

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

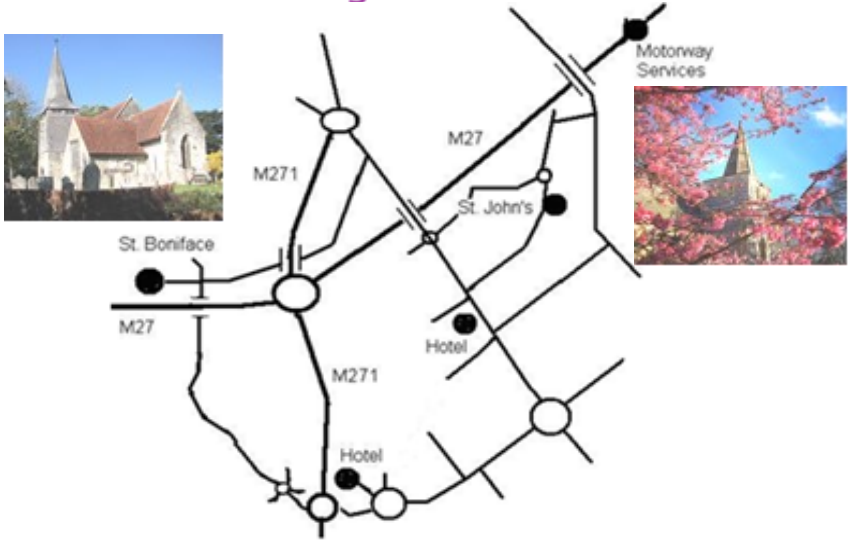
Web Edition

MARCH 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

Our website is www.twinspires.org.uk

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

There are a number of ways you can donate to church funds (outlined on page 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

Verse of the Month

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



Dear Friends



As the leaves turn and a new season of Spring approaches, when we are reminded of new beginnings, new opportunities and new growth, and all that it entails, we find ourselves on the cusp of a wonderful occasion in the life of our parish. St. John's

Church, which has been a beacon of faith and worship in our parish, reaches a significant milestone this year, as we celebrate its 170th anniversary on 25th October

This represents not just 170 years of bricks and mortar, but 170 years of faith, companionship, and community outreach. For generations our parish Churches have been vibrant hubs for our shared Christian journey. From Alpha courses and home groups, where we learn more of God's love, to baptisms and weddings that have celebrated the joys of life, to funerals and times of sorrow where we've found comfort and support. Our parish has witnessed countless moments of profound significance in the lives of numerous people.

Consecrated in 1855, St. John's Church has witnessed a myriad of changes both in the world and within its walls. And whilst the Church's exterior symbolizes tradition, the interior tells the story of innovation and adaptability, reflecting a congregation that values forward-thinking approaches to worship, even from the earliest days when the second vicar, RF Wilson, extended the North aspect of the building through the vestry.

This work goes on through the ongoing application to replace pews with chairs, aimed at enhancing our worship experience. This initiative is driven by a desire to foster a more welcoming and flexible environment for all who come into the Church. A change which symbolizes the Church's adaptation to modern worship styles whilst maintaining the essence of hospitality, worship and friendship.

In tandem with the pew-to-chair faculty application, our parish is embarking on a review of St John's Church Hall. This expansion is central, not only for facilitating Church activities, but also for accommodating community events – with possibly a new pre-school opportunity.

St Boniface Church Hall has itself emerged in a transformed state, as the Men's Shed continue to fashion the building, making it their long-term home. By developing these resources, our Churches aim to enhance their role as hubs for social interaction and ministry, reinforcing links with our community.



The significance of reaching out into our community cannot be overstated. Our Churches are deeply committed to embodying the message of love and service taught by Jesus, focusing on building relationships beyond our congregations. The Church continues to reach out in many ways, as we strive to become a 'City on a hill' a light in the darkness, as Matthew 5.14 reminds us. We will continue to actively seek to make a

positive impact in Rownhams and Nursling and the surrounding areas, embodying Jesus' new commandment of loving our neighbours (John 13.34-35).

This anniversary year itself presents a wonderful opportunity for the parish to reinforce and enhance these connections. Events planned throughout the year aim to bring the community together, offering a combination of worship, fun, and celebrations. From **family fun days** like our planned combined celebration of our Church's anniversary and the **King's birthday on 21st June**, to our **flower and garden show on 16th August** (now is the time to get growing as spring begins to emerge), to our Harvest shared lunch and our **anniversary service on 26th October**, our parish invites everyone - whether regular attendees or newcomers, or those who have not been near our Churches for years - to come along to these celebrations and embrace the spirit of togetherness, of community, of commonality. These gatherings celebrate the Church's history, but also pave the way for future and new connections, reminding us all of the importance of sharing Christ's love with our community as part of our combined journey of faith.

Perhaps as you read this, you can pray and reflect upon how you can get involved - I'm sure there is a role for you - or how you can support and encourage others. Importantly, who could you invite to come along to these great opportunities to journey with one another and embrace our community.

Our anniversary celebrations are not just a celebration of time passed; but a vibrant affirmation of the love that binds our congregations and the community we serve. Through thoughtful transformations such as the pew-to-chair transition and the planned Church Hall extensions, as well as its unwavering commitment to outreach, our parish exemplifies an active model of faith that resonates deeply with both its members and the broader community.

As we move forward, may we continually embody the teachings of Jesus, fostering love and fellowship among ourselves and reaching out to those around us, ensuring that our Churches together remain a welcoming home for all.

Blessings

Rev Graeme

St Boniface Church News

Mothering Sunday

Our mothering service at St Boniface Church will take place on Sunday 30th 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 (Tel 079 3514 0827).

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

Avis Wood

Mothering Sunday and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother, the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home Church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904, celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years the holiday has changed and, in many ways, now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

'God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.'

(Rudyard Kipling)

Parish Pump

Highlights from the PCC Meeting (28th Jan 2025)

Safeguarding

- A collective training session will be offered, one evening, at St John's Church, lasting approximately one hour. This will be open for anyone to attend, including non-volunteers. All attendees will receive a Certificate.
- Specific Safeguarding training for those undertaking Prayer Ministry has been offered by the Diocese.



Finance

It was agreed that, in place of the Barnabas Fund, The Firgrove Centre, Southampton will be our retiring collection for March. The Firgrove Centre in Shirley, which offers support to those facing unintended pregnancy, miscarriage and infant death counselling.



St Boniface Church

- It was agreed that, if they wish to do so, the Nursling Men's Shed could open on the third Sunday of each month, from 11.30am-1.00pm, purely for fellowship among their members, and to offer tea and coffee to the St Boniface congregation after the Holy Communion service.
- We will be celebrating St Boniface Day on Saturday 7th June, and the Nursling Men's Shed are invited to have an Open Day on the same day.



St John's Church

- **Pews to Chairs** - Our Faculty is now with the Diocesan Chancellor, awaiting his decision.
- **Church Wardens Update** - Ann Laird and Peter Myerscough-Jackopson have now been authorised as Church Wardens for this Parish, by the Archdeacon. They will be based at St John's Church.
- **Church Hall** - A Feasibility Study Group will meet to discuss the future of the Hall. Comments welcome from all to pccsecretary@twinspires.org.uk

Chalice Bearers

The PCC approved a list of volunteers as Chalice Bearers to assist at Holy Communion services at both Churches, in addition to the Church Wardens. Training will be given.



Healing Services

Following feedback on the Healing Service at St John's Church in November, it was agreed that where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, this would become a healing service. A healing service structure will be offered for St Boniface Church.

Christmas Services

The Christmas services and events were well attended. We are hoping to continue to engage with the local community through our social events planned for the coming year.

St John's Church 170th Birthday

It was agreed to incorporate our 170th Birthday celebrations into our social events. Current proposals are: The King's birthday event; Garden Fair and Amateur Play; Flower Festival, Patronal service and Harvest lunch.



Twinspires Website

Work is in progress to install a new system management program for the Twinspires website, which is modern and easy to use.

Grow Course

Graeme, Ewan and a small group are attending a Diocesan Course during this year, covering Church growth and vision.

Future Dates

- **Standing Committee Meeting** on Tuesday 4 March 2025
- **PCC Meeting** on Wednesday 19th March 2025 (to approve Annual Reports and Accounts)
- **APCM** on Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 7pm

A full copy of the Minutes can be viewed at both Churches.

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary

Audrey Newport



Those of you who remember Audrey Newport from Bridgers Close will be sad to hear that she died on 23rd January, aged 97. Her funeral is scheduled for Monday 24th February at 11am in St John's Church. She has been living in Woodley Grange Care Home for a few years and was bright and chatty until about 2 months ago when she went into hospital with pneumonia and although she was later discharged, she wasn't the same. I know she was looking forward to Heaven.

I didn't start visiting Audrey until after she stopped being able to come to Church. She was a lovely lady and was always very glad to see visitors. I know it troubled her after she had moved to Woodley Grange Care Home that she couldn't offer visitors the hospitality she would have liked to.

She really appreciated receiving the monthly Caraway pack, produced by the Anna Chaplains in Southampton, especially for older people who were no longer able to get to Church. She would sometimes talk to me about the previous months' contents.

Audrey was a very keen bell ringer and, in her youth, pre-1950, rang bells at All Saints Church, Hampreston. She asked me recently if I could find out whether they still had a bell ringing team – they do. She loved watching snooker, and her favourite TV programme was Countryfile.

Claire Thompson



Audrey was always a friendly, welcoming person, who loved the company of her friends, and was always interested in what you were doing in your life, and within your family. She was a very good cook, so, when visiting Audrey at home, you would always be welcomed with a cup of tea, homemade Victoria sandwich, biscuits or scones, or maybe mince pies at Christmas or Eccles cakes at Easter.

She was never judgemental and accepted you as you are. She had many friends, of all ages, and was loved and well thought of by those who knew her.

Audrey was a verger at St John's Church, and very much enjoyed helping at weddings. She was a bell ringer, who went on annual bellringing holidays. Additionally, she was treasurer for the Mothers' Union for many years, which is where I first met her, and we became good friends.

I have been friends with Audrey for 38 years and will miss visiting Audrey, and our chats, both at her house, and, latterly, at Woodley Grange; I will treasure my memories.

Wendy Bird



When Audrey could no longer get to Church, I went to her house with home Communion on a regular basis. She was always very welcoming; and after our little service she had tea and biscuits ready for a nice chat.

I did also manage to see her at Grange Care Home on one or two occasions; but she missed the more regular visits she had in her own house. I remember her mentioning snooker. **Rev Jim Stanley-Smith**

Ronald ('Ron') Cross

For those of our readers who know Dorothy Cross, we wanted to let you know that her husband, Ron, died peacefully in hospital on 22nd January, aged 93 years, after a short illness.

For many years, Dorothy has been an active member of our Church family, willingly supported by Ron, as she went to St John's Church for services and various Church-related activities: choir, magazine editing, proof reading, Church manning, to name a few.

Until Christmas, Ron was extremely active every day (playing bowls, golf, and whisking them both off to regular lunches out). Although Dorothy isn't as mobile now as she would like to be, she still walks every day and continues to distribute Twin Spires News for us, maintaining a keen interest in our Church and the magazine.

Ron's cremation was on 18th February at Test Valley Crematorium. Our prayers are with Dorothy, and their daughter, Jackie, at this time. **Freds**

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**

We look forward to seeing you.



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

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

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

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

For ALL applicants, there will be printed application forms available at each Church, however, I would encourage you to email electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk so I can send you a form electronically.

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

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

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

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

Sue Muldowney, Church Electoral Roll Officer

Ladies’ Shed

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

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

To find out more, contact:

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



Nursling Men's Shed

Beside St Boniface Church in Church Lane the old Church Hall is the home of the Nursling Men's Shed. We are open from 9.30am on weekdays except Wednesday and on Thursday afternoon we have a Ladies' Shed. We chat, drink tea or coffee and put the world to rights (which is getting harder) and at the same time repair or make things for ourselves and other local residents or get involved with one of the community projects that the Shed undertakes.

In the past, these community projects have included refurbishing a telephone box into housing a defibrillator, building planters for outside the Co-Op which are planted by the local school each year. and making cold frames, planters and seats for a local school.



At the same time, we are making new friends and learning new things, we have a fully functioning workshop. Many of our members are encouraged to visit the Shed by their families who can see there may be a benefit for Dad or Grandad in getting out and about.

We are always looking for new members, our Shed is safe and warm, with a kitchen and toilets. We are a registered charity and one of the 54 Men's Sheds in Hampshire and 600 in the UK.

Here is a link to a video on how the Nursling Men's Shed developed:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVfh9ReDzV0>

If you want a chat before coming along, please call Graham: 079 0095 0307 or Mike:077 4295 7858.

Mike Bunce

So What Happened to the Climate and Nature Bill?

Last month I wrote about the private member's Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill that was due to have its second reading at the end of January.



To recap, this Bill was an attempt to make sure that the UK met its international commitments for 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.

Many people wrote to their MPs asking them to support the Bill and a majority of MPs signed up to do so. This second reading should have been an opportunity for MPs to thoroughly debate 'the greatest, long-term, global challenge that we face' and for the Government to prove that it understands the urgent need to restore nature and work out how to reduce carbon emissions quickly.

It was good that these important issues were debated and there was a lot of cross-party support, but sadly proceedings were interrupted with an unexpected defence update from the Government, despite the fact that Fridays are supposed to be focussed on private members bills not Government business. This meant there was not enough time to debate fully and vote. The second reading will now be in July which means it will be more difficult for it to make further progress this parliamentary term.

Although this is very disappointing, there was some progress behind the scenes as the Minister for Nature assured MPs that their next steps would include 'binding commitments' to advance the Bill's objectives. Ed Miliband, from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, has also said that his Department is committed to 'set to work' on the Bill's objectives 'including for legislation'.
Claire Thompson

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



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

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



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

A Lent Reflection



Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!'*

Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, *'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in three key areas of His identity:

- His divine sonship,
- political power and
- Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13).

It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves?

Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Church Services in *March*

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 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

St John's Church, Rownhams

Sunday 2nd March – Next before Lent

10am All Age Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 9th March- Lent 1

10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 16th March – Lent 2

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

Sunday 23rd March – Lent 3

10am Immerse Service
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday

10am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Evening Prayer Healing Service



Our Vision: As a Church Community We Seek to:

<p>Encourage</p> <p>everyone to grow to be more like Jesus, following Him at all stages of their lives;</p>	<p>Be open</p> <p>to being church in new ways and new places, while affirming and strengthening the old where it is still serving us well;</p>	<p>Bear Witness</p> <p>to the God in whom we believe by serving in our working, social and community lives, following the example of Jesus;</p>	<p>Strive</p> <p>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 2nd March – Next before Lent

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th March – Lent 1

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 16th March – Lent 2

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd March – Lent 3

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday

11am Mothering Sunday Service



Our Retiring Collection in March is for: The Firgrove Centre

The Firgrove Centre, a registered charity set up in 1987 exists to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment, offering support to people, individually or together, through the following:

- Facing an unplanned pregnancy
- A pregnancy loss through termination
- A baby loss, through miscarriage, stillbirth, neo-natal death or sudden infant death (SID)



To find out more about the Firgrove Centre visit: thefirgrovecentre.org.uk

TwinSpires Family Talent Show – 1st March 6pm

Following the huge hit of last year's family talent show, we are looking to hold another, on Saturday 1st March at 6pm in St John's Church.

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

(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. 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). 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 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 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

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

Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p17)

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 4th March in St John's Church Hall

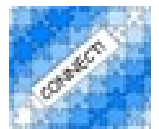
First Wednesdays 8-9pm CONNECT! on [Zoom](#) A group for young adults

Thursday 6th & 20th March 10am – midday Coffee Break in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p18)

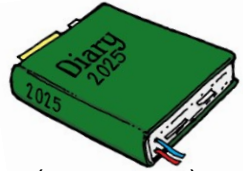
Saturday 1st March 10-11am Litter Pick Meet junction of Bakers Drove/Lakeside Ave Junction (see p19)

Sat 15th March 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact: nicklaunders@gmail.com

Sat 15th March 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p18)



Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 9th March.**
Preferably by email to twinspiresnews@live.co.uk
or, alternatively, to: Mary Carter, 12 Horsebridge Way (paper copy).
Please check you receive an acknowledgement of your email.
 - + **Sat 5th April 10-11am Litter Pick** - venue TBC
 - + **Thurs 10th April Final date return for Electoral Roll forms**
 - + **Sat 19th April 8.30am Men's Breakfast** contact Rev Graeme Dixon
 - + **Sat 19th April 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall
 - + **Weds 30th April 7pm APCM** in St John's Church
-

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 March 2025.

- 6th March** - Musician Bob Pearce, with a variety of music from his long career with the Bob Pearce Blues Band
- 13th March** - Quiz afternoon with a cuppa and chat
- 20th March** - Marlene, a regular at the club, with songs, raconteur & humour
- 27th March** - Quiz afternoon with a cuppa and chat

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

Mike Ward



I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month.

Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation.

I meant, **I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.**

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 15th March from 9.30 - 11.00am

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

Tracey Jones



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

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

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

In March, we meet on Thursday 6th & 20th 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.



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.

February Fun!

Thank you to all those who gave up their Saturday morning to litter pick. A particular shout out to first time pickers Paul and his son Owen. Owen decided he wanted to litter pick as part of his Duke of Edinburgh service section. I recall doing the Duke of Edinburgh award many, many years ago. I helped out with the brownies, as I love children. Guess what I do now? Yes, you're right, I work with children!

There was a good dozen of us this month, which I was excited to see. We fanned out from Cranmer Drive. Some picked down past Nursling school, some the park area. Jen, and my daughter Florence and I, walked along Nursling Street, turning off before the Four Horseshoes to see what was along the footpath.

Litter picking is something I feel passionate about. I believe God created the earth and asked us to be good stewards of it and so litter picking is important to me. It does make me sad when I see so much litter being dropped.

This month my youngest daughter Florence came with me (she's 7) and we talked about why we pick the litter up. As we picked up the broken glass, we thought about why leaving it there wouldn't be good for humans, particularly children, as well as wildlife, and any dogs being walked along the path.

We ended the pick with a hoard of 6 bin bags (to be burnt, to generate electricity I believe) and 6 bags of recyclables: namely glass, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. We also found a broken garden ornament, which in its former glory may have been a frog on a lily pad, and two identical number plates (front and back plates, I imagine). I shall get in touch with the DVLA to check what I should do with them.



There was some discussion about where to meet next month. It was decided that we should tackle Bakers Drove. **We shall meet on Saturday 1st March 10am, along Bakers Drove by Lakeside Avenue.** We won't be tackling the lake but will focus our efforts along Bakers Drove.

If you would like to take part in our monthly litter pick, please do come along with gloves and sturdy boots. We will provide a high vis jacket, litter picker and bags.

All the best,

Sophie Ross

Bearing Fruit Takes Time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you're feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit. ***Parish Pump***

The Gulf of Mexico? Or America?

As well as Greenland and the Panama Canal (and perhaps Canada), President Trump wants the Gulf of Mexico. On his very first afternoon in office, he ordered that the name be changed to the Gulf of America.

Apparently American Presidents can do these things; and the US Board on Geographic Names was given 30 days to change the Gulf's name on all official maps throughout the US. Some navigation apps, including Google Maps, were under pressure to change it immediately. Trump's reason for changing, he says, is that the ocean basin is "ours" and that the US does "most of the work there".

But President Trump cannot dictate what other countries call the gulf, as it is an international body of water, with coastlines in the US, Mexico and Cuba. Mexico and Cuba have no plans to follow Trump's lead. With that in mind, Britain has politely declined to change the name. In the UK, it will remain the Gulf of Mexico, unless and until Trump's new name for it gains "widespread usage" in English.

Parish Pump

Pope Calls on Journalists to Look for Good News



The Pope has urged journalists to look out for ‘good news’ stories among so much doom and gloom in global media coverage. His call came during a gathering in Rome of media professionals from around the world that included an audience with Pope Francis.

The Pope said, “I encourage you to discover and make known the many stories of goodness hidden in the folds of the news, imitating those gold-prospectors who tirelessly sift the sand in search of a tiny nugget.”

His words come as increasing numbers of people are turning away from news coverage, describing it as “depressing, relentless and boring” according to a recent global survey. Almost four in 10 people worldwide said they sometimes or often avoid the news, up from just under three in 10 in 2017, according to the report by Oxford University’s Reuters Institute.

To counter this, the Pope urged journalists and other media professionals to be ‘communicators of hope’ in a world where divisive disinformation abounds.

Pope Francis, who heads the world’s estimated 1.4 billion Catholics called on all those involved in communications “to focus on beauty and hope even in the midst of apparently desperate situations” and to work to generate “commitment, empathy and concern for others.”

He said: “Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred.” The message also, perhaps, had criticism for the power and influence being wielded by Big Tech companies, such as Elon Musk’s ‘X’, and Meta – that recently announced it was removing fact-checkers from its US operation.

He said, ‘In these our times, characterised by disinformation and polarisation, as a few centres of power control an unprecedented mass of data and information, I would like to speak to you as one who is well aware of the importance - now more than ever - of your work as journalists and communicators.’

He called on journalists to communicate hope, noting that ‘The hope of Christians has a face, the face of the risen Lord.’ His gift of the Holy Spirit ‘enables us to hope even against all hope, and to perceive the hidden goodness quietly present even when all else seems lost.’ **Parish Pump**

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

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

Look out for the ‘Funny Money’ Box in Church.



Vocations Morning

Saturday 8 March, 9:30am – 12:15pm
St Peter & St Paul's Church,
Market Place, Ringwood, BH24 1AW

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join Bishop David and Rev. Dr Amy Roche, Head of Mission & Ministry, to find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries.



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For more info and to book contact Tracey Nicholls
tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 710983

Young Vocations Evening

Tuesday 11 March
7pm – 9pm
Old Alresford Place,
Old Alresford,
Hampshire SO24 9DH

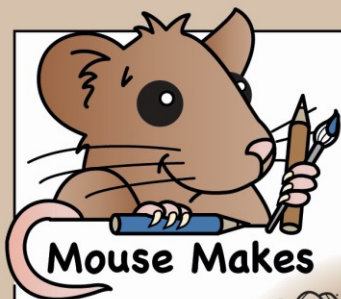
Are you aged 25 or under? Do you sense that God is calling you to ordained ministry? If your answer to these questions is "Yes", then our Young Vocations Evening is for you!

Join Young Vocation Champions, Rev'd Helen May, Rev'd David Roberts, with Rev'd Canon Angi Nutt (Diocesan Director of Ordinands & Vocations Advisor) plus a number of younger diocesan clergy as they share their experiences and the story of their calling and journey to ordination. This will be followed by a Q&A and the opportunity to chat about how the Diocese can support you in the discernment process.



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For more info and to book contact Tracey Nicholls
tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 710983



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

 Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

 Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

 Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
 see Luke 4:14-15

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

 Luke 4:8



READ

the story in
Luke 4:1-13

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

 Luke 4:12



JESUS • LED
 WILDERNESS
 DESERT
 TEMPTATIONS
 DAYS • DEVIL
 HUNGRY • SON
 STONE • ROCK
 KINGDOMS
 WORLD • GLORY
 WRITTEN
 SCRIPTURE
 WORSHIP • ONLY
 SERVE • LORD
 JERUSALEM
 HIGH • TEMPLE
 THROW • DOWN
 JUMP • ANGELS
 HANDS • HOLD
 LIFT • FOOT

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



Find the words from the questions too!

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



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

Donate

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



Please Support Nursling and Rownhams PCC on #easyfundraising

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

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



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

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

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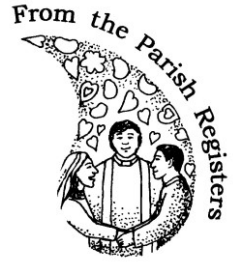
688
times!



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.



From the Registers



Funerals

22 Jan
28 Jan
7 Feb
24 Feb

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'
Philip David Lovette Gausson (89)
Brenda Edmonds (64)
Jane Elizabeth Bromley (64)
Audrey Bessie Newport (97)

(1 Cor 15:20)
St Boniface
St John's
St John's
St John's

Prayer for March 2025

Dear Lord,

In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.



Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives.

We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress.

We pray in His name. 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

Suggestions for Your Prayers



Continue to pray for victims of war. Those who have lost loved ones, homes, who are traumatised and those living in fear. Pray for provision of safe shelter, food, clean water, warmth and medical help for those who need it. Ask that the survivors might have courage, strength and hope. Pray for world leaders to have wisdom and be able to use their influence to bring peaceful solutions.

Thank God for all our youth and children's groups and pray that God will bless Ewan and all his work. Pray that there will be enough people to help him run the groups. Pray that the young people will learn of God's love for them revealed in Jesus. Pray that those already in our fellowship might continue to grow in their faith.

Ask God to strengthen and encourage every woman with a mothering role, whether to her own children and grandchildren, or to others who need her care. Especially remember mothers of children with disabilities and life limiting illnesses. Pray too for those who would love to be mothers but are unable to be.

As we see further evidence of climate breakdown, pray that all world leaders will come to see the need to act urgently to reduce CO2 emissions. Pray for all those involved in developing green technologies. That God will bless their work and help us to find affordable alternative sources of fuel to heat our homes.

Pray for Christians in countries where they face persecution. Pray God would help them to face the future with peace in their hearts, knowing that he will give them the words and wisdom they will need when the time comes and the strength to face prison or torture.

Pray for all our members of parliament. That they will seek to act with justice and integrity and to work for the good of the nations. Pray too for their family lives, that their relationships would be faithful, loving and strong and they would be able to find the right balance in how to divide their time between home and work.

Pray that God will send his Holy Spirit on our nation, that the good news of salvation in Jesus will be proclaimed and that many will turn to Him and receive forgiveness and peace.

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