

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS  
**Twin Spires News**

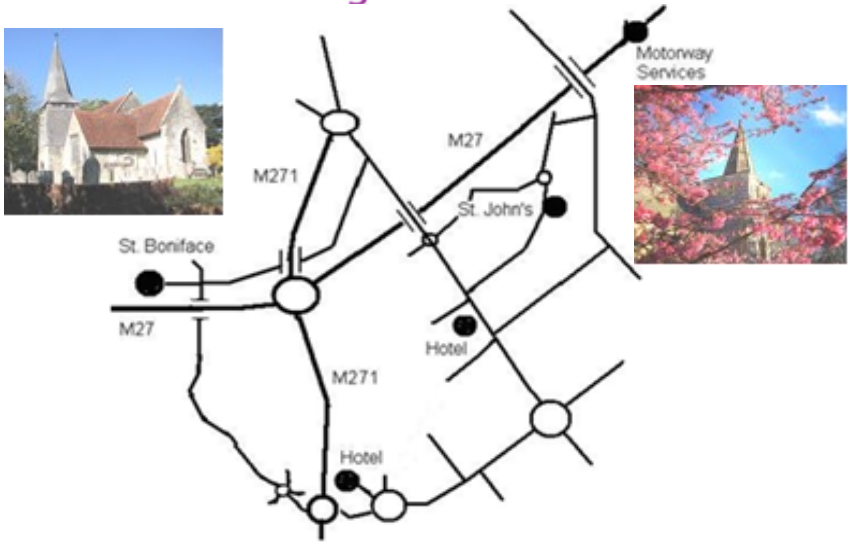
*Web Edition*

FEBRUARY 2025



# twinspires

St Boniface St John's  
Nursling & Rownhams



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

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

However, the answer machine and email are checked regularly.

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

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

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

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

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



Donate

Registered Charity Number 1130927

Cover image: 'And each of us is held in His love' by Sandi O'Donnell

## Verse of the Month

Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)



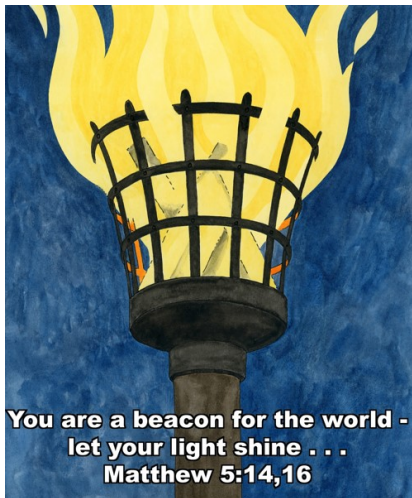
Many thanks to Ewan Brown, our Children, Youth & Families Worker,  
for this month's letter

Dear Friends

Happy New Year! As a lot of people do at this time of the year, I think a lot about New Year's resolutions and new beginnings, reflecting on how I hope to improve from the last year.

2024 was a really positive year for the youth work in the TwinSpires Churches, with so many exciting things happening. When I look back over the last year, one of the proudest accomplishments I have, is that in our Churches, we now have a group available for every child aged 0 – 18 years throughout the week. One big focal point for my youth work has always been on the relationships we form with the children and families, both inside and outside the Church, rather than the numbers of young people and families.

Despite that, this year - even for the new groups that we have set up - we have seen great numbers coming to all our groups. It was great to start two new groups in 2024, with our Beacon group on a Wednesday evening for those aged 11+ and our Ignite group on a Friday for those aged 4 – 7. Both of those groups are now flourishing and the young people love coming along.



The heart behind the Beacon group was to create a strong discipleship midweek group available to our Ichthian group (which runs on a Sunday morning) where they could bond and delve deeper into the Bible.

Where MORE has now become more of a drop-in group on a Monday night for a tight-knit group of sixth formers, Beacon is aimed slightly younger, but is much more discipleship focussed.

The beauty of the Beacon group is that it is mainly led by the young people, which includes them telling me what topics they wish to look and areas that they wouldn't usually look at. We started by looking at the book of Judges before going into real depth about Christmas towards the end of the year. This term we will be starting the new Youth Alpha course which is an exciting way to start the year and look at what faith is, so please do pray for our young people during this time.



Meanwhile our other new group Ignite is a younger form of Net. Net has really grown in the last year where we now get on average around 16 young people, the majority of whom are non-churched from the area and so it is a great form of outreach. We recognised after our Holiday club this year that the 4 – 7s age range was our biggest group and so wanted to do more than just have a group for them once a year, but a regular weekly group that they could attend. This group has been a great success with about 7 young people a week and has also been a great opportunity for some of our older children to become young leaders, giving them additional opportunities. Every week the young people come, play games, make crafts and do an interactive Bible study on a variety of topics before buying and enjoying their tuck.



IGNITE

These groups, alongside everything else we do for our young people, means that our Youth, Children's and Families work is at a really promising point and I can't wait to see how God is going to work in it throughout the year. We are also hoping to put on more big events throughout the year such as our Good Friday Celebration, Light Party, as well as many others - there are plenty of ways to get involved in our vision that the Church can be at the heart of the community.

However, while there are so many positives, none of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers who work with our young people and support them. I always find one of the huge blessings of youth work is getting the opportunity to come alongside the young people and learn more about them, building that relationship with them and really feeling like you are making a difference in their lives.

Youth work isn't just about running around with the young people or playing the games, but is also about praying for them and building those relationships with them as well. It is about shining that light of Jesus so that they are able to grow in their relationship with Him. If that sounds like something that you would like to be involved with, please do let me know. We are always looking for more people to get involved, even if it's just coming along to one of the groups to get a feel for what happens!

I am very excited for what God is going to do this year and can't wait to get underway!  
Your prayers are appreciated, and as a Youth team, we look forward to 2025!



*Ewan Brown*

Blessings

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## St Boniface Church News

### Carol Service

Our Carols by Candlelight on December 22<sup>nd</sup> was a wonderful start to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who helped to ensure that this very special service was a success.



### Mothering Sunday

Our Mothering Sunday service at St Boniface will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.

This year we invite you to bring your mum to church, either in person or in memory if she is no longer with us. If possible, we would like you to provide us with a photograph and to tell us about her favourite flowers. We will endeavour to place flowers to accompany the photograph.

For those of you who wish to remember in this way, please contact Angela Wright ASAP (contact details on page 2, the inside cover of this magazine.)

At the end of the service every mum/carer will receive a small posy of flowers.

*Avis Wood*



## Angels-Then and Now

When the flower ladies at St Boniface Church told me some weeks before Christmas that, '**Angels from the Realms of Glory**', was to be their theme for the Church decorations, I thought what better topic for a talk on Christmas Morning, as Angels featured so powerfully in the story of Christ's birth.



So how many of us believe in Angels? If we believe the Christmas Story then we must do. For without them, the story is just a story, and not a record of how God sent his messengers to tell His chosen people that, because he loved us so much, he was sending His only Son to live among us as part of His plan for the world.

Have you ever considered what sort of beings Angels are? One description says Angels are spiritual or heavenly supernatural beings that act as messengers or intermediates between God and humanity. Psalm 8 tells us that, 'Angels were created by God and that we are also created by God but a little lower than the Angels...'

So, if God created the Angels, what was their job description, their role? One scholar summed up their purpose under 5 headings

1. **To Make Announcements** - to be God's Messengers to tell people about God's purpose. We heard several of these in the Christmas readings from Matthew and Luke, when Angels visited Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds
2. **Protection** of God's chosen people - such as when Daniel was cast into the lion's den and remained unharmed because God had sent an Angel to shut the mouths of the lions. (Daniel 6:22)
3. **To Worship God** and sing his praises in heaven and on earth as reported in Revelations 4 and 5 and in Luke, when Angels appeared as a heavenly host to the shepherds (Luke 2:8-15).
4. **Provision** -To care for the needs of God's people, as an Angel warned Joseph to take Mary and the Holy child to a place of safety and not return to Nazareth (Matthew 2:13-14) Also when the angels ministered to Jesus after Satan tried to tempt Him in the wilderness Matthew (4:11)
5. **To Carry out God's Plan** for the world and for His people. (We are God's people- he has a plan for each one of us )

There are more than 550 hymns and carols about Angels and they are mentioned 293 times in the Bible. I wonder how many people today believe in Angels? Did you know that Abba even had a hit song about them some years ago which is still popular today.

Angels are usually depicted as beautiful humanlike beings, wearing white robes and with large feathered wings; but when they came to Abraham to tell him that his aged wife would bear a son; they were dressed as ordinary travellers. Do we believe God's Angels are at work in the world today and would we recognise one if we met or heard one?

Have you ever heard a voice when you are driving on your own which has told you to take a different route home only to find there was a bad accident on the road you usually took? Have you ever received help from a complete stranger? Is this the work of Angels ?

I wonder does God need us sometimes to do the work of Angels? Can we think of times when God has sent us to give a message to someone? Perhaps to care for someone who is grieving or protect them from forces which are taking them away from God's plan for them by encouraging someone to return to Sunday worship?

Perhaps to be an earthly 'Angel', all we need to do is remember the job description I mentioned earlier and share the love that our Heavenly Father has for each one of us to bring others out of darkness and into the light of Christ which is God's plan for all people.

A friend of mine believes that when she finds a white feather it's a sign that an Angel has passed by. I am not sure I believe that – but something very strange happened to me as I got out of my car returning home after the Christmas Service at St Boniface Church. There was a small white feather on the ground where I put my feet!

Thank you to Frank and Angela Wright for the photographs

*Pat Wootten*

Come and join us at  
**Friday Friends**



 **twinspires**

St. Boniface & St. John's

The Pastoral team invites you for an

**'Afternoon Tea'**

**Friday, 28 March 2025**

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

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you.





## Star of Bethlehem

Some of you may have seen the BBC programme 'Under the Christmas Sky' with Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan. (This is still available on BBC iPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bwb7p1>)

They were in the Jordanian Desert, with their guide, on three camels, looking at a triple conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn and Mars - an earlier occurrence of which started the wise men on their journey. Their guide and astronomer said that the triple conjunction in 7BC was very unusual to see in one year - this only comes every 800 years. There is also a tablet from Babylon, which has Jupiter and Saturn in conjunction 3 times in 7BC.

They were very excited that they had seen the Star of Bethlehem, but this was not the Star of Bethlehem. It was a sign for astrologers that these three planets were seen in the constellation of Pisces (the Fish) which was related to Israel and the King in Jerusalem, helping to guide them there. The later Star of Bethlehem was a very bright comet in 5BC, noted by Chinese astronomers, who kept very accurate astronomical records.

The wise men would have been astonished with the first triple conjunction; and with the second one, they started to make plans for their journey. At the third conjunction could be when they started their journey, which could take quite a long time from Persia. So they arrived in Bethlehem in 5BC, with the comet leading them to where Jesus was in the house (Matthew 2.11).



We can also think of Joseph and Mary, starting their journey to Bethlehem, with the second conjunction. The birth of Jesus would have been in September, at the third conjunction. Quirinius was the military governor of Syria in 7BC, when the first census took place. (Luke 2:1-2 – Tom Wright)

In the programme, their guide referred to Jupiter, the king of the planets – a vast gas giant, large enough to hold all of the planets together. I like to think of Jupiter representing God the Father, controlling everything. Saturn is like the Spirit – a very peaceful planet with rings, rather like wings. Mars (the Roman god of war) was like Jesus, coming to defeat Satan in 7BC. The triple conjunction emphasises the nature of God as Trinity; repeated 3 times every 800 years. 'Triple' is built into our nature, with:

- 1,2,3 - go
- body, mind and spirit.
- length, breadth and height.

The present calendar was made in AD500 by Dionysius, a monk. But he made mistakes: first with the birth of Jesus in AD1 instead of 0 and Augustus Caesar died in 4BC, which brings us to 5BC for the visit of the wise men. Herod killed all the babies of up to two years old, which was when Jesus was born in 7BC.

‘What kind of greatness can this be  
That chose to be made small?  
Exchanging untold majesty  
For a world so pitiful.’

(Graham Kendrick, Copyright © 1994 Make Way Music)

**Rev Jim Stanley Smith**

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## Aspects of Romantic Love

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden was His idea. And romance – love between a man and a woman – has been around ever since.



The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah. Jacob and Rachel. The ongoing history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David’s love affair with Bathsheba. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon

In the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary. St Paul, though himself a bachelor, spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind, faithful and considerate to their spouses. He wrote 1 Corinthians 13: the great love chapter that is still read at millions of weddings worldwide.

Just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And you are involved! The greatest love story of all time is between God and His people.

**Parish Pump**

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## Ladies Shed

Ladies, would you like to try something new in 2025?

**How about joining the Ladies Shed Group?**



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

To find out more, contact **Sandi O’Donnell:**

02380 199558 or 07886 775864

or **Mike Bunce:**02380 738960 or 07742 957858

## Climate and Nature Bill

The Climate and Nature Bill is a private members' Bill, originally introduced to Parliament by Caroline Lucas and reintroduced a number of times since. However, this time it was introduced by an MP who was drawn third in the private members' Bill ballot, and so it has a much better chance of making progress than it has had before.

The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the climate emergency and nature crisis. In brief, the Bill seeks to ensure that the UK meets its international commitments on climate and nature by 2030 by:

- Making sure the UK cuts emissions fairly and fully, to stay within our share of the 1.5C carbon budget
- Making sure the UK not only halts, but also reverses, the destruction of nature by 2030
- Involving UK citizens in deciding the fairest way forward.

Caroline Nokes, the MP for Romsey & Southampton North, is now a deputy speaker, so is unable to vote on the Bill. But if you live in a different constituency, it is worth writing to your MP and asking them to support the Bill.

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## Green Tips for February

**Valentines Day** - Don't buy cards with glitter or plastic, chocolate with palm oil or flowers from a different country.

**International Book Giving Day** falls in February. If you plan to give someone a book, consider a second hand one. The Oxfam bookshop in Romsey is well worth a visit.

*Claire Thompson*

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

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



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

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

## January 2025's Litter Pick

Happy New Year to you all! Many thanks to everyone who came along to January's litter pick, in the freezing temperatures, to pick along Nursling Street. There were 12 of us including our photographer, Mary!



We fanned out from the Four Horseshoes pub. Close to the pub, there was the usual discarded glass bottles and broken glass but also a lot of food waste and cigarette butts. The carpark held surprises of a fly tipped metal framed bed head board and some metal that we couldn't identify, a fluffy rug and a half empty bag of compost.

Cigarette butts, my pet peeve, can take up to 10 years to completely degrade, the chemicals they release can remain in the environment for many more years beyond the life of the cigarette butt itself and are harmful to our water systems and marine life.

At the end of the hour, we had filled 5 bags of general waste, 3 bags of recyclables including, plastic bottles and aluminium cans.

It was decided that February's litter pick, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 10am, would be nearby: meeting at the junction of Cranmer Drive, and Nursling Street. Hope to see you there!

**Sophie Ross**

## Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club



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

The cost is £3.00 per week plus an annual membership fee of £20 to enable the club to continue with a small membership. All meetings have a prize draw and include free tea/coffee and biscuits. There is ample free parking next to the hall. Your first visit is free and we would love to welcome new members at these events: **don't be shy - give us a try.**

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

**6<sup>th</sup> February** - Quiz afternoon, time for a chat and a cuppa

**13<sup>th</sup> February** - Rob Harvey, singer with his Ukelele, humour and raconteur

**20<sup>th</sup> February** - Quiz afternoon, catch up and cuppa

**27<sup>th</sup> February** - Wally Cozens, C & W singer with a bit of Elvis & Buddy Holly

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

**Mike Ward**

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## Ladies' Get Together

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

The next ladies' gathering is on:  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb from 9.30 - 11.00am**



For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!

**Tracey Jones**

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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.





# Church Services in February

God is love

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 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Candlemas

10am All Age Worship  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February - 4 before Lent

10am Holy Communion  
4pm **LEGO** Church (Rownhams School)  
6.30pm Monthly Prayer Meeting



### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Safeguarding Sunday/3 before Lent

10am Morning Prayer  
6.30pm Bible Talk with Rev Jim Stanley-Smith



### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 2 before Lent

10am Contemporary Service  
6.30pm 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Candlemas

11am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February – 4 before Lent

11am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Safeguarding Sunday/3 before Lent

11am Holy Communion

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 2 before Lent

11am Morning Prayer



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## Our Retiring Collection in February is for: Scripture Union

Scripture Union International is a UK based charity supporting a global movement in over 120 countries around the world.



Actively introducing children, young people and families to Jesus and helping them to meet God through the Bible and prayer, each Movement shares the Gospel in ways appropriate to their culture and situation

Their vision is that Christians will be the means of transforming the communities in which they live, and so they encourage children and young people to become committed members of their churches, and servants of a world in need.

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## TwinSpires Family Talent Show – 1<sup>st</sup> March

Following the huge hit of last year's family concert, we are looking to hold another this spring, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. More details to follow soon.

For those of you with talents that you would like to share with us, please contact the office to get involved:

[office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

(All ages and abilities)



## What's on During the Week

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

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

### Weekday Morning Prayer:

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 112 879 792 Password: 107871

Online via **Facebook** 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

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

**Wednesdays 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 1-4pm Ladies' Shed Group** (see p10)

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

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

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

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

**First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group** 4<sup>th</sup> February in St John's Church Hall

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

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February 10am – midday Coffee Break** in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p18)



**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 10-11am Litter Pick** Meet Cranmer Drive/Nursling Street junction (see p12)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 8.30am Men's Breakfast** –contact David:  
[hammy1966@hotmail.com](mailto:hammy1966@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall

## Dates for Your Diary:



- ✦ **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February.**  
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.
- ✦ **Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March 10-11am Litter Pick** - venue TBC
- ✦ **Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March (Time TBC) Family Concert** in St John's Church
- ✦ **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March 8.30am Men's Breakfast**  
contact Nick Launders: [nicklaunders@gmail.com](mailto:nicklaunders@gmail.com)
- ✦ **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall
- ✦ **Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March 2pm Friday Friends** in St John's Church Hall (see p8)

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## National Nest Box Week: 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing. No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat. This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden. Visit: <https://www.nestboxweek.com/>



[nestboxweek.com](https://www.nestboxweek.com/)



Various Designs of bird boxes are available from Nursling Men's Shed. They are also designing a bat box. More details here: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/W7wv7YT7QBhYfTpG9?g\\_st=ac](https://maps.app.goo.gl/W7wv7YT7QBhYfTpG9?g_st=ac)





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

All are very welcome: we look forward to meeting old friends and welcoming new ones to Coffee Break. If you need a lift to Coffee Break, please contact Glennis on 02380 736173.

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

**In February, we meet on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> between 10am & midday.**

*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. (There will be no meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, due to half term holidays.)



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

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



## Love in Action!

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.' (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages':

- ♥ words of encouragement,
- ♥ quality time,
- ♥ gifts,
- ♥ acts of service, and
- ♥ touch.

Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word agape.

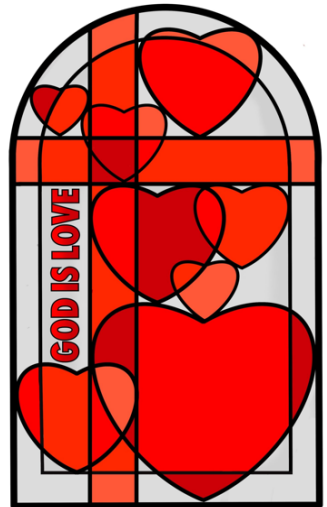
This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: 'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.' (1 John 3:16).

Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others. It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, 'how much do you love me?' The child replied 'lots and lots and lots!' Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said 'I love you this much', as they nailed Him to a cross.

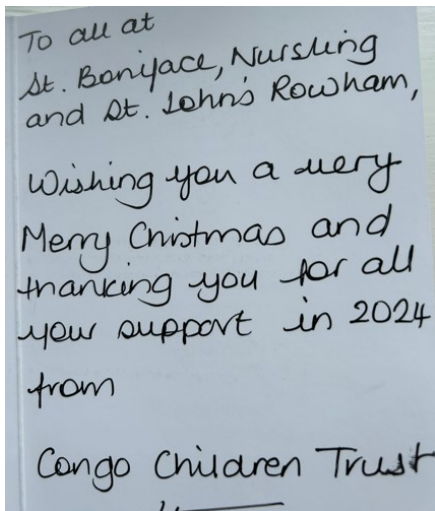


*Canon Paul Hardingham*

# Kimbilio

Children's Sanctuary in the D.R. Congo

Your Support, Their Hope: Join Us in  
Uplifting D. R. Congo's Children



We were pleased to receive the above card from the Congo Children's Trust, thanking us for our continued support during 2024. Exciting snapshots from the year:

- Children fed – over 500
- Children returned to their families - 25
- Children attending the Kimbilio primary school – 259
- Children attending the Kimbilio secondary school – 71
- Young people supported at University – 6
- Staff – 44 in DRC
- Safeguarding training - 21 members of staff, 3 managers, 6 children
- Young mums trained in hairdressing skills & set up in business – 5
- Mums attending sewing skills course - 4

Kimbilio (Swahili for 'refuge') is a grassroots charity, established in 2009, to work with street children in Lubumbashi, the second city of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Funds are raised through the UK registered Congo Children Trust. You can donate to the charity here: <https://www.congochildrentrust.org/how-you-can-help>

**Rev Jim Stanley-Smith**



## Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_  
 It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_

others, it is not self-

it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
 it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_

Love delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
 it always \_\_\_\_\_

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;

His \_\_\_\_\_  
 never come to an end;  
 they are new every

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...  
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 that **love** is.  
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.  
 whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
 in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
 in them.  
 1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_  
 his steadfast **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 endures \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES  
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**

He sent His one and only  
 Son into the world so  
 that we might have  
 eternal life through Him.  
 1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**

He has given you the  
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
 with His **love**.  
 Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**

See what great **love** the  
 Father has for us that He  
 would call us His children.  
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

GOD • **LOVE**  
 PATIENT • KIND  
 GRACIOUS • PEACE  
 JUST • TRUTHFUL  
 TRUSTING • LOYAL  
 HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERES  
 ENDURES  
 HUMBLE  
 SELFLESS  
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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

## February Crossword Clues (Answers on p26)

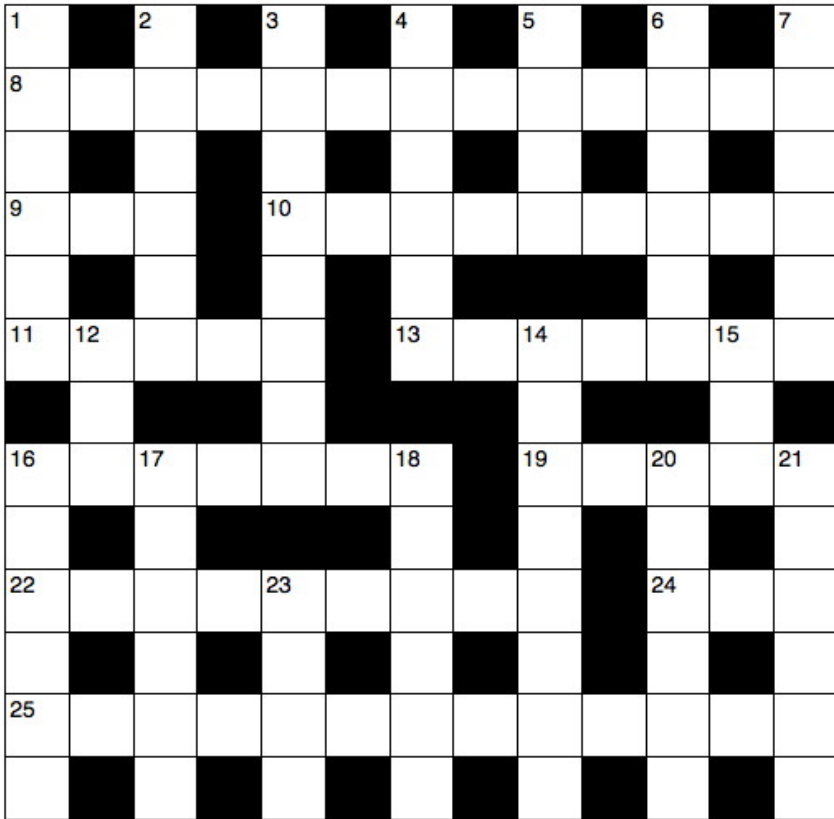
### Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)  
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)  
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)  
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)  
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)  
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)  
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)  
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)  
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)  
25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)  
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)  
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)  
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

## Crossword for February 2025



### Write your Own Valentine this Year

If you are going to send a Valentine this year, why not write your own?

Most poetry – and especially romantic poetry – comes from the heart. It is a way of expressing your emotions, often saying things that you would otherwise be too shy to say. And if you’ve ever felt the need to write a poem about something you feel deeply – you’ve already crossed the starting line!

So – how do you start? Inspiration may come from looking at the world around you, in scribbling down your initial thoughts about your loved one... and then mixing them all together. For instance, a rock is solid, dependable, weathered, even! Does that remind you of your loved one? On the other hand, a flower is fragrant, delicate – and fleeting. Does that remind you of your someone?

***Parish Pump***



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



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

Donate

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



### **Please Support Nursling and Rownhams PCC on #easyfundraising**

You can raise FREE donations for us when you shop online with over 7,000 brands. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up and this will make a BIG difference to us

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/nurslingandrownhamspsc/>

So far we have raised over **£618** since we started.



**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.

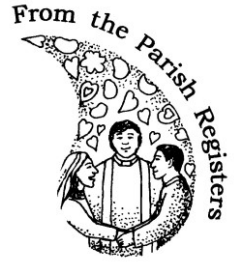
If you wish to visit Winchester Cathedral, the Parish Office has six passes allowing free entry. These may be borrowed by any member of our church family. Please contact:



[office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)



## *From the Registers*



### **Funerals**

15 Jan

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15:20)  
Margaret Elizabeth (Peggy) Bigglestone (92) *St Boniface*

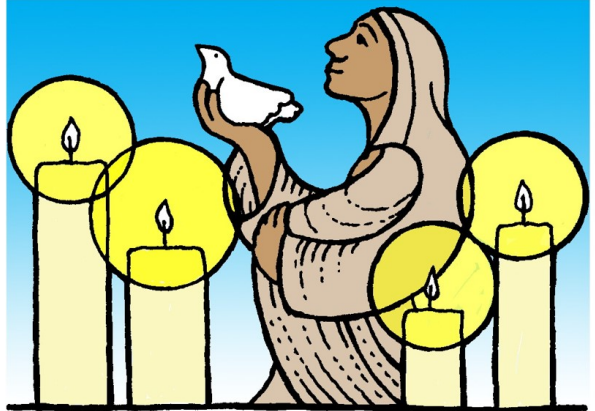
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## *Prayer for February 2025*

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.



Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Daphne Kitching***

## Suggestions for Your Prayers



Pray for peace to come where there is conflict. That those on both sides of conflict situations will be willing to listen to the other point of view and that just and lasting, peaceful solutions can be found. Pray for those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost their homes, and those living in fear.

Pray for Graeme and Ewan and all the church leadership team; for good health and that they will stay close to God. Pray that Graeme will have God's wisdom as he leads the work here and that God will show all the leadership team the best way forward for our churches.

Pray for all our outreach groups; eg the many and various youth groups, Alpha, Mums and tots, coffee break, various monthly gatherings and the annual events and pray that this would be the year when these are facilitated by being at last allowed to replace the pews with chairs!

Pray that God will strengthen our marriages and family life. That each married couple will know God's help to love and support each other and to learn how to handle disagreements in a positive way. Pray that all relationships within our church family would be caring ones, encouraging one another and that those who are single will feel included and valued as part of our family.

Remember those suffering from dementia, their carers and other family members, doctors, other professionals and friends as they seek to support them. Pray for patience, strength and love.

Pray for the ministry of Scripture Union as they seek to bring the good news about Jesus Christ to children, young people and families – and to encourage them to develop spiritually through the Bible and prayer. Pray for their staff and thank God for the resources they produce.

Continue to pray that world leaders will take the climate crisis seriously. That there will be consensus on the need to stop using fossil fuels and that there will be investment in new technologies. Give thanks for those working on these and pray that God will give them inspiration and success.

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### Answers for Crossword (from p22)

**ACROSS:** 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:** 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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