

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Complimentary Edition

MAY 2025

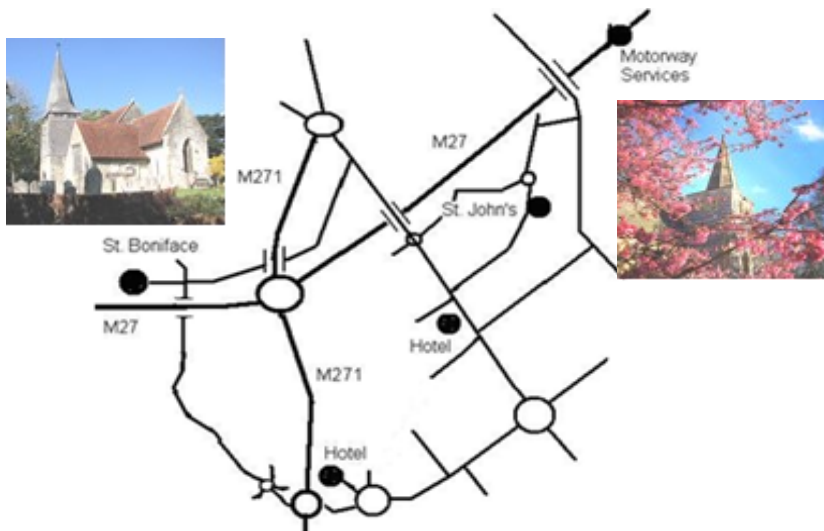


***I am ascending to my Father and your
Father, to my God and your God.***

John 20:17 (NIV)

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

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7 (NIV)



Dear Friends

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

We find ourselves now in that beautiful, reflective stretch of the Church calendar between the glory of Easter and the fire of Pentecost. It's a season that can sometimes be overlooked - a kind of spiritual "in-between" - yet it holds deep significance for our faith and our discipleship.



On Easter Sunday, we stood together in joy, proclaiming, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" We sang our hymns of triumph and hope, remembering again that the tomb is empty, and death has been defeated. But what happens after the alleluias fade and the lilies begin to wilt?

This is where the story deepens.

In the forty days following the Resurrection, the Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to His disciples numerous times. He walked beside them on the road to Emmaus, cooked breakfast on the shore, showed His wounds to Thomas, and opened the Scriptures to their hearts. These were not just postscript moments - they were formational. Jesus was preparing His followers for what came next: not just believing in the Resurrection, but living it.

So too are we being invited in this season to sit with the Risen Christ and to be transformed by His presence. Just as the disciples were called from fear into faith, from hiding into witness, so are we.

This time between Easter and Pentecost is one of both waiting and preparation. In Acts 1 we hear Jesus instruct the disciples to "wait for the promise of the Father" - the coming of the Holy Spirit. They didn't know exactly what was coming, only that they would be "clothed with power from on high." But they trusted. And they gathered. They prayed. They watched.



What a timely message that is for us in today's world. We too are often caught in times of waiting - waiting for clarity, for war to end and for peace, for healing, for direction. We don't always have all the answers, nor do we see the full picture of what God is doing. But in the waiting, we are called to remain faithful. Like those first disciples, we gather in prayer and in hope, trusting that God will act in God's time.

Here in our parish we are being called to discern afresh who God is inviting us to be and how He is calling us to serve. This is why we've begun the prayerful process of discerning our vision and values. At the very heart of it all is a simple, powerful truth: **we are called to love Jesus, love one another, and love our community.**



This isn't just a motto - it's a movement of the heart. As we listen for God's voice together, I encourage you to take part in the conversations, share your hopes and prayers, and keep our parish in your own prayers. This vision will shape how we worship, serve, and grow together in the months and years ahead.

At the core of this vision is discipleship - our daily journey of following Jesus. Discipleship isn't just for a few, or for those in leadership—it is the calling of every Christian. It asks of us a heart of generosity: to offer our time, our gifts, and our resources in service of God and one another. Whether it's volunteering in a ministry, giving financially to support the church's mission, or simply being present and prayerful, every act of generosity builds up the Body of Christ and allows us to become a community that reflects God's Kingdom.

We see signs of this already in action. At St John's, our Pews to Chairs Project continues with care and purpose: not just changing furniture, but reimagining how we use our sacred space to better welcome and gather. Our Church Hall, too, is to undergo important improvements, so it can continue to be a place of life and connection at the heart of our community.

At St Boniface, we give thanks for the steady progress in the fabric work: the faithful, behind-the-scenes, efforts to ensure our church remains a beautiful, safe, and spiritually resonant space for generations to come.



All these efforts are part of the bigger picture of resurrection life. We are not simply maintaining buildings - we are creating places where people can encounter God, experience belonging, and find purpose.



Let us not rush past this season. Let us not skip from the empty tomb to the tongues of fire without pausing to let our hearts burn within us, like the disciples on the Emmaus Road. Let's take time to notice where Jesus is walking beside us, perhaps unnoticed at first, and allow Him to reveal Himself anew.

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NRSVA)

May this Eastertide be for you a sacred season of growth and grace. May your heart be open to the Spirit's whisper. And may we, as a community, be ready to receive again the power and purpose that Pentecost brings.

With every blessing in the Risen Christ.

Rev Graeme



Bernard Butcher (March 1945 – March 2025)

Bernard died suddenly in late March, in hospital, following a fall at home. Although Bernard had been forced to retreat from active church life by his long illness, many people remember him as a warm and friendly character.

He enjoyed being part of the welcoming team at St John's Church for many years. He was also deputy Churchwarden for several years.

Even more unforgettable were his adventures as a clown, sometimes alongside Colin Jones, in full costume. Separately and together, they brightened up many services and fêtes.

For many years, Bernard worked at Fords, upholstering vehicle seats. He shared his skills in church by producing the bench cushions in St John's Vestry and by helping friends with their upholstery needs.

Bernard will be much missed by many friends, including those in both church congregations and at Coffee Break.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Vivien, for so long Bernard's devoted carer, and all their family.

Mary Carter

Bernard's funeral service is being held at **1.30pm** in St John's Church, on **Weds 30th April**, followed by refreshments in St John's Church Hall.



Liz Jones (April 1937 – March 2025)

Those of you who remember Liz Jones will be sad to hear that she died on 27th March 2025.

April Elizabeth Ann Bush was born on 3rd April 1937 and she was married to Ronald Jones. Both were active members of St John's for many years.

Liz is survived by her son Robert, daughter Pauline and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was also an aunt, great-aunt and great-great aunt. She was amazing at remembering everyone's birthdays and members of her large family were always happy to receive a text and card from her on special occasions.

Liz's passion was playing in an orchestra and at folk festivals with her piano accordion. She will be very sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

Caroline Lessiter

Liz's funeral took place on **25th April at 10.45am**
at Southampton Crematorium (East Chapel).

Come and join us at



twinspires
St. Boniface & St. John's

Nursling & Rownhams

The Pastoral team invites you for an

'Afternoon Tea'

Friday, 23rd May 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.



St Boniface Church News May 2025

Mothering Sunday

This very special service took place on Sunday 30th March. Many thanks to Pat Wootten for making it memorable. We welcomed a lot of people.

The Church was decorated with photographs of mums and arrangements of their favourite flowers, a small selection is shown below. Posies were given to every mum/carer, by Jack and Emily (great grandchildren of Pat Wootten) who did an amazing job. **Thank you.**



St Boniface Day

The Church will be open on **Saturday June 7th** from 10am until 4pm to celebrate St Boniface Day. The story of St Boniface will be told by the flower arrangements in the windows. Visitors will be most welcome. There will be an opportunity to learn about the long history of this beautiful village church.

Avis Wood, with many thanks to Angela Wright for the photos.



Highlights from the PCC Meeting (Weds 19th March 2025)

St John's

- Pews to Chairs

The Chancellor has granted our Faculty request to replace the pews with chairs, subject to the conditions that 'we take reasonable steps to use the timber from the pews in the church', and 'the replacement chairs are solely wooden'.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy for our Parish was approved by the PCC. Copies are displayed at both our churches.

Electoral Roll

All those on the Electoral Roll are viewed as committed members of our two churches, and not just a means of participating in the APCM.

Finance

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, were adopted, ahead of the APCM on 30th April 2025.

St Boniface

- Quinquennial Report

There are a number of items needing repair in the next five years, the most significant being the re-shingling of the Tower.

- Men's Shed Draft Agreement

Work is in progress on the wording of the new Agreement covering the use of St Boniface Church Hall by the Men's Shed.

Permission to Officiate

Steve Beak has offered to apply to the Diocese for Permission to Officiate in our Parish, which would allow him to conduct funerals, weddings, baptisms and Holy Communion. Steve would not be a second vicar, rather another pair of hands to enhance what our two churches can offer.

Twinspires Website

The tremendous amount of work Ewan Brown had done to create the new website was given due recognition and thanks. The website is very much a work in progress but a vast improvement on the old one.

Future Dates:

Standing Committee: Tuesday 10th June 2025 7pm in St John's Church

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

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary

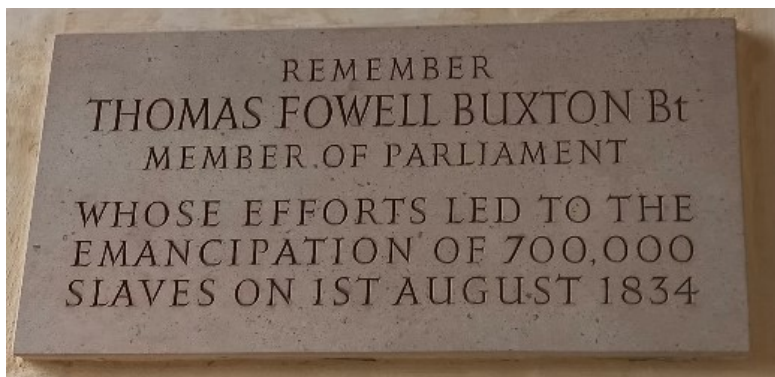


Pilgrim Passport Cathedral Tour

Following my 'Peregrines' article in November's Twin Spires News magazine, the second leg of my 'Pilgrim Passport' cathedral tour took me to East Anglia, where I visited Bury St. Edmunds and Norwich.



Norwich Cathedral contains this plaque in remembrance of Thomas Fowell Buxton MP, who became one of the leaders of the abolitionist movement after the death of his friend William Wilberforce.



Someone who would have known Buxton, was Samuel Wilks, a name some of you may recognise from reading it on the wall of St. Boniface Church, where he was Rector from 1847 until his death in 1872. Like Buxton, he had close links to Wilberforce and other abolitionists. In 1816, he became editor of the Evangelical newspaper *Christian Observer*, a post he held for over 30 years. In 1830 he preached a sermon which was later published as 'The duty of prompt and complete abolition of slavery'. In it, he complained about Christians who owned slaves and questioned how they could believe they were happy and well-treated. He contrasted Paul's treatment of Onesimus in the book of Philemon with white colonials in a system he believed had to be 'exterminated'.

Many people today have questioned Paul's stance on slavery in Philemon, however it is essential to look at the context. Paul clearly wanted Onesimus to be freed, as he hoped he would help him in his work. Various commentators explain that slavery was the bedrock of the Roman economy and could not easily be ended. In addition, Paul and the early Christians were not in a position of strength politically to be able to make any changes. It took nearly 1800 years, but finally, a group of Christians, including one who later came to Nursling, used their social and political positions to do what Paul would have liked to have done.

Jane Coomer



April's Adventures

Thank you so much to all the kind folk who gave up their time on this sunny spring morning to litter pick. A shout out to newbies Claire, Janet, Natalie, April and Sophia. Spring (and the pollen!) was in the air and I counted 15 litter pickers in total, which is fantastic.

We fanned out from the Old Post office starting point, always in twos or more. We found the usual discarded bits of food packaging, drinks cans, glass and cigarette butts. However, Natalie and her children spotted a large, abandoned heavy bag in amongst some brambles. I advised them against trying to get it out for safety reasons. They also then found a fly tipped fire extinguisher. I took photos and will notify my contact at Test Valley Council.

In total, we collected 5 large bags of general waste and 3 bags of recyclables. A big thank you to Cath (Village News editor) for taking a lot of the recyclable glass and plastics and taking them to the bottle bank and into her own brown bin. The 5 bags of general waste were stickered up and gathered together by the Horns Drove road sign.



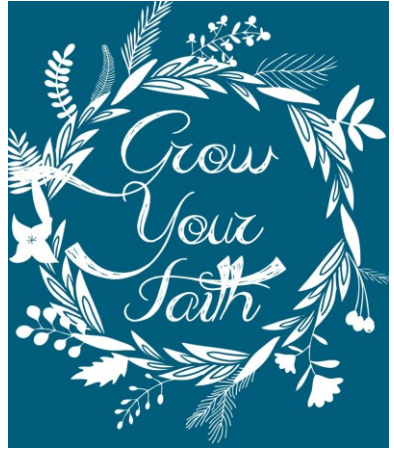
Next month on Saturday 3rd May at 10am we have agreed to meet along Bakers Drove, by the entrance to Tanglewood Lake. I appreciate that this date is our first May Bank Holiday weekend but look forward to seeing all those who can come along.

Sophie Ross

Without Faith

Without faith
our eyes turn from the 'I am'
to just the 'I'
Without faith
life turns from the all
to the self
Without faith
our hope turns from the forever
to the now
from the future
to the present
Without faith
our beginning becomes a coincidence of
no significance
Sharing faith
brings meaning and worth to both the now and the approaching
The sacrifice of God for man transforms faith from just hope to life eternal.

© **Jayne Watson**



NEW Alpha Course

Explore ➔ Life
➔ Faith
➔ Meaning



What - A chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal way.

How - Each session involves watching an inspirational video focussing on elements of the Christian faith, then openly exploring the questions it provokes in smaller groups. No question is a silly one, and you can get involved as little or as much as you like.

When - Weekly starting **Weds 7th May 2024** at 7.30pm in **St John's Church Hall**.

For more details or to sign up:

email: office@twinspires.org.uk or phone: **023 80 738293** and leave a message.



Green Tips

Did you know there is an organisation that encourages recycling rather than sending things to landfill? It works via the internet.



There are a few rules, the main one being that you cannot ask for any money. You can post a message on their 'notice board' with the details of the item you are offering and your approximate location, (eg Nursling).

If someone is interested you will receive an email from them via the freecycle website so they and you can arrange a mutually convenient time for them to collect the item.

For more details and to join the scheme, go to <https://www.freecycle.org/> and 'join' your local 'towns' ie Romsey and/or Southampton.

You can then choose to get notified whenever someone posts (which means you will receive a lot of mail!) to get a 'digest' of the posts each day, or not to receive notifications at all.

Among other things, we have used it to find homes for a caravan step, an umbrella stand and some bath taps. We have gained some good quality pillows and a blender.

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.






Summer Garden Party




WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE

6:00 - 8:30 PM



Join us for a delightful evening in the beautiful gardens of The Old Rectory in support of the Romsey Deanery – South Rwenzori Diocese partnership in SW Uganda. This event raises funds for the Teenage Project, which provides vocational training for young people facing unemployment, offering them a brighter future.




Drinks & light refreshments provided

Guest speaker: Rhiannon, Bishop of Southampton

Admission: £25 (cash at the door)

THE OLD RECTORY,
STOCKBRIDGE
(BY KIND PERMISSION OF
ROBIN & CHRISSIE)



Church Services in May

Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. Tea and coffee are served after the 10am service. There is a crèche area available during services at St John's Church. We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

St John's Church, Rownhams

Sunday 4th May – Easter 3

10am All Age Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 11th May – Easter 4

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 18th May - Easter 5

10am Morning Prayer

4pm **LEGO** Church (Rownhams School)

6.30pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

Sunday 25th May - Easter 6

10am Morning Prayer/Immerse

6.30pm Evening Prayer



Our Vision: As a Church Community We Seek to:

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



St Boniface Church, Nursling

Sunday 4th May – Easter 3

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th May – Easter 4

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th May – Easter 5

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th May – Easter 6

11am Morning Prayer



In May Our Retiring Collection is for:

tearfund

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

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

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

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

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

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 17th May from 9.30 - 11.00am



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

Tracey Jones



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 (see p2). 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 Live** at **10am** on **Thursdays** (recording available all week) <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 NEW Alpha course starts **7th May** in St John's Church Hall. For more details 023 8073 8293 or office@twinspires.org.uk (see p11)

Thursdays 1-4pm Ladies' Shed Group (see p19)

Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p19)

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 6th May in St John's Church Hall

First Wednesdays 8-9pm CONNECT! on [Zoom](#) **7th May**

A group for new Christians

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break 1st & 15th May in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p18)

Sat 3rd May 10-11am Litter Pick meet along Bakers Drove, by the entrance to Tanglewood Lake (see p10)

Sat 10th May 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact Mike Bunce

Sat 17th May 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p15)



Dates for Your Diary:

- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 11th May.**

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.



- + **Fri 23rd May 2025 Friday Friends Afternoon Tea** (see p6)

- + **Thurs 29th May Ascension Day**

- + **Sat 7th June 10-11am Litter Pick** (venue tbc)

- + **Sat 8th - Sun 16th June Churches Count on Nature 2024**

We hope to run our TwinSpires Count on Nature family event on **Sunday 8th June 12-2.30pm.** with a bring your own picnic.

More details to follow



- + **Sat 14th June 8.30am Men's Breakfast** contact Randell McKay

- + **Weds 18th June 6-8.30pm Garden Party, Stockbridge** (see p13)

- + **Sat 21st June 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall



**Ascension Day - the first day Jesus
started working from home**

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.



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





Coffee Break is a friendly place for you to drop in for a chat, over coffee and cake, to take time out to meet with neighbours, catch up with friends and bring others along to. It's a great way to bring a wide variety of local residents together in our community.

As ever, 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 via the Parish Office: 023 80 738293, or by email to office@twinspires.org.uk.

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

In May, we meet on Thursday 1st and 15th 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. Due to the May Bank Holidays, we will only meet on 12th and 19th this month (ie no Tots Café on 5th or 26th May.)

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.



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 & 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 Social Club during building works at the Village 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 May 2025.

1st May Paddy Maxwell, singer, raconteur and humour

8th May Quiz afternoon, with time for a cuppa and a chat

15th May Braishfield Ukelele Music Society (BUMS), Singalong time

22nd May Quiz afternoon with time for a cuppa and chat

29th May John Sherborne, keyboard wizard, golden oldies, singalong

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

Mike Ward



Barnabas – a Very Likeable Disciple

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means ‘Son of Encouragement’ (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas showed generous giving (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring, sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later encouraged a new Christian in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul’s conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he ‘saw the evidence of the grace of God’ (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people’s lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be undervalued, but is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God’s people and beyond the church; strengthen people to move beyond their comfort zones to help others in need?

Let’s be prepared to ask the following questions: ‘Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?’ and ‘How can we be encouragers to others?’

Canon Paul Hardingham

News from Blue Lamp Trust

Ageas Insurance have been a long-standing supporter of the Blue Lamp Trust, a charity based in Hampshire, which supports vulnerable adults to improve their home safety and security.

The Blue Lamp Trust and Ageas, through its Rias insurance brand, have been working together to supply and install Ring video doorbells in the homes of older or vulnerable customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. So far, the Trust have visited more than 130 Rias customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and, as well as installing the Ring video doorbells, have also carried a free crime and fire prevention survey at the property.



Ageas are now donating a stock of Ring video doorbells to the Trust to be used to support vulnerable residents in the community. This is a real help, especially where The Blue Lamp Trust receives requests that they cannot fulfil due to cost implications. Ring video doorbells can be a great deterrent but can also be used to gain evidence in cases of domestic abuse or anti-social behaviour.

Blue Lamp Trust Breakfast Event

In April the Blue Lamp Trust hosted a successful 'Meet the Chiefs' Breakfast at the Utilita Bowl in Southampton, bringing together community leaders, local charities and support services to highlight the vital work of the Trust in supporting vulnerable residents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Attendees heard from Chief Fire Officer Neil Odin and Acting Chief Constable Sam de Reya, who both reaffirmed their organisations' continued commitment to the work of the Trust and its services – the Bobby Scheme and Cyber Bobby Scheme.

They spoke about the importance of prevention and how the Bobby Scheme assistance in delivering 'Fire Safe and Well' visits is helping them to reach vulnerable people in our community, raising awareness of the risks in the home and how they can protect themselves. Smoke alarms alone are not enough, education is essential, and the Bobby Scheme Safety Technicians are a crucial part of this. They talked of the police's commitment to putting victims first and providing local policing, and how the Bobby Scheme and Cyber Bobby Schemes both support this by providing further support to victims of crime and also preventative work to help people avoid crimes occurring.

The focus of the morning was to raise awareness of the support provided by the Blue Lamp Trusts schemes.. The more people that know about us, the more people we can help"

In 2024 alone, the Bobby Scheme – which offers free home safety and security visits – supported over 2,800 households, with 91% of clients reporting that they felt safer afterwards. Meanwhile, demand continues to grow for the Cyber Bobby Scheme, which delivers crucial online safety advice to help residents guard against cyber-enabled crime.

About the Blue Lamp Trust

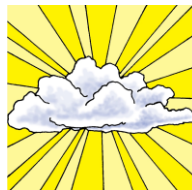
The Blue Lamp Trust is dedicated to safeguarding vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, providing them with the tools and support to live safely and independently. They offer free safety and security visits, providing practical solutions to help them live safely and independently.

For more information, please contact **Emma Burt**, Chief Executive Officer at The Blue Lamp Trust. emma.burt@bluelamptrust.org.uk or 0300 777 0157



Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20.*)



The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy. "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them."

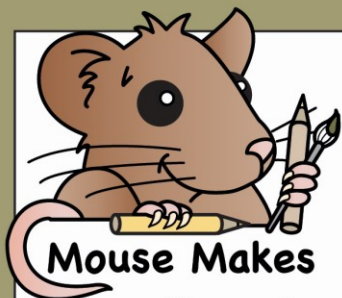
As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him – and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Parish Pump





MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.

**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

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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 **£638** 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/nurslingandrownhamspsc/>

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



Baptisms

18 Feb

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

Alex Thompson

(Ephesians 4:5)

St John's

Weddings

11 April

'Marriage should be honoured by all'

Daniel Logan & Flavia Oliveria

(Hebrews 13:4)

St Boniface

Funerals

18 March

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15:20)

Muriel Joy Ford (91)

Interred at St John's

5 April

Peter (80) & Pam (63) Roberts-Wray

Interred at St Boniface

15 April

Margaret Hopkins (33)

Interred at St John's

Prayer for May 2025 for Ascension Day

Dear God

Our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name,

Amen

Daphne Kitching



Suggestions for Your Prayers



Continue to pray for peace where there is war. Pray for the perpetrators and the victims. Remember those who have lost loved ones, homes and possessions; those suffering trauma and those who are refugees.

Pray for our PCC members, especially those with a special responsibility: Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary. Give thanks for the time they all give. Pray that they will be aware of God's help and be supported by the rest of the church. Pray that they will have wisdom as they make decisions on our behalf and that they will find this period of service rewarding.

Remember all those taking exams this month and next. That they will have good health and concentration and will be able to do their best. Pray they will not feel too stressed. Pray too for teachers and parents supporting them.

Pray for all the couples who decide to have a wedding or christening in one of our churches, that it would be a good experience. Pray that as they do the Alpha course, the Holy Spirit will be at work in their lives.

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

Continue to pray that governments will take the warnings of climate change very seriously and do more than just implement the important pledges they have already made. Pray that oil companies and those with vested interests in keeping things as they are, will become willing to put people before profits.

Pray that each of us will be touched afresh with God's Holy Spirit; that He will fill us with love for Jesus, and that He will enable and empower us to serve him more and that he will draw us deeper into His Kingdom. as the staff and volunteers share Bible stories and answer their questions.

Lilium longiflorum is known as the Easter lily because it is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ, which is celebrated during Eastertide. The lily has always been highly regarded in the Church, as Jesus referenced the flower. After Jesus' death and resurrection, some of these beautiful flowers were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus went to pray the night before His crucifixion. In some churches, the chancel is adorned with Easter lilies throughout the Paschal season (source: Wikipedia)



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