10-11am Litter Pick - venue TBC (see p13)**
- + **Weds 7<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm NEW Alpha Course, in St Johns Church Hall. Please contact the office to participate, or if you can help (see p12)**
- + **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May 8.30am Men's Breakfast contact Mike Bunce**
- + **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall**

Come and join us at



**twinspires**  
**St. Boniface & St. John's**  
**Nursling & Rownhams**

The Pastoral team invites you for an

**'Afternoon Tea'**

**Friday, 23rd May 2025**

**St. John's Church Hall starting at 2.00 pm.**

A time for space, quiet reflection and prayer and for the opportunity to meet people and share memories of a loved one.



If you would like to come along, please contact the Parish Office

**Tel: (023) 8073 8293 or email: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)**

We look forward to seeing you.



**Twinspires**  
**Trivia, Treats & Tunes**  
Saturday 26th April 6-8pm  
North Baddesley Village Hall

Join us for a Pudding, Quiz and Karaoke night.

Email [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk) or phone 02380738293 for tickets & more info.

### **Ladies' Get Together**

We meet on the third Saturday morning of each month, for a catch up over a cuppa in St John's Church Hall.



The next ladies' gathering is on:  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30 - 11.00am**

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.  
Hope to see you there!

**Tracey Jones**



Coffee Break is a friendly place for you to drop in for a chat, over coffee and cake, to take time out and meet with others in the community. It's a good time for carers, and those they care for, to take a break.

All are very welcome: we look forward to meeting old friends and welcoming new ones to Coffee Break. If you need a lift to Coffee Break, please contact Glennis via the Parish Office: 023 80 738293, or by email: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk).

We usually meet In the Community Centre in Horns Drove, on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

**In April, we meet on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> between 10am & midday.**

***The Coffee Break Team***

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## **Weekly Tots Café ~ Monday Mornings**

If you're a parent, grandparent, or carer, looking after pre-school children, you are invited to our weekly 'Carers and Tots' Café.

We meet each Monday morning during school term time, 9.30-11am in the Community Centre in Horns Drove.



Come and make new friends and join in the fun with games, activities and toys. Drinks and snacks are provided too.

With grateful thanks to the Parish Council for their kind support for our weekly Tots Café, entry is free, although voluntary contributions are always welcome.

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## **Ladies' Shed**

Ladies, would you like to try something new?  
**How about joining the Ladies' Shed Group?**

We meet in the Men's Shed,  
next to St Boniface Church  
on **Thursday afternoons 1 - 4pm**

To find out more, contact:

**Sandi O'Donnell:** 02380 199558 or 07886 775864  
or **Mike Bunce:** 02380 738960 or 07742 957858



## Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club



The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club meets on Thursdays between 2.15 and 4.00pm in the Village Hall in Nursling Street.

The cost is £3.00 per week plus an annual membership fee of £20 to enable the club to continue with a small membership.

All meetings have a prize draw and include free tea/coffee and biscuits. There is ample free parking next to the Social Club during building works at the Village Hall. Your first visit is free, and we would love to welcome new members at these events: **don't be shy - give us a try.**

We have a mixture of visiting entertainers and quizzes. The following is our proposed programme for April 2025.

**3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Quiz afternoon with a cuppa and a chat

**10<sup>th</sup> April** - Wally Cozens, C & W singer plus some golden oldies

**17<sup>th</sup> April** - Patrice, young singer with some modern songs and a few oldies

**24<sup>th</sup> April** - Quiz afternoon with a cuppa and chat

For further information, please ring Joyce on 02380 735086, or Mike on 02380 733245.

***Mike Ward***

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Recycling the items below via St John's Church mini-recycling centre can generate funds for various charities:



- used postage stamps, ideally with a 1cm margin
- old spectacles, (not cases or contact lenses).
- used printer cartridges and new unopened printer cartridges (not laser or toner cartridges)

We are no longer able to recycle used plastic pens and felt tips. And, for the time being, we cannot accept milk bottle tops. However Test Valley will now accept bottle tops in your kerbside recycling bin, if they are put back on the plastic bottle after it has been squashed.



Thanks to everyone who helps us recycle. The ink cartridge recycling not only means that waste is kept out of landfill, but it also raises money for our churches. The last batch sent off raised £19.50. So far, we have raised about **£460** since we started collecting them.

## Your Opinions Please

Many thanks to Sandi O'Donnell for this month's Easter image 'The Angel in the [empty] Tomb'. The picture has provoked some debate amongst the Magazine Team (Fred's). There is depicted an angel – an angel with wings.

- Do angels always have wings?
- What about angels that still seem to appear today?
- And how come some people in the Bible didn't realise that the person in front of them was an angel?
- But there is plenty of mention of cherubin in the Old Testament and they always have wings. Then in the Book of Revelation there is, again, mention of winged creatures.

So what do you think? Please let us know, via the usual email address: [twinspiresnews@live.co.uk](mailto:twinspiresnews@live.co.uk), or speak to one of us in church, or drop a note into Mary's house (12 Horsebridge Way, Rownhams). **Freds**

### No, We're not Banning 'gluten-free' Bread or 'non-alcoholic' Communion Wine

Contrary to recent reports following a question asked by a General Synod member, the Church of England is **not** banning 'gluten-free' wafers nor 'non-alcoholic' wine at Holy Communion.

A spokesman for the C of E said that Anglican churches across the country "routinely offer 'gluten-free' bread or 'non-alcoholic' wine at Holy Communion." He said: "Many professional ecclesiastical suppliers have long provided wine or bread which may contain tiny traces of alcohol or gluten which can legitimately be considered non-alcoholic or gluten free."

Out of interest, at our Holy Communion Services in St John's and St Boniface Churches, we offer alcoholic wine, and there is an option for those who would like gluten free wafers.

We are happy to receive foreign currency (notes and coins) and 'out of circulation' UK notes and coins, which we are able to convert into funds for our Churches. Periodically we send off 'our stash' for conversion.

Our most recent batch raised **£196.85! Thank you!**

Look out for the 'Funny Money' Box in Church.





## Update from Congo Children's Trust

We have great things in store for this year to share with you. No doubt, though, you've read about the evolving conflict between Rwanda and DR Congo, in Eastern Congo approximately 1000 miles away from Kimbilio's Lubumbashi home. This conflict has been ongoing for over twenty years but erupted in early January when the M23 rebels took over the cities of Goma and Bukavu close to the Rwandan borders. The Congolese Government are reporting that over 7000 people have been killed.



The population of these cities have fled and many are now living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Congolese territory. The DRC Government Social Welfare Department has approached Kimbilio to see what capacity we have to provide vital housing for unaccompanied children who will be evacuated from the IDP camps to the relative safety of Lubumbashi.

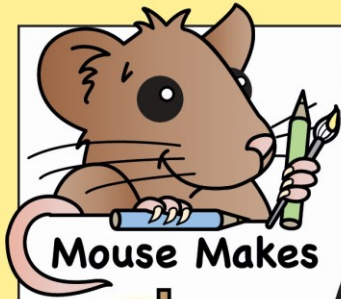
Whilst there is no conflict in Lubumbashi itself, there is an increasing level of unrest and insecurity here. A night time curfew is in place and the population have been encouraged to have food in their homes, should the conflict escalate and impact on Lubumbashi. This is an impossibility for the majority of the population who live on a hand-to-mouth basis day by day. However, this stock piling has also led to panic buying with the population reporting reduced stock of some items in the shops and markets.

In more positive news:

- Kimbilio's sewing schools are in fuller swing than ever. Expanded funding for 2025 has enabled us to add classes. We anticipate 20 women completing training at the two schools this year. Thank you to our supporting partners for making this possible.
- The Young Mums Programme curriculum is expanding. Leveraging our expertise in vocational training for sewing, we are in the process of adding "Coupe et Couture" (cut & sew) training to the program, giving the teen mothers an additional set of skills to deploy alongside their hair stylist skills.
- We are pleased to announce that we will be adding another secondary school year to the Kimbilio Mapendo School this autumn. The school consists of students who, otherwise, would not have the opportunity to attend school. Amongst those enrolled include; the children from all four of Kimbilio's homes and local children from families who, without the support from Kimbilio, wouldn't be able to afford to send their children to school and are at risk of ending up on the streets.

**<https://www.congochildrentrust.org/>**





### Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to  
come by His raising to new life!



### Jesus is risen!

The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He  
has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*

### Jesus is here

Jesus said:  
"Where two or three  
come together  
in my name I am  
there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*



  
**READ** the story of  
the resurrection in:  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Mark 16:1-19**  
**Luke 24:1-49**  
**John 20:1-29**  
and **21:1-14**



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



### Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:  
"I will come back  
and take you to  
myself so that you  
will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN  
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING  
RESURRECTION  
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER  
CHRIST • SON OF GOD  
HOSANNA • PRAISE  
GO TELL • EASTER



**Regular giving** through one of the available schemes is encouraged, as this helps the PCC fund its mission and ministry. Please consider using the Parish Giving Scheme [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk). This is a direct debit system that reduces the administrative burden locally but still ensures that all of your donation, together with any gift aid recoverable, reaches this parish.



The dedicated telephone number is **0333 002 1271**. Donors will need their parish's PGS Code which is: **PGS Parish Code 416012141** The Parish of Nursling with Rownhams in the Diocese of Winchester.

Donate

More information on 'giving' is available from the Office and the Church website. There is also a [link](#) for one-off donations. Look for the donate button on our website, or use the QR code here.



## Please Support Nursling and Rownhams PCC on #easyfundraising

You can raise FREE donations for us when you shop online with over 7,000 brands. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up and this will make a BIG difference to us. So far we have raised over **£630** since we started.



We have a QR code (here) that supporters can scan to go to the easyfundraising page for Nursling and Rownhams PCC. Alternatively, please visit:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nurslingandrownhamsdcc/>

**PCC Legacy Policy** Nursling and Rownhams PCC welcomes gifts in wills, however large or small. We will use such gifts to make a difference to the work of the Church (eg by funding development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff). We will consult with the executors to identify the sorts of projects the donor would have liked.

## *Prayers for April 2025*

Living Lord Jesus,

We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations.

Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

*Christ has died*

*Christ is risen*

*Christ will come again*

*Hallelujah!*

***Daphne Kitching***

### *An After-Easter Prayer*

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies  
Within a hallowed sphere  
Don't praise Him only in your churches  
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through  
The business of ordinary days,  
In the common place encounters  
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply  
What He would have us do....  
He taught: "Love one another  
Even as I love you."

***Elsie Campbell***



Lord Jesus,  
you came as  
a humble servant  
but were proclaimed  
as King.  
Even so, willingly you  
became broken for us  
and, through your death  
and resurrection,  
Love became  
triumphant!

## Suggestions for Your Prayers



Pray for those who join our services over Easter. Pray that they would know God's touch. Pray that he would be working in their hearts helping them to understand something more of his unconditional love for us and what Jesus has achieved for us.

Pray for wisdom and diplomacy skills for all world leaders as they look for ways of working together. Continue to pray for just and lasting peace to come in Ukraine and in Gaza. Pray for those who are suffering the effects of war and for those who have been traumatized or bereaved. That they will find healing, comfort and hope.

Thank God for the many people who serve God in different ways in our churches and especially our churchwardens, PCC treasurer and secretary. Pray that they will know God's strength and enabling in their ministries. Pray for our APCM, that the right people might be elected.

Pray for our home groups. That they will be places where people will feel supported and enjoy fellowship with one another and can grow in their faith and love of God. Pray for God's help for the leaders.

Pray that the fashion industry will move away from the linear 'take-make-waste' model for making and selling clothes and instead move towards a circular model where the production of an item, its longevity and what happens at the end of its life are equally as important.

Thank God for the young people and children in our church family. Pray that they will flourish physically, mentally and spiritually. Pray for them to know God's love and support surrounding them and giving them hope as they grow up in a harsh world. Pray for parents to have wisdom as they seek to support their children.

Pray for the work of Southampton City Mission as they run the Basics Bank and Marketplace projects. Pray that they would have the resources they need to help people. Pray too for their schools' work, that the children would be receptive and understand more of God's love for them as the staff and volunteers share Bible stories and answer their questions.



If you wish to visit Winchester Cathedral, the Parish Office has six passes allowing free entry.

These may be borrowed by any member of our Church family. Please contact: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

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