

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS  
**Twin Spires News**

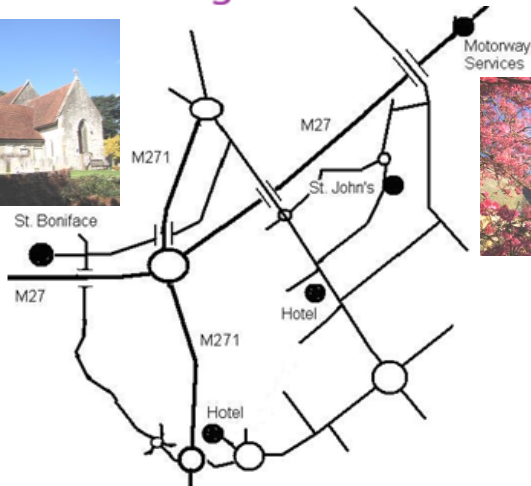
*Web Edition*

**AUGUST 2024**



# 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 25). 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)

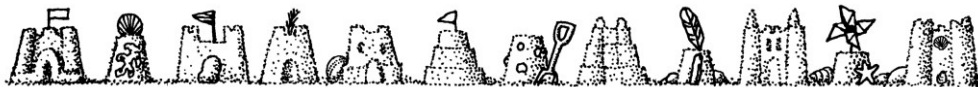
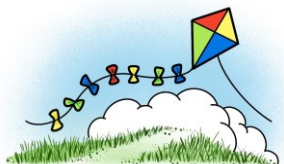
Registered Charity Number 1130927

Many thanks to Sandi O'Donnell for the seasonal cover picture: Family Camping  
We would like to remind everyone that campfire cooking should only happen in obviously safe places, and not directly on the ground. Happy camping!



## Verse of the Month

Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28



Dear Friends

On our holiday in Yorkshire recently, Steph and I visited Richmond Castle. Built to strengthen defences against the Northern invaders, it was a place that encountered many battles, both physical and political.

The Castle today lies in ruins for the most part, although much of the outer walls remain impressively intact. St Nicholas Chapel can be found within the walls, a rare example of a small interior chapel, in which only a few people could gather. The Chapel was a small haven of prayer and contemplation, and one could imagine, during tumultuous and chaotic times, prayers rising to heaven for peace, sanctuary and protection. It was also a place for contemplation and retreat.

Perhaps our world can seem chaotic at times too. Our world in many places is beset by conflict and division. For some it's the turmoil of our jobs: constant pressures or frustrating bosses. For others it's the turmoil in our families: tensions at home, concern for the children or the grandchildren. For others it's the turmoil of our health: recovering from an operation, the depression, the anxiety, the frustrations of old-age. For others it's the turmoil of our finances: paying the bills, pension worries.

Young people all over the country have completed their exams, I guess many will be hoping they can now find some time to relax after all their hard work. I was involved recently in a very moving leavers' service at one of our Primary schools. The children had written profound words about their ups and downs at school, as well as their hopes and fears for the future. Some mentioned looking forward to the summer break.

Recently, General Synod voted in favour of clergy taking 36 hours off a week rather than 24. Clergy are often not very good at taking time off, and I know of colleagues that work on regardless of their real need for a break. But we all need holidays or times on retreat.



For our children at our two church schools, they have their summer holidays that could well bring trepidation to parents, carers, and grandparents: Will there be a play scheme to look after the kids whilst I have to work? How will we cope with 6 weeks out of routine? As mentioned, for our Year 6 children, this is a big holiday after a big ending, as we say ‘goodbye’ and ‘good luck’ to them, as their educational adventure continues into a new school.

Holidays in particular are about much more than recreation. They serve an important role in our re-creation. Steph and I spent much time in the Yorkshire Dales National Park on our break. Recreation was at the heart of the foundation of the first National Parks; the realisation that people need spaces which allow them to be re-created, remade. These spaces help repair the ‘wear and tear’ of daily living; recognising that just as our bodies are continually replacing worn and damaged cells, so we need to repair our tired minds, emotions, and souls.

At Aysgarth Falls – the lower falls – in the bright heat and warmth of the afternoon, we spent some time being still and reflecting, as the torrential water raged past us, as it descended the rocky steps to the calm deep river below. It was a wonderful time of peace, of hope, of restoration. We both felt a powerful sense of God’s presence, as we marvelled at His creation. The sunlight and flowing river reminded us of the renewal that creation brings through the Holy Spirit. Psalm 46.10 **‘Be still and know that I am God’** was palpable.

We see renewal and restoration in a God who was not only at the heart of creation as a one-off event, but who goes on creating and re-creating; **‘Behold, I make all things new’ (Revelation 21:5).**

Maybe that’s because God did not view us as some battery-powered machine to be set loose and allowed to run about until our batteries ran out, but as a more fragile vessel to be nurtured and re-formed as we live and grow.

This summer, regardless of whether or not you have had a holiday already, throw off that ‘Protestant Work Ethic’ (it’s neither Protestant nor Christian anyway) and enjoy a bit of re-creation with your recreation in the presence of your creator. Ensure you find some time to enjoy your Holy Days - that’s where the word holiday comes from!



***Be still and know that I am God – Psalm 46.10***

***Rev Graeme***



## Sea Sunday at St Boniface Church

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated Sea Sunday.

The window displays reflected the fishing industry, the Royal Navy, the Cruise Industry and many more sea-related themes.

Thank you to Mike Hanks, of our Friday Gang, for the photographs.



*Avis Wood*



## Churches Count on Nature 2024

We were a small but focussed group this year. I was very glad that the bad weather on the Saturday had rained itself out the day before and we had dry and not too hot weather for the activity.

This year there were several ways of submitting the results. The favoured way was using the iNaturalist App, with which we could both get help with identifying what we saw, and submit the results to the national data base at the same time. There was also the option of filling in a paper form which could be emailed in afterwards. We did a mixture of the two with most of the adults using the app and the group with the children using the paper form.

We split into 3 pairs, and one family group, and divided St John's churchyard into parts, tackling one part each.



I was very pleased that Pam, who knows a lot about what is growing in our churchyard, came along and pointed out some of the more unusual plants.

All the data submitted from every churchyard has to be checked to give a picture of how nature is faring in the UK. This is still in progress. Some of the things we submitted from our churchyard are pictured here.



**Enormous thanks to those who came to help.**

***Claire Thompson***



## A Seedling's Tale: Embracing Pot Gardening

This year, I have embraced the challenge of cultivating vegetables, elevating my casual interest to a dedicated endeavour. My horticultural skills, particularly with indoor plants, have always been modest at best.

### The Garden's Genesis

Long have we envisioned a quaint vegetable garden, yet circumstances led us to embrace the versatility of pots this season. Their mobility allows us to chase the sun or retreat to the shade as needed.

### Seeds of Friendship and Growth

A friend's guidance was instrumental in initiating my seed-growing journey, complemented by several visits to B&Q for supplies.

### A Diverse Green Array

Our garden's roster included green beans, tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce, pak choi, peppers, broccoli, peas, basil, chives, and mint. The green beans soared to success, while the others were noble attempts.

### The Battle with Garden Pests

Fending off slugs and snails proved challenging, though eggshells offered a remedy when remembered.

### Reflections on Growth

Gardening has become my sanctuary, a union with nature, and a marvel at the unfolding of life. It's an activity I wholeheartedly endorse for anyone seeking tranquillity and connection with the earth.

### Genesis 1:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced

vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

*Shelley Mabey*





## Southampton City and Region Action to Combat Hardship

Do you like asking questions? Would you fancy being part of a team that makes a real difference to local people? If so, SCRATCH would like to talk to you!

After successfully welcoming a new trustee as a result of our last recruitment campaign, the board of SCRATCH charity is once again seeking to expand its numbers.

If you'd like to know more - without any obligation - please contact me at [ann.laird@googlemail.com](mailto:ann.laird@googlemail.com).

**Ann Laird, Chair of SCRATCH Board**  
<https://www.scratchcharity.co.uk/>

### Monthly Men's Breakfast

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 8:30am  
at Nursling Men's Shed  
St Boniface Church Hall, SO16 0YB



Come and see what goes on in a Men's Shed.

This is a free event (with a collection for Southampton Street Pastors)

The Men's Breakfast Group meets monthly, in homes, or in local venues. More information about the schedule for the months ahead coming soon.

**Mike Bunce**





## Afternoon Tea with Friday Friends

The Pastoral team invites all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one to Afternoon Tea with Friday Friends on:



**27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 2.30 pm.**

**in St John's Church Hall, Rownhams Lane, Rownhams, SO16 8AR**

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.

In the journey of grief, where every step feels weighted by loss, cherishing the memories of a loved one and seeking a sense of God's presence, can help us find the strength to move forward.

May we encourage you to come along and join us in a relaxed atmosphere for understanding and friendship. Take time to share memories of a loved one and reflect on the happy times shared together. The Friday Friends group meets every alternate month The Pastoral team is here to listen and to support you.

A warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to meeting you. For catering purposes if you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Office in advance. Tel: (023) 8073 8293 or email: [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

Come and join us at  
Friday Friends



twinspires

St. Boniface & St. John's

The Pastoral team invites you for an

**'Afternoon Tea'**

**Friday, 27 September 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.



## Jolly July's Litter Pick

As last year, we decided to check the area around the Nursling Recreation ground and the nearby play field in anticipation of summer weather and the upcoming school holidays!

On the day, the weather was not summery, though the showers were intermittent, and several regulars and a newbie, Hazel, braved the conditions. **A big Thank you to everyone who turned out!**

Lots of cigarette butts, food packaging and cans were found just in the carpark next to the Rec. Also a lot of small broken pieces of glass beer bottles and food packaging in the grass by the skate park. We fanned out across the recreation ground and also the playground area and up around Nursling's Co-op. We collected five blue bags of rubbish for the council to remove, several smaller bags of recyclables, and a plush orange blanket, which had been lying around for at least a week.



One picker found an iPhone which looked in good order: Thankfully, it was reclaimed a bit later by its owner, due to the wonders of social media! It certainly added to the 'feel good factor' of litter picking.

Next time, on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**, we will meet at the far end of Redbridge Lane, behind the Walnut Tree, at the junction with Frogmore Lane. Don't forget the stout footwear and garden gloves, and children will need to be accompanied.

**Mary Carter**



## Ladies' Get Together

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



The group is taking a break in August and the next ladies' gathering is on:  
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 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**

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## Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club



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

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

The club is closed for its annual break during the month of August and we will recommence meetings on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**.

**We would love to welcome some new members at these events.**

**Don't be shy - give us a try.**

For further information please – Ring Joyce on 02380 735086 or Mike on 02380 733245

**Mike Ward**

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### Grave Warning

*(Road sign outside the gates of a cemetery):*  
**Drive carefully. We don't mind waiting for you.**

Did you know there is a playful word for people who are afraid of palindromes? **Aibohphobia**  
(A palindrome is a word, phrase, number etc which reads the same forwards as it does backwards)



A vibrant illustration of a circus tent. The top is red and white striped with yellow and red bunting. The main body is dark blue with a teal sign that says 'HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB'. Below the sign is a red and white striped tent with a yellow star on top and a green arched entrance. The tent is flanked by red and white striped curtains. There are colorful fireworks on either side of the tent.

## HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Roll Up! Roll Up! Come along to our Holiday Bible Club at St John's Church. We will have games, and crafts and look at some incredible biblical acts!

**St John's Church**

**9 am - 12pm**

**5 - 7th August**

**Ages 4 - 12**



To book please email [youth@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:youth@twinspires.org.uk)



## The Canon Clement Mysteries: Some Thoughts

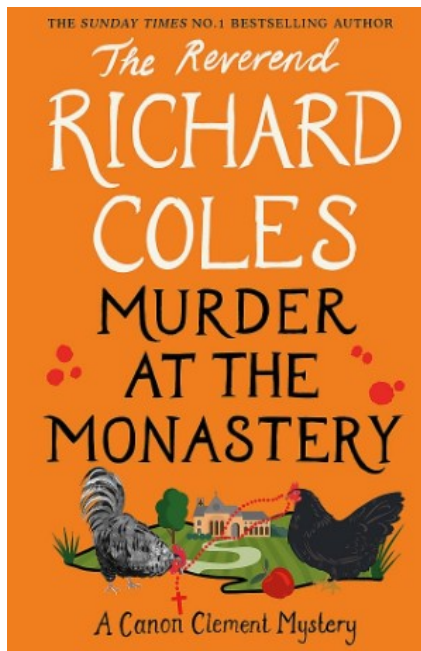
Having just finished *Murder at the Monastery*, the third of Richard Coles' Canon Clement series, I wanted to share my impressions.

Firstly, the strength of this series is not the mysteries themselves. They're workmanlike and seem to gain less importance as the series progresses, as the author increasingly explores Daniel Clement's emotions and relationships.

The real joy, for me, is in Coles's prose (at times glorious) and his clever depiction of English parish life. The rivalries, the petty jealousies, high church versus low: he captures them all and often had me grinning knowingly.

Those of us who've read Coles's autobiography will recognise plenty of the author in his creation, too - such as the pet dogs and the family background in shoe making.

There is spirituality aplenty in the text, but if you're thinking of trying the series, don't expect another Cadfael. While there's no sex 'on page' there are references to it, as there are to drug taking, and the text is sprinkled with plenty of four letter words. If you're easily offended, these may not be the books for you.



**Ann Laird**

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### Could Have Been Worse

A very long train with two engines was making its way across America. While crossing the Western mountains, one of the engines broke down. Slowly, the train chugged on. Farther along, the other engine broke down, and the train shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere.

Not to be discouraged, the train driver announced: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for a couple of days until the additional engines arrive. The good news is that we are not making this announcement on a plane.'



# Church Services in August

Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. 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 4<sup>th</sup> August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10am All Age Worship with Baptism  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Prayer

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10am Contemporary Service  
6.30pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Immerse, Worship, Reflection Service  
6.30 Songs of Praise

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

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

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

11am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

11am Holy Communion

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

11am Morning Prayer

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



Street Pastors are Christian men and women who engage with people on the streets offering reassurance, safety and support through caring, listening and helping. They work together with other partners in the night-time economy, schools and communities to make our city safer.

Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust, the governing body behind Street Pastors, and run locally with support from local churches and community groups, in partnership with the police, local council, schools and other statutory agencies.

Southampton Street Pastors is a charitable company that has been operating since 2009. Now celebrating 15 years of ministry, they have 165 Christian volunteers drawn from over 60 churches in and around the area.

Together, they have traversed more than **132,000 miles** That's akin to circling the globe **5 times!**

They have dedicated upwards of **19,000 hours** to praying for our community. To put that into perspective, it's as long as approximately **12,600 continuous football games**

Street Pastors would like to say a special **THANK YOU** to all volunteers, trustees, supporters and friends on their **15<sup>th</sup> year of ministry!**



## 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)).

Our youth groups meet regularly **during school term time**, in addition to one-off events. \*Some activities may not take place during school holidays\*. Please contact [youth@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:youth@twinspires.org.uk) or the office for more information.

### 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 Tots Café\*** in Horns Drove Community Centre (See p18)

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

**Tuesdays 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 p11)

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

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

**First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group** 6<sup>th</sup> August in St John's Church Hall

**\*First Wednesdays 8-9pm, CONNECT!\*** on [Zoom](#) A group for young adults

**\*First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break\*** (p17)  
in Horns Drove Community Centre **No Coffee break in August**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 10-11am Litter Pick** (see p10)

meet behind The Walnut Tree, Redbridge Lane/Frogmore Lane junction

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 8.30am Men's Monthly Breakfast** at Nursling Men's Shed SO16 0YB (see p8)

**Third Saturdays** each month **9.30 - 11am Ladies' Get Together** (See p11)  
in St John's Church Hall. (Not on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August)





## Dates for Your Diary:



- ✦ **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.** Preferably by email to [twinspiresnews@live.co.uk](mailto:twinspiresnews@live.co.uk) or, alternatively, to: Mary Carter, 12 Horsebridge Way (paper copy). Please check you receive an acknowledgement of your email.
  - ✦ **Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.15 – 4pm - Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club** in Nursling Village Hall, returns.
  - ✦ **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> September 10-11am Litter Pick** (see p10) Venue TBA
  - ✦ **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 8.30am Men's Breakfast** at the Balmoral Inn (TBC). Please contact Mike to join in: [mikebuncewoodsiders@gmail.com](mailto:mikebuncewoodsiders@gmail.com)
  - ✦ **Sat 21<sup>st</sup> September 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** (see p11) Now on the **third** Saturday each month in St John's Church Hall
  - ✦ **Fri 27<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea** in St John's Church Hall (see p9)
- 



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 usually meet In the Community Centre in Horns Drove, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Coffee Break Team doesn't meet as a group in August, in order to give our lovely volunteers a well-earned rest and for any cleaning/refurbishment to be carried out in the Community Centre.



So, no meetings in August, but we look forward to meeting again in September, on **5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September, between 10am and midday.**

If you need a lift to Coffee Break, please contact Glennis on 02380 736173.

***The Coffee Break Team***



# Weekly Tots Café ~ Monday Mornings

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



We meet each Monday morning during school term time, 9.30-11am in the Community Centre in Horns Drove. So, no meeting in August, and after the summer holidays, our first Tots Café will be on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.

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.



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## I am Your Ship

Lord, I am Your ship.  
Fill me with the gifts of Your Holy Spirit.  
Without You I am empty of every blessing,  
And full of every sin.  
Lord, I am Your ship.  
Fill me with a cargo of good works.  
Without You, I am empty of every joy,  
And full of vain pleasures.  
Lord, I am Your ship.  
Fill me with love for You.



*John Sergieff (1829 – 1908; a priest in Russia)*

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## Take Me from Myself

My Lord and my God, take me from all that keeps me from You  
My Lord and my God, grant me all that leads me to You  
My Lord and my God, take me from myself and give me completely to You.  
*St Nicholas of Flue (d.1487)*



## The Good Shepherd

Psalms 23 is well loved, and its paraphrased words are often sung in the popular hymn The Lord's My Shepherd. At the time of Jesus, these labourers were everywhere, as sheep were a common commodity. So when Jesus described a shepherd, He was referring to someone the people all knew about.

Our Lord's description of a shepherd helped His hearers to understand Jesus, as they were aware that sheep were valuable. A good shepherd made sure sheep were protected and fed. If they got into danger, they had to be rescued. A hireling would not be so considerate. He would abandon the sheep when faced with dangerous animals or aggressive thieves! Only a good shepherd would risk his life in caring for the flock. In His parable (John 10:1-18) Jesus goes a step further talking about a good shepherd as He is speaking about Himself.

Sheep know and follow their owner, and Jesus wants us to know and follow Him.

Sheep can get lost and in trouble. Jesus came to our rescue and is our Saviour.

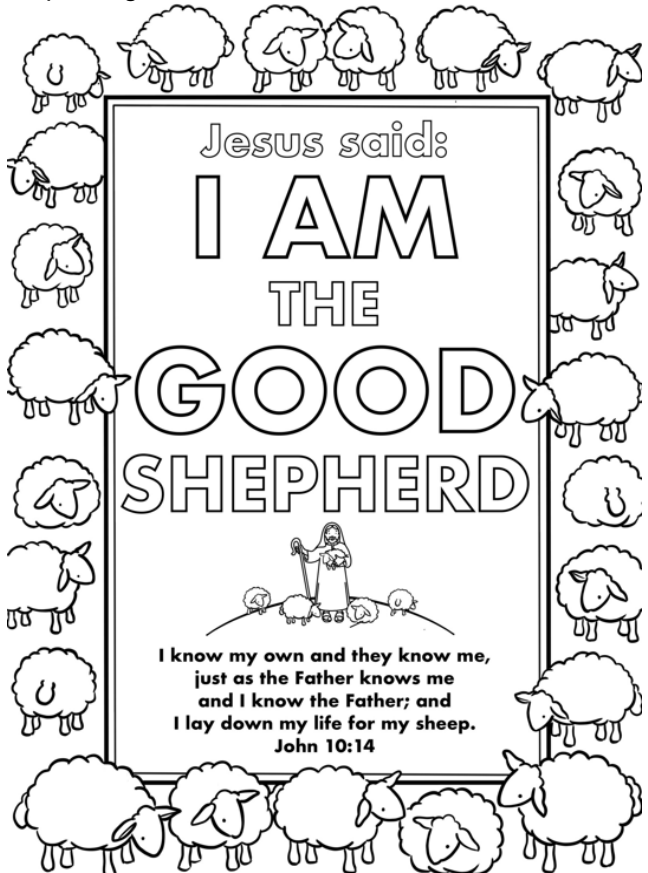
A shepherd knows each sheep by name and Jesus knows us individually too. We can trust Him with our lives.

Jesus said that just as a shepherd is willing to die caring for his sheep, He too would die – looking ahead to His crucifixion. This would secure our salvation and provide a Home with Him.

Jesus also said that there are other sheep of interest to Him! He speaks of being the shepherd of all nations, not just the Jews. His love extends to everyone.

These words of Jesus are so important. Give thanks that Jesus died for us and now waits for us to be with Him. We belong to Him, we are His people, we are His flock.

**Lester Amann**



## The Transfiguration

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word.

Transfiguration

Jesus

Mountain

Tabor

Hermon

high

Shine

Face

Written

Living

Cloud

Transformed

White

Dazzling

Elijah

Moses

Dwelling

Mankind

Law

Prophets

Peter

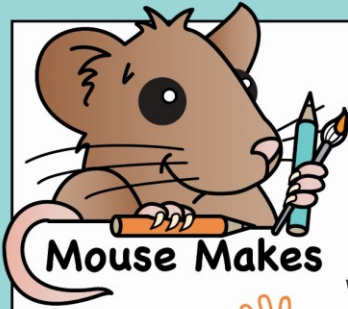
James

John

Fear

glory





"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,  
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."

Where does Jesus say  
to go to pray?  
*Matthew 6:6*



What does God know  
before you ask Him?  
*Matthew 6:8*



What can we ask God  
to deliver us from?  
*Matthew 6:13*

If you forgive others  
what will God do?  
*Matthew 6:14*



"Always be full of joy.  
**Never** stop praying.  
Whatever happens,  
always be **thankful**."  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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



ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS  
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED  
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE  
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS  
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

## As Fine Silver

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out.

She rang a silversmith and arranged to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?'

He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it.'



So, if today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you – until He sees His image in you.

*Parish Pump*

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## The Discovery of Oxygen

It was 250 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1774, that oxygen was discovered by British chemist Joseph Priestley. He was the first scientist to publish his findings on the discovery.

Born in Yorkshire, Priestley was the eldest son of a strongly Calvinist textile maker, but after his mother's early death he spent much of his time living with his aunt Sarah, where he came into contact with Presbyterian clergy, whose doctrines he preferred. He eventually became strongly Unitarian, denying the Trinity.

His theology created difficulties for him: he was barred from the top universities and after being offered the position of science adviser on explorer Captain James Cook's second voyage, he was 'cancelled' after pressure from Anglicans. However, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1766, and in 1773 the Earl of Shelburne gave him employment at his estate, Bowood House in Wiltshire. This gave him time for research and access to people of influence.



Until late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, air had been regarded as a single entity, rather than a combination of gases. Priestley discovered what he called 'dephlogisticated air' – which he found supported combustion.

Swedish apothecary Carl Wilhelm Scheele made a similar discovery, published later, but called it 'fire air'. It was eventually identified as a separate gas, and Antoine Lavoisier coined the word 'oxygen' from the Greek word for acid-maker. Priestley's tests revealed that oxygen made a flame burn intensely – and kept a mouse alive about four times as long as a similar quantity of ordinary air.

Priestley's beliefs and his support for French revolutionists provoked some to violence, and he and his family were forced to flee to America, where he befriended Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, and eventually built a famous house and laboratory in a small town in Pennsylvania. **Tim Lenton**

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## When Tourists Get Lost

Have you ever got into trouble while abroad? The story is told of a group of tourists who went to a Mediterranean country and wanted to see the sites of an old city. Four members of the group got so engrossed in taking pictures of each other by a castle that they ignored the summons from the tour group leader to go back to the bus. A little while later, they realised they were all on their own in a strange foreign city. That's when their problems started.

The four tourists decided to head back to their hotel. But they couldn't remember the name of the hotel. So they hailed a taxi, and asked it to drive around looking for the hotel. An hour or so later, the driver gave up and demanded payment. That's when they discovered they did not have enough money to pay the driver. He took them to the police, who demanded identification. That's when the tourists remembered they had left their passports in the hotel safe...

Some hours later, the tour guide tracked down the missing tourists. They greeted her with tears of relief as she provided the police with their passports, paid their debt, and prepared to lead them safely back to their hotel. The police warned the tourists: 'From now on, you stay close to your friend!'

Stay close to your friend. It's good advice for all of us. If your life is going in the wrong direction, if you have run up debts of wrong-doing, if you feel lost and alone, you need to take action. You need to stop going on like this. Turn around, and go in another direction. The Bible calls this action of 'stopping and turning around' repentance.

Repentance is when you stop, and you turn to God. For the good news is that there is a heavenly tour guide on whom we can all call. Only God can save us from the mess we are in. He sent us His Son to forgive us our sins, to provide us with an identity and, if we walk with Him, to lead us safely through life. As the Bible says: 'The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' (Romans 6:23) **Parish Pump**



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

- Plastic **milk** bottle tops (clean, not foil, and only milk tops please)
- 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.

**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.



**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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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)







## *From the Registers*



### **Funerals**

6 July

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'

(1 Cor 15:20)

John Holden (84)

*Interred at St John's*

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## *Prayer for August 2024*

Lord, in a year of changes in our country and in the world, we thank You for the regular rhythm of each year.

We thank You for August, the month of holidays and rest for many, especially for families and those tied to termly timetables. We pray for Your blessing and restoration for all. As we take time out of normal routines, help us to still make space for You; to be refreshed spiritually as well as physically.

Feed us, Lord, by Your Word; revive us by Your Holy Spirit; encourage us by Your indwelling presence, so that we might naturally reflect Your love to all we meet, on holiday or at home or at work.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Daphne Kitching***

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### **Teach us to Pray**

Lord, teach us to pray.

Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to you in thought, our spirits long for Your Spirit, and reach out for You, longing to feel You near.

We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. We know that we are closest to You when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long.

We pray that You will give unto us only what we really need. Give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking Your loving will for our lives.

***Peter Marshall (1902 – 1949; a former chaplain to the US Senate)***



## Suggestions for Your Prayers



Pray for our new government. That God will guide and help them as they settle in and learn what they need to know. Pray that they will all give of their best and have the wisdom, integrity and compassion they need to govern well.

Keep praying for those affected by extremes of weather: for those recovering from last month's hurricane, and those who have suffered drought or flooding. Pray for provision of nourishing food and clean water. Pray too for those seeking to train communities affected by disasters to build resilience and help people reduce their vulnerability to future crises.

Give thanks for the work of Street Pastors. Pray for them as they patrol the streets aiming to offer reassurance, safety and support; that God will prompt them to be in the right place, at the right time, for the people who need their help. Pray that he will protect them and give them wisdom in each situation, and use them to show his love to those they meet.

Give thanks for all those who work at our local schools. Pray that they will have the chance to have a really good break this summer so that they can go back in September properly refreshed. Remember those children who are moving on to a new stage of education. Especially pray for those whose exam results were not what they hoped and now have to rethink their plans.

Pray for our holiday club and for all the outreach summer clubs and camps running this year (eg by Scripture Union, CPAS, local churches etc). Ask that there would be enough volunteers, that they will be well attended, that God will keep everyone safe and that he will bless them, so that many will come to know of God's love and commit their lives to Him.

Pray for all those on holiday this month. That they might have a relaxing time and come back refreshed, renewed, strengthened and re-enthused to continue their work.

Pray for parents who have children with severe physical, mental or emotional difficulties. Ask that they might have the strength they need and that they will be able to access support, especially this month when there is no school. Pray too for families coping with serious injury or illness; that they might be aware of God's presence with them.





**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/nurslingandrownhamsfcc/>

We are happy to receive foreign currency (notes and coins) and 'out of circulation' UK notes and coins, which we are able to convert into funds for our churches. Periodically we send off 'our stash' for conversion. Our most recent batch raised **£196.85! Thank you!**



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

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