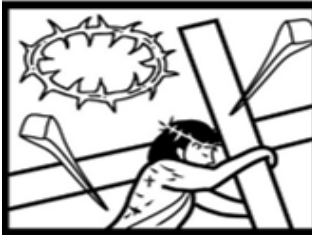


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS  
**Twin Spires News**

*Web Edition*

**April 2024**



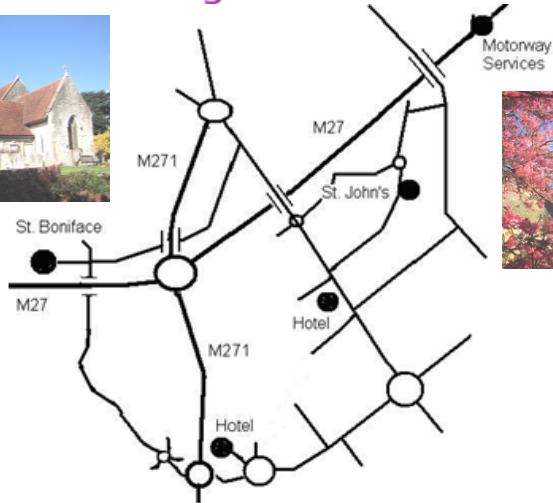
"God loved the world  
so much that he gave  
his one and only Son  
so that whoever  
believes in Him may  
not be lost, but have  
eternal life."  
John 3:16



**JESUS IS ALIVE!**

# 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 23). 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



Twin Spires Magazine is published on our web site: [www.twinspires.org.uk](http://www.twinspires.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1130927

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## Verse of the Month

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

(from CofE common worship order of service)

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Dear Friends

Easter is commercially celebrated with images of eggs and chicks. Easter eggs have been in the shops since Epiphany this year, but Easter isn't really about eggs or chicks. It's about Jesus! At the start of the journey towards Lent, way back in February, we remember Jesus quoting scripture when He was tempted in the wilderness.

The Chrism service, where licensed ministers rededicate themselves in the cathedral, is on Maundy Thursday. The invitation to join this service begins with another occasion where Jesus quoted scripture, in the synagogue this time. He unrolled the scroll and quoted these words from Isaiah, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' However, He did not complete the scripture by saying 'and to proclaim a day of vengeance from our God.'

When Jesus does quote from the Old Testament, he speaks of justice, mercy and God's unconditional love for everyone. There are many scriptures that we struggle with in the Bible, we often encounter them during Morning Prayer. Passages that seem to represent an apparently vengeful, genocidal and punitive God. And yet Jesus, rather than affirming them, speaks against them.

Why? Because Jesus has not come to earth to act out divine retribution. His message is so very different. He has come to share the good news of God, a God of love, of trustworthiness, one who is faithful and merciful. Just pause for a moment and think about the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son.

God has always known what we are like. He sent Jesus, not to change how He saw us, but to enable us to truly change how we see God, to understand the nature of God, through the works of Jesus. Jesus also taught us how to see each other.

If God and Jesus are not intolerant, feuding, retaliatory, tormenting, or vindictive, then what is our defence, as humanity, for vengeance and war? ie: if that's what God is like, the warlike option is not open to us, is it? Think about our world today and how much we need to listen to that message.



That then 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 life.

Easter is not about eggs and chicks, it's about Jesus, who was crucified on that first Good Friday and rose to new life on the first Easter Sunday. This is not just a wonderful story, it's historical fact. Despite the resolve of the Roman Empire, and the determined and influential Jewish leaders, to eradicate the whole of the Jesus story, Jesus' body was never found and His resurrection never disproved.

Of course, in our modern world, many have not found Jesus: He is lost to them. To quote from someone I talked to recently, 'Is Jesus really a thing!?' The way the commercial world portrays Easter, the way social media so often vilifies people of faith, means sharing the good news is as important as it ever was.

We hope to share the good news of God with our community at Easter this year on Good Friday afternoon. Whilst for Christians, Good Friday is a day of mourning and reflection, it is also a time to remember the power of God's love, and the promise of eternal life. A time of hope and new beginnings, not eggs and chicks, but the God who dies for us, because He loves us so much. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.

The impacts of what happened that first Easter are still relevant today. When Jesus died and rose, He did it for us. He offers us new life, eternal life, with Him; life that starts now, but continues beyond this life. Now that is worth celebrating. Come and join us on Good Friday or through the Easter weekend, as we remember and celebrate this wonderful real-life story, you will be very welcome.

I hope you have a fantastic Easter and eat some chocolate eggs. I hope that this season 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 the real meaning of Easter, about Jesus' death and resurrection, and about the possibilities of a new life for yourself - starting now and continuing into eternity.

**Rev Graeme**



## St Boniface News April 2024

**A Date for your Diaries** - On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Nursling & Rownhams Community Band will be performing a Summer Concert in St Boniface Church. There will be a varied programme of music and you are invited to stay for refreshments after the concert. More details to follow. **Avis Wood**

Many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare our churches so beautifully for Mothering Sunday.

Thank you to Frank Wright who captured the pretty 'teacup themed' floral displays at St Boniface Church.



### STEWARDS & LAPTOP OPERATORS AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

If you would like to help with the running of our services, but are not sure how, one of these roles might be a good place to start. Each of them only requires **an extra hour of your time**, at a service of your choice.

There is now a comprehensive procedure for operating the laptop, and also a summary checklist. Similarly, there is a checklist that covers the tasks of a steward. Support and training are provided as required. Being a steward is a great way of meeting people, whilst operating the laptop brings you unwarranted admiration from those who think, incorrectly, that it's difficult!

To find out more, please contact Randall: ([churchwardenstj@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:churchwardenstj@twinspires.org.uk))



## TwinSpires Talent Concert 2024



Did you miss the concert on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February? If so, you missed a real treat! Who knew that there was so much talent hiding in the pews of both St John's and St. Boniface Churches!!

It began, as all such concerts do, with an item by the puppets, very cleverly constructed.



The first half also included much excitement from our young members: footie keeper-uppers, dancing, singing, piano, and fantabulous acrobatics, tumbling and spinning – as good as any to be seen on TV. A surprising (and excellent) adult duo in a 'shop' gave rise to much hilarity.

At half-time there were some scrumptious refreshments from our usual support group.

The adults concentrated more on poetry of various kinds and musical items: piano solos, singing with their own guitar or mandolin accompaniment – there is absolutely no reason why, with this wealth of talent, any of our services should be without superb musical support.

Next time, why don't more people make the effort to come – we might even have more comfortable chairs to sit on!

**Hilary Holden**



I arrived at the Talent Show at teatime, not knowing quite what to expect from this variation on the concert theme, after the long break since pre-Covid Family Concerts.

What we enjoyed was a programme showcasing an astonishing range of talents in disciplines from soccer skills via gymnastics, comedy sketches and poetry readings to music of various genres. It was great to see contributions from performers of all ages.

Danny Hyam proved an entertaining and informative Master of Ceremonies, providing links between the acts, especially when props needed to be moved.

Bring on the next one, folks!

**Mary Carter**





Well, what a lot of talent we have, and it was all demonstrated this evening in a very varied, entertaining show, which was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, the church was not as full as it used to be in days gone by, but that meant there was more cake for everyone to eat in the interval!

The acts ranged from poems written by the people reciting them, to amazing gymnastics by our younger church family members, to musical renditions. These included piano recitals; singers both young and those more mature voices among us. (Photo from a video, taken by Pat Wills).

We were treated to a very amusing sketch based upon 'Are You Being Served?' and a demonstration of football tricks, so there was definitely something for everyone.

The entertainment began with a sketch from our beloved puppets and ended with the most beautiful a cappella singing by Ruth Myerscough, which blew us all away.

Thanks must go to all the people involved in this event, the performers, the people serving cakes and drinks in the interval and the behind-the-scenes people, all of whom made this an evening to remember.

I know we will be doing this again so I want to encourage you to come and see all we have to offer, support the performers young and old, and perhaps donate any loose change you have to our wonderful church and its family.

We demonstrated that God's house is not just for Sundays, it's for fun and laughter and we can even relate the different churches in our world to bra sizes (you had to be there to understand that one)!



***Katrina Stout***



## Full house for the Winter Beds 2024

This is the third Winter Beds project to be run by churches in Southampton working in partnership with Southampton City Council.

This year it ran for 4 weeks in February using 2 Southampton churches for 2 weeks each.



229 bed spaces were provided during the 4 weeks, compared to 131 in the first year. This was supported with over 70 volunteers covering arrival, overnight and breakfast shifts. Below are some personal thoughts from those in our churches volunteering this year.

*Mike Bunce*

---



I decided to help with this, as for me social action is an important part of being a Christian. It's easy to **say** that, but most of my social action is concerned with those in other countries, and therefore tends to involve more talk and campaigning than action.

I have to admit though that I went for the easiest shift – the breakfast one. This involved leaving the house at 5.30am to drive to Lighthouse Church (the first few times) and then later on to The Boathouse.

There were 4 of us and we woke the guests up at 6.30am, served up a simple breakfast of cereal and croissants. And on the days the church was in use during the day, we encouraged the men (they were all men) to pack away their bedding and to leave around 7am.

I was surprised that most of them didn't want much to eat but only a hot drink. There was some opportunity to talk to the men, although not a lot on this shift (and how chatty are you at 6.30am in the morning anyway)?

They all seemed incredibly appreciative and helped where they could. One man hoovered up every morning. There were quite a few different nationalities represented – I spoke to an asylum seeker who had been hoping to join his father. Another man was a bit concerned that we might not be going to recycle some plastic bottles that had been left. I was able to assure him that we would. The thing I found hardest about doing it was driving to the previously unknown venues!

*Claire Thompson*







I helped out at dinner shift, 7 to 9.30pm. Having taken part before, I sort of knew the ropes. What inspired me was the guests' appreciation of what we were doing.

They also wanted to help and were happy to share their situation with me, they were not bitter or angry at where they found themselves.

One guy explained how his landlord had to let him go, but he understood why. He also shared a picture of where he had been sleeping, in a car park, and was grateful that he was in the dry.

As always, I felt very humbled and blessed by being one of over 70 volunteers that took part this year.

***Lynette Allen***

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My reason for assisting with the Winter Bed Scheme was that I felt a sense of guilt whenever I saw a homeless person on the street.

At least I could do some small thing to assist them. Speaking with Peter and learning of his positive attitude, he was very appreciative of the help he received from the library, allowing him to use computers to apply and conduct online interviews. He mentioned he had worked in IT and had 4 upcoming interviews including one with the police and he was hopeful he only needed 1 job to get him back on his feet.

Another elderly gentleman, Terrence, had worked for Ordnance Survey in Southampton and he felt it was good value to be able to ride on the buses for only £2 to Salisbury or Lymington. The journey occupied most of the day for him. Another chap in his forties from Carlisle said he came down here for a fresh start.

A few mentioned that Sundays were the worst day of the week as there is little to do. I felt for them, asking them to leave at 7am not knowing how they would spend their day. Most of the guests didn't bother with breakfast, just a few had a drink and then they left at 7am each morning.

Personally, my impressions of these homeless people is that they are not the people I would have associated with being homeless. They were all very polite and very appreciative of the help we were giving them. If this has happened to them, it could happen to anyone and how would I survive in these circumstances? I don't think I could! I count my blessings. God bless them all and my hope is that they can soon find somewhere safe to live.

***Jeff Collins***





During February 2024, I did a night shift each week at the winter shelter.

People ask me what I do, expecting some exciting answer, but the reality is far less spectacular, in a good way. I am simply on hand in case I'm needed; basically, we enable the winter shelter to be used overnight (the doors are locked) but very little is actually required of us, maybe some hot water for a drink, very occasionally a chat,

On arrival each week there was a brief window for chat with the guests before the lights went out. The guests had all been vetted and I didn't experience any issues with those sleeping there. One chap didn't sleep at night, but he didn't need anything, and he decided not to stay after a week or so.

I can't convey enough how far from onerous this was. We even got a chance for a few hours' sleep/rest, as there were enough volunteers to cover this.

I had a few good conversations and, as the weeks go by, you get to know some of the guests a little. Special thanks to the guest Peter for lending me a phone charger last night.

As simple as the requirements of doing the night shift were for the volunteers, it became glaringly obvious to me how significant the benefits are. Up to 10 people get a bed in a warm safe building each night during the coldest, wettest months of winter and access to clean toilets and food. I'd call that dignity.

The humanity and story of these people becomes real, by spending a little time with them. Each of us has a story and, before God, we all stand as equals. It was a very small thing to do, but a privilege.

**Andy Ball**



Helping people who can't help themselves! This winter it was for 4 weeks, with 10 beds available each night. Just men this year.

It was churches in Southampton, working with the council, to get this off the ground. Grosvenor Casino provided the evening meals: the chef at the casino was glad to be able to use his skills to support the project.

The project is solely dependent on volunteers, with 3 shifts of 4 people, meaning 12 volunteers per day. The Winter beds initiative has been a real blessing.

**LOVE**  
Southampton

**Maria Bunce**



## Would You Like to Try a Clothes Swap?

The little eco group from St John's Church plan to run a **clothes swap** at the May Fair. We invite you to bring a maximum of 5 garments to the Fair. In return for a small donation, you may then take away up to 5 garments. **Please only bring clothes that are in good condition that someone else would be pleased to wear.**

We hope this will be good fun and we'd love you to take part.

I was shocked to read recently on the BBC news website that the fashion industry is responsible for 8-10% of global carbon emissions – more than aviation and shipping combined! It also causes a lot of pollution. Synthetic fabrics are the worst as they release microplastics which pollute the air, soil and water and enter the food chain.

### ***So what can we do?***

I've been trying not to buy new clothes if I can repair my old ones or if I can find something second hand eg in a charity shop.

We are hoping that the clothes swap will give people a chance to refresh their wardrobes without costing the earth (in the literal sense).

I was encouraged to read that there is a firm on the Isle of Wight that makes T-shirts from organic materials using renewable energy and designed to come back to be remanufactured when they are worn out.

This idea of a 'circular fashion' model seems to be growing. Instead of the 'take-make-waste' model of making, selling and disposing of clothes the circular model is where the materials and production are thoughtfully considered, a product is made to last, used to the end of its life and is then repurposed into something else.

Clothes made from more sustainable fabrics are those made from organic cotton, hemp and linen.

***Claire Thompson***

**Save the Date: Nursling & Rowhams May Fair – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Parish of

**Nursling &  
Rowhams**



See <https://nrweb.org.uk/may-fair> for details  
Volunteers are needed for our TwinSpires Stall,  
please contact [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)



## March Madness

We were very fortunate to have twelve litter pickers to tackle the depressing amount of stuff strewn around the verges of Redbridge Lane this month.

It is such a waste of precious council resources to have to help us dispose of this stuff, when there are so many calls on their finances. By the time we left, another two bags of collected stuff had been added to this stash, and eventually the recyclables were cleaned and put in bins, while bottles were returned to bottle banks for reuse.



On a happier note, a Mountbatten school bus pass was reunited with its relieved owner within two hours of being found, courtesy of the local Facebook grapevine. We were happy to have been of service, and to be able to highlight the positive aspects of social media.

It would be really good to have plenty of help on 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10am to tackle the area around Upton Lane: we will meet along Upton Lane just by Lymer Villas, opposite the electricity works.

**Mary Carter**





**The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club** meets on Thursdays between 2.15 - 4.00pm in the Nursling Village Hall, Nursling Street (near the Co-op).

The cost is £3.00 per week – the first visit is free. All meetings have a prize draw and include free tea/coffee and biscuits. There is ample free parking next to the hall. We have a mixture of visiting entertainers and quizzes.

### **WE WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.**

After a two week break for Easter, we will recommence on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**: with entertainment provided by Mike Bunce.

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

**Mike Ward**

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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.

We welcome new visitors and it's also a good time for carers, or those they care for, to take a break and to make new friends. All are very welcome.

We meet In the Community Centre in Horns Drove, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. If you need a lift to Coffee Break, please contact Glennis on 02380 736173.

**This month we meet on April 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> between 10am & midday.**

***The Coffee Break Team***

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### **Ladies' Get Together**

We usually meet on the second 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 13<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30 - 11.00am in St John's Church Hall**

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!

**Tracey Jones**



# Church Services in April

Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. For morning services inside church buildings, those wishing to maintain social distance are invited to use designated seating areas: transepts, balcony (& rear of church).

Tea and coffee are served after the 10am service and we offer a Crèche at St John's Church during this service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

## St John's Church, Rownhams

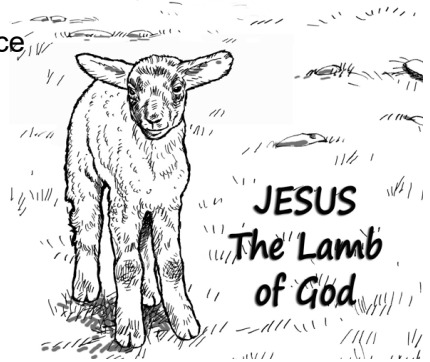
### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter

10am All Age Worship  
6.30pm Holy Communion



### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter

10am Immerse, Worship, Reflection Service  
6.30pm Evening Prayer



### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> of Easter

10am Contemporary Service  
4pm Lego Church (Rownhams School)  
(No 6.30pm evening service today)

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> of Easter

10am Holy Communion  
6.30 Evening Prayer

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

<p><b>Encourage</b> everyone to grow to be more like Jesus, following Him at all stages of their lives;</p>	<p><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;</p>	<p><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;</p>	<p><b>Strive</b> to make the best use of all that God has given us to build up His Kingdom.</p>
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## St Boniface Church, Nursling

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter**

11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter**

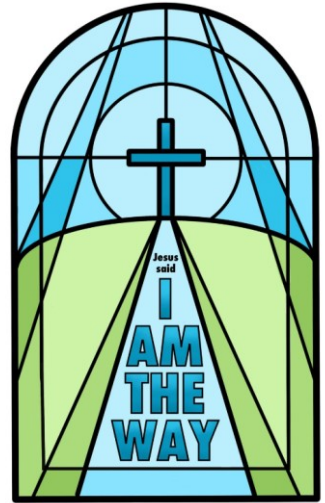
11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> of Easter**

11am Holy Communion

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> of Easter**

11am Morning Prayer



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

**tearfund**

Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development. They believe that poverty is not God's plan, and an end to extreme poverty is possible.

They work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in underserved communities in more than 50 countries to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:

**Humanitarian Response** - Tearfund responds quickly to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need throughout the recovery process.

**Community Development** - Tearfund partners with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

**Advocacy and Influencing** - Tearfund helps individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and challenges unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.



## 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 & 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)).

### Weekdays – Morning Prayer

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

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

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

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** at **10am** on **Thursdays**

(<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 Carers & Tots Café** in Horns Drove Community Centre. (See p18) Contact [youth@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:youth@twinspires.org.uk) for details

**Mondays 7-8.15pm MORE** for ages 11-16 in St John's Church Hall  
Contact the youth team: [youth@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:youth@twinspires.org.uk)

**Mondays 7.30pm Online Alpha Course** [via zoom](#), Contact the office for more details 023 8073 8293 or [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

**Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club** (see p13)

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

**Mid-week Bible Study Home Groups** -see page 2

**First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group** 2<sup>nd</sup> April in St John's Church Hall

**First Wednesdays 8-9pm, CONNECT!** on [Zoom](#)  
3<sup>rd</sup> April A group for young adults

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April 10am – midday Coffee Break**  
this month in Horns Drove Community Centre – (see page 13)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10-11am Litter Pick** (see p12)  
meet along Upton Lane just by Lymer Villas

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 - 11am Ladies' Get Together**  
in St John's Church Hall (See page 13)

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am Men's Breakfast** – at the Balmoral Inn  
Contact Mike: [mikebuncewoodsiders@gmail.com](mailto:mikebuncewoodsiders@gmail.com)



## Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 14<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.
- + **Sun 31<sup>st</sup> March – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April Electoral Role Revision** (see p18)
- + **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April APCM** (more details TBC)
- + **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10-11am Litter Pick** (see page 12) – venue TBC
- + **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 12-4pm – Nursling & Rownhams May Fair**  
See <https://nrweb.org.uk/may-fair> for details  
Volunteers needed for our TwinSpires Stall.
- + **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall (see page 13)
- + **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea** in St John's Church Hall
- + **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Nursling & Rownhams Community Band Summer Concert** in St Boniface Church

Parish of

**Nursling &  
Rownhams**



## Aldermoor Community Farm Open Days 2024

**ALDERMOOR  
COMMUNITY FARM**

**OPEN DAYS 2024**

**4 MAY**  
**'Grow Your Own' Festival**

**21 SEPT**  
**Harvest Festival**

**7 DEC**  
**Festive Farm & Lights On**

**DON'T MISS IT**  
[aldermoorfarm.org.uk](https://aldermoorfarm.org.uk)

There are many other events going on throughout the year  
For more details visit their web Page <https://aldermoorfarm.org.uk>



## The Church Electoral Roll

(A reminder, in case you missed this in the March magazine...)

We are in the process of reviewing our Electoral Roll: it will take place between Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Day) and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

A copy of the current roll is displayed in each church. If you are already on it, please check your entry for accuracy. If you spot a mistake on the roll then do let me know, otherwise the only people who need to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church, or reached the age of 16, and have not yet completed an application form.

By being on the roll, you can have your say in how your local church is run, usually by attending the APCM (29<sup>th</sup> April this year).

For new applicants, there are a few printed application forms available at each church. However, I would encourage you to email the address below, so I can send you a form to be completed electronically. Forms need to be returned to me by **13<sup>th</sup> April at the very latest**, so please don't delay.

Completed application forms from St Boniface Church can be given to Graeme Dixon. At St John's Church please give your completed form to me, a sides person, or put it in the Perspex box by the front door.

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.

*Sue Muldowney, Church Electoral Roll Officer*  
*[electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk)*

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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 9.30-11am in the Community Centre in Horns Drove, during school term time. (There will be no Tots Group on 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> April due to Easter holidays)



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

Entry is free. Although voluntary contributions are always welcome.



## Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

300 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

**Parish Pump**

Come and join us at  
Friday Friends



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

The Pastoral team invites you for an

**'Afternoon Tea' on Friday, 24 May 2024**

**St. John's Church Hall starting at 2.30 pm.**

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



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.



## The Easter Glow

For 3 years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms, opposition. Now, following a public trial and execution, He was gone. Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he too was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were 2 disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." Yet *Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview*. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the 2 had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, 'Let me fill in those bits for you.' Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – 'Why... it's Jesus.'

The disciples rush back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves! If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement, like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean, would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

**Adapted from the LICC website**





## Speed Cameras and Moses

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

1 Timothy 2:2

It is not often you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.

God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. 'Keep taking the tablets'!

I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day.

It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing. We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians, we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user. We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!

**David Pickup (Solicitor)**

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## Spotted in Parish Magazines/News Sheets:

'We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be:

**'Heaven - how do we get there?'**

Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the Balmoral Inn.'

More sinners  
wanted for  
the choir.

While the vicar is on holiday,  
massages can be given to the  
church administrator

The church's  
APCM will be held  
on 29<sup>th</sup> April

If you would like to 'save' us from making similar blunders, or if you spot any typos etc in the magazine, please do let us know, and we always welcome new helpers to join our rota of great proofreaders: [twinspiresnews@live.co.uk](mailto:twinspiresnews@live.co.uk)



## Science & Society: How can we Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch, but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The consequentialist approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? The five Cs bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

**Clarify** the facts and key questions.

**Consider** our choices: what could we achieve?

**Constraints:** External: what must we do? Internal: how should we behave?

**Compare** the pros and cons of each approach.

**Choose** what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes – so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

*Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, The Faraday Institute*



**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.

**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.



You may know that we offer a mini-recycling centre at St John's Church. In case you're not aware, recycling the items below via the church can generate funds for various charities:

- Plastic milk bottle tops (clean, not foil)
- used postage stamps, ideally with a 1cm margin
- old spectacles, cases and 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)

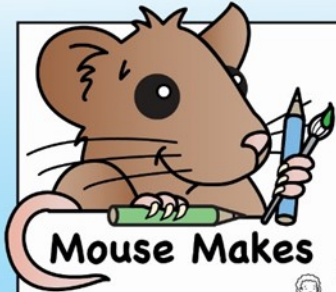
Thanks to everyone who helps us recycle. The ink cartridge recycling not only means that waste is kept out of landfill but it also raises money for our churches. The last batch sent off raised £19.50. So far we have raised about **£460** since we started collecting them.

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 **£274.05! Thank you!**

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





## Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."

So they did ..... and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they? Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



READ the story in John 21



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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## *From the Registers*



**Baptisms** 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'  
18 February Alex Thompson

(Ephesians 4:5)  
St John's

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## *Prayer for April 2024*

*based on John 20:19-end*

Almighty Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh  
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us.

Walk through the locked doors of our fears  
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines  
to share your resurrection, peace and hope  
and love, with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.



**Daphne Kitching**



WINCHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

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)





## Suggestions for Your Prayers



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 and pray for all those taking on new responsibilities this year. Pray that the PCC will seek God's guidance in all their decisions.

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.

Continue to pray for just and lasting peace to come in Ukraine and in Gaza. Ask that these conflicts may not escalate further. Pray for those who are suffering the effects of war. Ask for provision of food, water, shelter and medical care for those who need it. Pray too that the bereaved will be comforted and find hope.

Pray for wisdom and strength for Tearfund staff and their local partners and churches, as they respond to disaster situations round the world. Pray that they will be able to reach those in need and have the resources to help them. Pray too that God will bless their work, training people to be more resilient to disasters. Pray for relief from further rains where there is flooding and for rain to fall where it is desperately needed.

Pray for the village May Fair. For the preparations to go well, for safety for all and that it will be a community event enjoyed by many.







**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. This will make a BIG difference to us during this difficult time.

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/nurslingandrownhamspcc/>



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