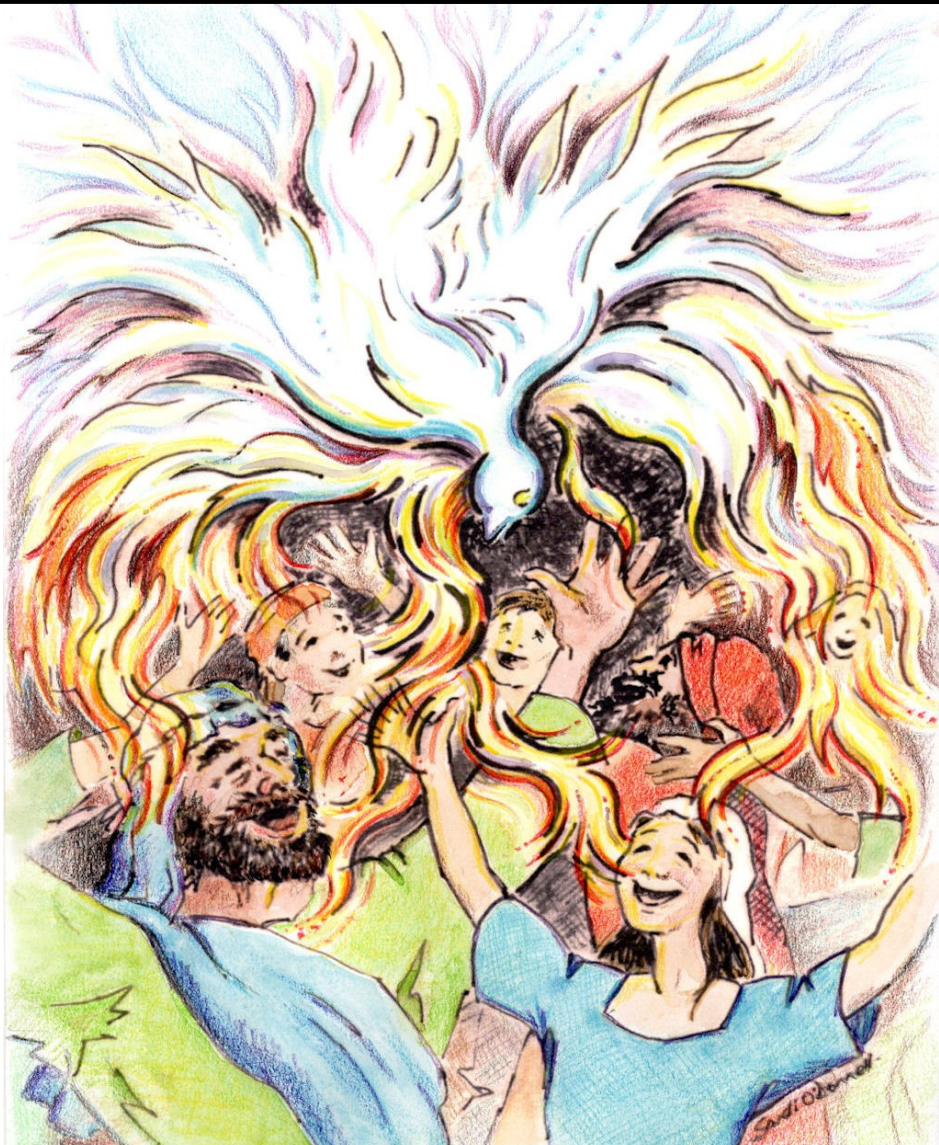


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

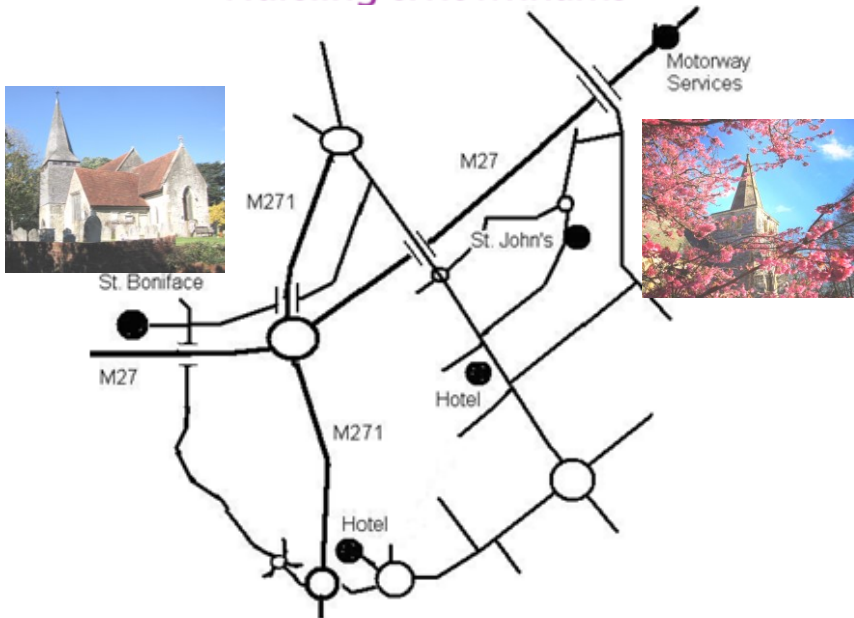
June 2022



And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit
(Acts 13:52 NRSVA)

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, during the Covid-19 situation, it is sometimes staffed remotely, so please do not call into the office in person.

However, the answer machine and email are checked regularly.

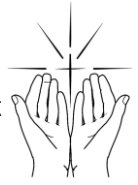
Telephone: 023 8073 8293. email: office@twinspires.org.uk

Our website is 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 25). Bank Transfer is the preferred method and there is also a **DONATE** button on the church website, which offers a very simple option for any one-off on-line gifts.

Registered Charity Number 1130927
Cover Image: Pentecost, by Sandi O'Donnell

Verse of the Month



Whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. (1 Peter 4:11 NRSVA)

Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate the platinum jubilee of the Queen. We will be marking this occasion with a tea party and various craft events for children at St John's Church, as well as an act of worship to celebrate the event.



I realise that royalty can for some be a divisive issue and so I would ask you to put that to one side for a moment if you are able.

The Queen has a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As well as her formal role as 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England', her personal faith was evident even before she was crowned.

On the day of her coronation, she made a request to the nation, 'Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'

Her Christmas broadcasts are among the few speeches she writes herself. They frequently refer to Jesus. Alongside her official role as Head of the Church of England, the Queen is a lady of strong faith. As she said in her Christmas broadcast in December 2000: 'For me the teachings of Christ, and my own personal accountability before God, provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.'

In 2008 the Queen said: 'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'

The Bible story the Queen refers to most often emphasises this theme of service. In four of her



Christmas broadcasts, she has talked about the parable Jesus told of a 'Good Samaritan'. In 1985 she said the story 'reminds us of our duty to our neighbour. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story: 'Go and do thou likewise'.'

In her 2020 broadcast during the Covid-19 pandemic, she said: 'We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that - even on the darkest nights - there is hope in the new dawn. Good Samaritans have emerged across society showing care and respect for all, regardless of gender, race or background, reminding us that each one of us is special and equal in the eyes of God.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury has praised the Queen's commitment to 'doing the right thing' when she was pictured sitting alone at her husband's funeral due to Covid restrictions. He praised her leadership over the decades, and said: 'The clearest moment for me, the absolute summit of that, was that at the funeral of her husband of 70-something years, she sat alone. That was leadership, it was doing the right thing, it was duty, it set an example.'

Her life and attitudes, the steadfastness, the cheerfulness and the strength of the Queen flow directly from her relationship with Jesus. The presence, teaching and grace of Jesus colours her character, her disposition and her duty. When folk talk about how much they admire her qualities of resilience, responsibility and self-giving, they don't ask the next, and really what ought to be the most obvious question, 'what makes her like that?'

In her message of 2002, she said: 'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Gospel.'

The Queen is a wonderful example for people of all faiths. She has robustly defended her own religion, whilst promoting tolerance and understanding of others. She has been a beacon of hope in times of darkness and a light of celebration in moments of joy.

Not everyone is a fan of the royal family, but the Queen deserves our respect for her life of duty and service. As a Christian, she teaches us much about putting faith into words in ways that frequently point us to Jesus. We can learn an awful lot from the Queen about taking the long view when in adversity, about serving and praying that we will see Jesus in all we do, and about the value of doing small things with great love.

I leave you with a prayer for the Queen.



Gracious God, we give You thanks for the reign of Your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us. Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to You and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev Graeme



Jubilee Celebration: Friday 3rd June from 2.30pm

Please join us for an **afternoon tea party** to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee outside (weather permitting!) St John's Church. We are planning various family craft activities, as well as an act of worship, to commemorate the event. Full details to follow – and more volunteers will be very welcome!

Our Vision: As a Church Community We Seek to:

Encourage everyone to grow to be more like Jesus, following Him at all stages of their lives;	Be open to being church in new ways and new places, while affirming and strengthening the old where it is still serving us well;	Bear Witness to the God in whom we believe by serving in our working, social and community lives, following the example of Jesus;	Strive to make the best use of all that God has given us to build up His Kingdom.
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Now the weather should be better, you might like to make use of the various **benches** around our churchyards which are available for use for quiet prayer and reflection! Do make use of them at any time.

St Boniface Church News

It was wonderful to fill the church with flowers again for Easter, following Lent. Many thanks to Frank Wright for capturing these glorious photos of the 'Easter Bonnets' - the theme for the window displays.

Individual bonnets were decorated by the flower team. Although Philip Treacy (Haute Couture Milliner) has nothing to fear, our efforts were much appreciated by the congregation.



Driving down Church Lane it was lovely to see an array of flowers appearing in the hedgerows. To date over 60 different species of flowers have been identified within St Boniface churchyard.

By the time you read this, we will be in to the period of 'No Mow May', which will mean an abundance of Ox-eye daisies, and other equally delightful flowers, will be popping up for all to enjoy, replacing the spring displays of snowdrops and daffodils.

At the time of writing, the flower ladies are planning how to decorate the church for St Boniface Day – 5th June, which we all know is the weekend of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Come along to our Morning Prayer service at 11am and worship with us, as we celebrate this very special occasion, including the dedication of a Red Windsor apple tree, planted in the churchyard as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy.

Avis Wood



We are delighted to share here the entertainment organised for June for the **Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club**:

- 2nd June Paddy Maxwell (singer/comedian)
- 9th June Quizzes with prizes: general knowledge & ‘pub’ style
- 16th June Marlene (singer/raconteur)
- 23rd June John Sherborne (organist/entertainer)
- 30th June Laredo (country & western duo: music/songs)

We meet every Thursday between 2.15 - 3.45pm in the Village Hall, in Nursling Street. The cost is £2 per meeting, including light refreshments.

There’s no need to book in advance, or to commit to attending every week, please do come along on the day, you will be made very welcome! Or to find out more, please contact Sheila or Alan on 023 8073 2440 or by email: alanandsheilab@gmail.com

Alan Bulpit

Ladies’ Get Together

We are re-starting our ladies' social get-togethers, and the first one will be a cuppa and catch-up (and some cake of course!)



on Saturday 11th June 9.30 – 11am in St John's Church Hall



If possible, please contact Tracey by Wednesday 8th June if you are coming, or for more details: 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!

Tracey Jones

Nobody Fell in the Lake!

Ferneyhurst Lake was the target for our litter picking efforts in early May. It was a beautiful morning and we enjoyed the company of some very small ducklings, along with adult mallards and other bird species. The mature hawthorn was covered in blossom and the fish in the lake were evident!

However, the photo below shows how much rubbish a group of us were able to clear in just one hour: if only the people who enjoy this scenic spot would be careful to take their rubbish home with them (or even use the nearby litter bins), our work would be unnecessary.



There were several other pickers who had left the scene before the photo was taken: there were also some bits that were taken home to be repurposed. A couple of the pickers also took home with them the ‘recyclables’ to put into their own wheelie bins, and the glass bottles were taken to the bottle bank.



Next month's pick will probably take place on Saturday June 4th (Pick for the Queen?) at 10.30 am, but this is the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend so do keep a close eye on the church website, www.twinspires.org.uk, for details of location and confirmation of date. Stout footwear and gardening gloves required and accompanied children are very welcome.

Mary Carter and Marion Swinerd

Could You Help Us?



I am sure you will have heard in the news about the decline in biodiversity that our nation is experiencing.

Churchyards are often seen as a crucial haven for wildlife and in the second week of June many churches are recording the wildlife in their churchyards and reporting what they find to the National Biodiversity Network. This should provide useful data on what is happening to wildlife and enable decisions to be made on what actions can best be taken to help recovery.

We would love your help in recording the animals and plants that inhabit St John's Churchyard. We hope this can be a fun activity for all the family. We will not assume you are an expert and there will be books and information sheets to help with identification, together with fun sheets for the children.

We would like to make this a family occasion and have chosen the time for our count as:

Sunday 12th June from 12 noon - 2pm

We invite you to join in and to bring a picnic so we can eat together too.

There is no need to register – just turn up to St John's Church. We recommend that you wear gloves and stout footwear. We would ask that all children are accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult. If you have a clipboard, you might find that useful, also a pencil/pen and any books/apps you have to help identify wildlife.

If you have a particular expertise or general knowledge about wildlife and nature, we'd love to hear from you. Please do get in touch beforehand via the church office (office@twinspires.org.uk)

Hope to see you there.

St John's Eco-group

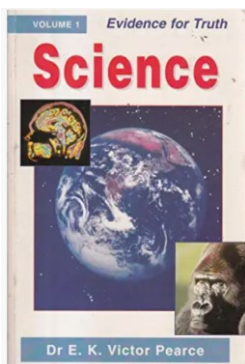
You can read more about the Churches Count on Nature in May's Twin Spires News magazine. And there is additional information about the background to this initiative at: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/



We offer a **mini-recycling centre** at St John's Church for the following items



- Plastic milk bottle tops (clean, not foil)
- Inkjet cartridges (not laser cartridges)
- Used postage stamps, ideally with a 1cm margin.



Evidence for Truth: Repopulation of the Earth After the Flood

Rev Jim Stanley-Smith has written a series of studies, concentrating on the stories of Adam and Noah, to show that they are historically reliable and that Moses wrote them (as editor) in about 1500BC. The heading 'Evidence for Truth' is inspired by Victor Pearce's series of books with this title (1). This month, the series concludes with Genesis 10 & 11 and the events following the Flood (which featured in the May edition of Twin Spires News).

The visit of archaeologists Ron Wyatt and David Fasold to the Ark site in 1986, as reported in 'The Discovery of Noah's Ark' (2), was arranged by the Turkish authorities who were then spending \$4m on a tourist centre with access via a good road and a national park. Also Attaturk University of Erzerum in July 1988 started some cautious core drilling – all of this under the auspices of the Minister for Culture in Turkey.

Victor Pearce also found a hiatus of about a thousand years, after the flood, between the Copper Stone Age and the Bronze Age, shown in different styles of pottery from the early cultures.

Genesis 10 Repopulation of the Earth After the Flood

There were general dispersions of people from the Turkey plateau, along the Indus, Euphrates and Danube Valleys.

Pearce followed the evidence along the Danube Valley, where people were living in simple reed huts, following Noah's teaching.

This was in contrast to the second dispersion, a thousand years later, where the buildings had defensive walls to protect against violence, as well as figurines depicting their immoral worship.

As an anthropologist, Pearce identifies three groups of races that could have originated from Shem, Ham and Japheth (1, p262):

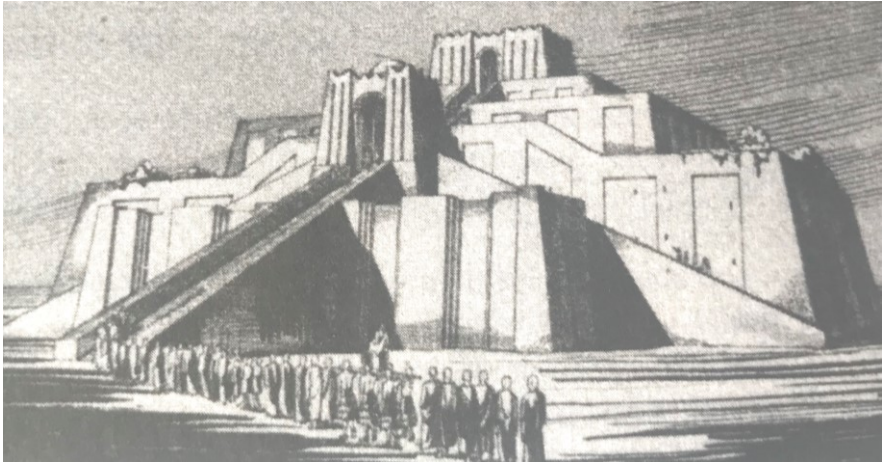
- Asiatic, American Indian & Oceanic (verses 2-5).
- African (verses 6-20)
- European (verses 21-31)

In verse 25 we read of Peleg - that during his time the people of the world were divided (Babel).

Genesis 11 The Tower of Babylon

The Lord said 'let us go down and mix up their language so that they will not understand one another'. So He scattered the people all the over the earth.

People had huge buildings called Ziggurats, with this one at Ur. The oldest Ziggurat was at Babylon - it showed horrific destruction. There is evidence of horrendous storm damage and repeated lightning strikes (Chapter 11: 5-9).



The rest of this chapter is a list of their descendants leading to Abram:

- The descendants of Shem in verses 10-26
- The descendants of Terah in verses 27-32

where we read of Terah, Abram and Sarai with Lot going together from Ur to Haran, where Terah died, with all his records passed on to Abram.

So after Adam, then Noah, God in His patience started again with Abram. These records go on to include Jacob and sons, and then Joseph living in Heliopolis, with all the wisdom of Pharaoh. He would translate these records into Hebrew (Genesis 12-50).

Fast forward many years to Moses, saved from death by Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in Pharaoh's palace, where he gathered all these records together to form Genesis. So Moses spent 40 years in Egypt, learning to be somebody, 40 years looking after sheep, learning to be a nobody, then 40 years in the desert wanderings, learning how God could use a nobody.

Rev Jim Stanley Smith

References:

- (1). Victor Pearce, 'Evidence for Truth, Vol 1: Science', Eagle, 1998
- (2). David Fasold, 'The Discovery of Noah's Ark', Sidgwick & Jackson, 1988

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, it's appropriate to ask the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? Everybody who has committed their life to Christ possesses the Holy Spirit, *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.'* (Romans 8:9). It is the Spirit who brings us new birth into the family of God.

The Spirit assures us of God's love and acceptance, despite our fears, doubts or failures. As adopted children we can address God as our father: *'God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*' (Galatians 4: 6). By using the same word used by Jesus, we can grow in intimacy with our Father and pray to Him, especially when we struggle to find the right words.

The Holy Spirit is committed to producing a family likeness in those who follow Christ. This Jesus likeness enables us to live as Jesus would in our place, ie: work, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23). He talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose, as they come as a total package to be developed over a lifetime!



The Spirit is committed to producing new desires for God: reading the Bible and praying, forgiving others, meeting with other Christians and sharing our faith. He will also give us the motivation to overcome wrong habits, attitudes or lifestyle in our lives.

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).
Canon Paul Hardingham

Fire of Pentecost

We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then

dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Starving in the Shadow of Ukraine

The huge outpouring of support for Ukraine is now eclipsing other crises around the world, which in turn is threatening millions with starvation.

So warns a number of charities and other humanitarian organisations. The UN reports that the situation in Somalia, where 4.5m people are at risk of starvation owing to the worst drought in a decade, is deteriorating quickly. Somalia urgently needs £1.1bn in aid, of which only 3% has been secured.

As one spokesman at the UN explains, ‘The outlook for Somalia was already grim prior to the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, but we were then overshadowed by the crisis in Tigray, Yemen, and then Afghanistan. Now, Ukraine seems to suck all the oxygen that is in the room.’

The international director of Tearfund, Veena O’Sullivan, said: ‘While the eyes of the world have been fixed on Ukraine, other horrors have been taking place.’ These range from a ‘hunger crisis of massive proportions’ in the Horn of Africa, which includes Somalia, and the ongoing violence and famine in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, as well as humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.

The director of CAFOD, Christine Allen, said: ‘It is right that we support a response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, in whatever way we can, but this cannot be at the expense of vital funds meant for tackling the root causes of global poverty.’

Meanwhile, church leaders in Africa have warned that the war is already affecting their food security, as 40% of Ukraine’s wheat and maize is exported to the Middle East and Africa. The poorest are the most affected, as market prices rise.

Parish Pump

Church Services in June

For services in our church buildings, we continue to review and respect coronavirus restrictions: face coverings, hand sanitising, social distancing. Full details are outlined on our website in [Graeme's latest Pastoral Letter/Vicar's Blog of 14th February](#), with a copy displayed at each Church.

Our 10am services, unless outdoors, are also streamed online via [YouTube](#) and can be found on the website www.twinspires.org.uk. Please see the news sheet and website for details and variations. Tea and Coffee are served after the 10am service and we also offer a Crèche at St John's Church during this service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

+ Sunday 5th June – Pentecost

10am [Twinspires@10Together](#)

outside (weather permitting) St John's Church

11am Morning Prayer in St Boniface Church for **St Boniface Day** including dedication of a Red Windsor apple tree, planted in the churchyard as part of the Queen's Green Canopy

6.30pm Holy Communion in St John's Church with sharing and anointing



+ Sunday 12th June – Trinity Sunday

10am Holy Communion in St John's Church (+ Crèche) also livestreamed via [YouTube](#)

11am Morning Prayer in St Boniface Church

6.30pm Evening Service in St John's Church



+ Sunday 19th June – Fathers' Day

10am Morning Service in St John's Church, also livestreamed via [YouTube](#)

11am Holy Communion in St Boniface Church

6.30pm Evening Praise in St John's Church



+ Sunday 26th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

10am Morning Service in St John's Church (+ Crèche) also livestreamed via [YouTube](#)

11am Morning Prayer in St Boniface Church

6.30pm Evening Service in St John's Church



What's On During the Week

All the links can be found on the website: www.twinspires.org.uk.

Weekdays – Morning Prayer streamed on [Zoom](#) or Facebook.

Via [Zoom](#) at **9.30am** on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays**

Via [Zoom](#) at **9am** on **Wednesdays** (open prayer) and **Fridays**

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

Meeting ID: 112 879 792 Password: 107871

Via **Facebook** at **10am** on **Thursdays**:

<https://www.facebook.com/NurslingAndRownhams/live/>

Mondays 7-8.15pm **MORE** for ages 11-16

Contact the youth team: youth@twinspires.org.uk

Tuesdays 7.30pm **Alpha** Course on [Zoom](#)

Wednesdays 7.00 - 7.45am Early Morning Prayer in St John's Church
St John's Church is open most Wednesday mornings from 10am
for personal prayer

Wednesdays 7.30pm Virtual Bible Study group on [Zoom](#)

Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams

Friendship Club in the Village Hall, Nursling (see page 7)

Thursdays 8-9pm, **CONNECT!** on [Zoom](#) for young adults.

First **Tuesdays** 7.30pm **Ladies Craft Group**

(7th June) in St John's Church Hall

First & third **Thursdays** 10am – midday

Coffee Break (2nd (TBC) & 16th June) (See page 16)

Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm **Recreational walk**

Meet in St John's Church car park, approximately 5 miles,
bring a packed lunch and mid-morning snack/coffee.

Friday 3rd June 2.30pm Jubilee Celebration (see page 5)

Saturday 4th June 9.30am – Virtual Vestry Vigil on [Zoom](#)

Saturday 4th June 10.30-11.30am – Litter pick (See page 8)

Meeting location, once decided, will be advertised on the church website

Saturday 11th June 9.30 – 11am – Ladies' Get Together

in St John's Church Hall (see page 7)

Saturday 18th June 8.30am – Men's Monthly Breakfast

43 Lakeside Ave. Contact Andy Ball by 15th June to reserve your place





Dates for Your Diary

+ Contributions for Next Month's Twin Spires Magazine by 6 pm, Sunday 12th June 2022

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



- + **Friday 3rd June 2.30pm – Jubilee Celebration** outside (weather permitting) St John's Church (see p5)
 - + **Sunday 5th June – St Boniface Day** (see page 6-7)
 - + **Sunday 12th June 12-2pm - 'Count on Nature' Event** St John's Churchyard (see page 9)
 - + **Saturday 18th June 8.30am – Men's Monthly Breakfast**
43 Lakeside Ave. Contact Andy Ball by **15th June** to reserve your place
The Men's Breakfast takes place on the third Saturday of each month, please let Mike Bunce know if you would be happy to host one.
-



It's been so good to welcome several new friends to Coffee Break in recent months alongside our old friends. We meet each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Community Centre in Horns Drove.

We're a friendly group who meet together for a chat over coffee and cake. It's a chance also for carers, or those they care for, to take a break and to make new friends. We continue to move forward with caution, so in order to protect the more vulnerable, we would recommend that, for now, masks are worn.

This month we meet on June 2nd (TBC) & 16th between 10am and midday.

(If you are in need of a lift, please contact Glennis on 023 80 736173).

The Coffee Break Team

Techie Trouble The vicar had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he muttered: 'There's something wrong with the microphone.'

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: 'And also with you.'



The New Marriage Laws

Marriage should be honoured by all. Hebrews 13:4



A new Act of Parliament has introduced ‘no fault’ divorce to England and Wales. Now one or both parties to a marriage can get a divorce without the need to blame the other person.

It was introduced because there were a very small number of marriages where one person could stop the other getting a divorce, even though the relationship was at an end. A man or woman had to *show* that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, as demonstrated by the other’s adultery, behaviour or they lived apart for a period of at least two years. But making such an accusation of desertion, behaving badly or having a sexual relationship outside marriage would often stoke up bitterness, and make it difficult to agree on important issues about children or money.

Some people have argued that no fault divorce makes marriage less important or removes personal responsibility. Sadly, the numbers of people getting married are falling and the divorce rate is increasing. Fewer choose to marry in church.

Divorce used to be the privilege of rich people, and even then, was granted only for a few reasons. In the 19th century it was easier legally for a man to get a divorce than for a woman to get one. In the 1970s a new paper-based procedure came in, whereby parties did not have to physically go to a court hearing for a divorce. Now divorces are done on-line via a government website.

The new Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 removes blame, but still ensures there is a minimum period of 20 weeks between the start of proceedings and when individuals may apply for a conditional order of divorce. This allows a time to reflect and discuss problems, and where reconciliation is not possible, to agree important questions such as those involving children, finance and property.

Christians will have a different understanding of marriage, and to many, divorce will always be a painful and stressful process, regardless of the law. As always this is a very simple comment on a complex subject. Always get professional advice before taking any steps. There are local and national organisations which offer guidance on reconciliation (getting back together) and mediation (staying apart but sorting out important issues).

David Pickup (Solicitor)

When Slavery Became Illegal

It was 250 years ago, on 22nd June 1772, that the Court of King’s Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. It remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

In the 1772 case of *Somerset v Stewart*, William Murray, Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, made a very specific ruling that it was illegal for a particular slave, James Somerset, to be transported back to Virginia, where he had been bought by his master, Charles Stewart.

Somerset had been baptised in England the previous year, and his godparents obtained a writ of habeas corpus to prevent his kidnapping and transportation, and the judge ruled, rather reluctantly in view of its possible implications, that such forcible transportation was illegal.

This was not of itself a declaration that slavery in Great Britain was illegal, but it was reported as such in the press, both here and abroad, and widely celebrated by those of African descent, as well as many others. However, it was not generally enforced, even in the narrower sense.

The legal status of African slaves in Britain and its colonies in fact remained unclear until the early 19th century. The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 made the slave trade illegal; and in August 1833 the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act meant that almost all black men, women and children held as slaves in the British Empire – around 800,000 people in all – were given their freedom.

Tim Lenton

Now China Bans Mentioning ‘Christ’ on the Internet

The Chinese authorities have recently banned a church from using the word Christ on the Internet. In the latest crackdown on religious freedom in China, the authorities picked up on the use of the word Christ in a WeChat post published by the Early Rain Covenant Church - a regular target for the Chinese authorities.

The church’s WeChat account ran a book review group where members recommended book titles and voted on their favourites. The latest posting included the Christian classics *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis and *Exposition of the Christian Faith* by Saint Ambrose.

But WeChat’s censorship team, prompted by new government regulations, fired back the following: ‘The word ‘Chr*st’ you are trying to publish, violates regulations on Internet Information Services, including, but not limited to, the following categories: pornography, gambling, drug abuse, incitement.’

So, in today’s China, it seems that Jesus Christ is lumped in with porn, drugs and rabble-rousing. So says Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide.

The tough new regulations, intended to clamp down on churches using the Internet, came into effect on 1st March 2022. The ban prevents any organisation or

individual from posting religious information on the Internet without first obtaining the permission of their provincial government. It bans religious groups, schools and organisations without valid permits from conducting online sermons.

The rules effectively ban any live streaming, publication of sermons, reposting of religious content or any form of online religious education without government permission – and thereby government control. *Parish Pump*



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 £111.74! **Thank you!** Look out for the 'Funny Money' Box in church.

The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

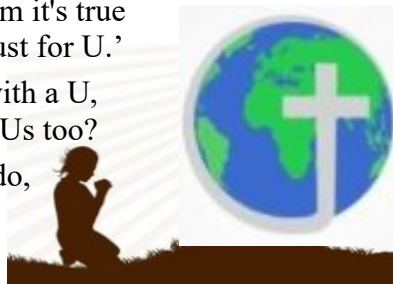
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

'Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U.'

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.



Parish Pump (Author unknown)

Children's Story Books on Faithfulness for Platinum Jubilee

Up to half a million story books are being given to primary school-aged children for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement.

The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series.

The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of God – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

The book is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible.

More details at: cheekypandas.com/product/queen-cj-and-the-bouncy-castle/

Parish Pump



WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Did you know that if you wish to visit **Winchester Cathedral** at any time, then the Parish Office has **six passes** allowing **free entry**? These may be borrowed by any member of the congregation. Please contact the office: office@twinspires.org.uk



It was the **festival of Pentecost, fifty days** since **Passover** and **Jews** from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to **celebrate**.

The **Apostles** and other believers were all **together** in one place when they heard a **sound**

like a strong **wind** and **saw** what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and **touched each** person.

All of them were **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **talk** in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their **own**



Read the full story in Acts 2:1-11



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

language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people **heard**, **believed** and were **baptised** that day!

All the words in bold type in the story are in the word search, can you find them?

Help, My Kids Just Asked Me a Science Question!



Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

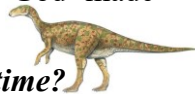
The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.



Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about *how* God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!



Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds. So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!



From the Faraday Kids website: www.faradaykids.com.



From the Registers



Baptisms	“One Lord, one faith, one baptism”	<i>(Ephesians 4:5)</i>
15 May	Alba Marie Willsher	<i>St John’s</i>
Weddings	“Marriage should be honoured by all”	<i>(Hebrews 13:4)</i>
28 May	James Skidmore and Sarah Pace	<i>St John’s</i>
Funerals	‘Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep’	<i>(1 Cor 15:20)</i>
7 May	Jean Wylde (77)	<i>Interred at St John’s</i>



Prayers of the Month

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the beauty of the world you created, so evident in this lovely month of June.

We bring before you, in prayer, those events going on in the world which are so difficult to understand. We pray for all your children who are suffering in any way, especially those affected by war. Please, Lord, comfort them, assure them of your presence – and deliver them from evil.

May we appreciate each day which you have made. Help us to rejoice and be glad in the gift of each new day – and to trust you for all our tomorrows, knowing that in you alone is our security.

In Jesus’ name. Amen

Daphne Kitching

O Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
we give You thanks for Your servant, Elizabeth our Queen.

May she ever be provided with all she may need for her ministry among us, strengthened to meet every demand which her office may make, and in all things nourished by Your word and example, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, world without end.



Amen.

Church of England

Suggestions for your Prayers



Continue praying for Ukraine. Pray for God to intervene that there might be a just end to the war soon. Pray his help and protection for the people. Pray for those who have been successfully evacuated, that they will find a warm and safe welcome where they can begin to heal from the trauma they have experienced. Pray for wisdom for all world leaders.

St Boniface Day coincides with the Queen's Jubilee this year. Give thanks for the thriving community at St Boniface church and remember them especially on 5th June when an apple tree will be dedicated to the Queen's Green Canopy. The church will be decorated to commemorate these events.

Give thanks that a new education officer has been appointed at A Rocha's Wolf Fields. Pray for him as he settles into his post. Pray too for the successful completion of the wildflower meadow and the labyrinth projects and that they would be effective in attracting more wildlife and people to the Nature Reserve. Pray that as more from outside the church become involved that they would come to see the love of God through his creation.

Pray for all whose mental health has suffered during the pandemic. That they will be met with understanding, receive the right treatment and for healing. Remember especially young people who have missed out on so much. Pray that they will catch up and that the teenagers will all get the exam grades they deserve and that their futures will not be adversely affected.

Give thanks for the Men's Shed in Nursling. Pray that it will be a place where men can enjoy meeting with others and creating things. Pray that the Men's Shed members and church members will support one another and show respect for each other and that the arrangement over the use of St Boniface Hall will be mutually beneficial.

Pray that God will inspire fathers everywhere to be a good example to their children and others who look to them for leadership. Pray that they might live lives of integrity, righteousness, truth and courage.

Thank God for the hundreds of organisations worldwide who are together aiming to designate 30% of our oceans as marine sanctuaries and 'national parks' by 2030. Pray for wisdom and resources to protect vulnerable areas on coasts, on the sea floor and in the waters and all that live there.

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 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.



More information on how to give 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.

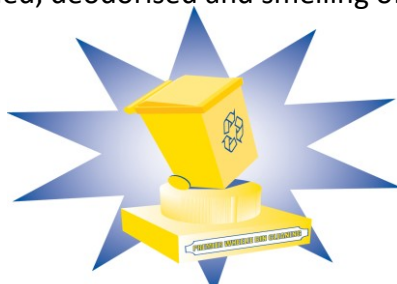
DONATE

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

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