

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

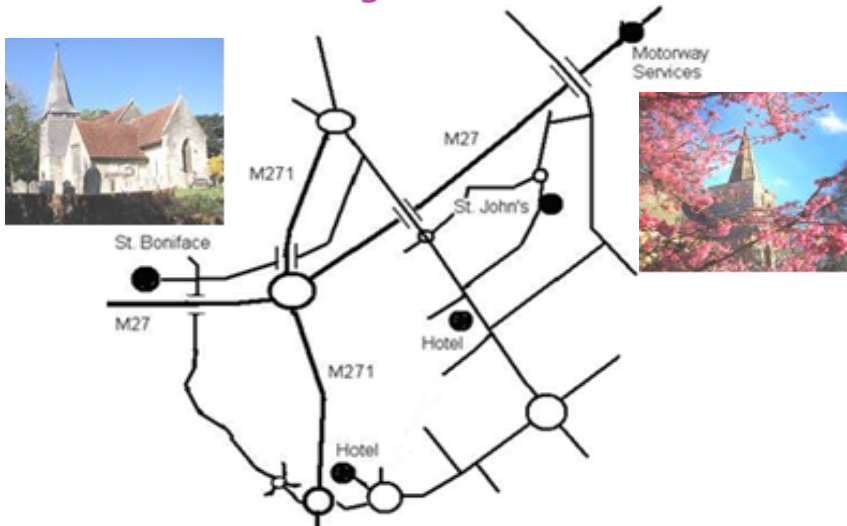
Web Edition

August  *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 23). Bank Transfer is the preferred method. More information on 'giving' is available from the Office and the church website.

Donate

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.



Registered Charity Number 1130927

Cover Image: Butterfly Watch by Sandi O'Donnell

Verse of the Month

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19



Dear Friends,

As we step into August and the heart of summer, I hope this season brings some rest and renewal for you. Whether you're enjoying a holiday, catching up with friends, or simply pausing in the slower rhythm of the month, I pray that these quieter days offer space for reflection, joy, and fresh perspective.

The change of pace summer brings is also a good moment to stop and give thanks. One of the things I've been especially grateful for recently is the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. So much of what makes our churches vibrant, welcoming, and alive happens because of you.

From setting up for worship, reading, playing music, and arranging flowers, to preparing refreshments, maintaining the churchyard, and supporting our youth and children's groups and much more - you are the heartbeat of our community. Without your quiet service and faithfulness, the church simply couldn't function. You live out our shared vision every day:



Loving Jesus, one another, and our community. Thank you.

It's with that deep gratitude that I offer a gentle invitation. Might this be the moment to explore whether there's a small way you could offer your time or gifts in a wider capacity?

We're especially looking for people to support our children, youth, and families' ministry. This doesn't require teaching experience, or any special skills - just a willingness to be present and positive. We're asking for just 90 minutes per term or every other term - perhaps helping at a Sunday group, a children's or youth club or tots. Every contribution matters and it's a joyful, rewarding part of our shared life.

We're also looking to form a small pastoral care team to help us support those in need within the congregation and the parish. This might involve occasional visits, phone calls, or offering a listening ear. If you have time, a compassionate heart, and feel this may be a way you could serve, please do speak to me.



Another area of church life we're excited about is our building. After much prayer and discernment, we have finally reached the end of the first faculty phase of re-ordering to replace pews in St John's with chairs. The chairs will allow our space to be more flexible and welcoming - for worship, recitals, community gatherings, and more. The Chancellor has formally approved the change, and we're now entering the next important stage: raising funds to pay for them.

We'll be inviting the congregation to sponsor chairs - perhaps in memory of a loved one - or to contribute generally. Every gift, large or small, will help us move forward together. More information on how to give will be shared shortly.

We're also offering the opportunity to purchase a pew. For many people, these pews hold memories of baptisms, weddings, and loved ones. We want to honour that. If you'd like to keep a pew at home, or in a meaningful place, we'd love to make that possible. We're currently working with the Men's Shed to explore ways of shortening and refurbishing pews to make them more manageable and suitable for domestic use. If this is something you'd be interested in, please let us know.

In our most recent PCC meeting, we also spent valuable time discussing something that underpins all we do: safeguarding.

The protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is not just a legal responsibility - it's a spiritual and moral commitment. We reflected on how safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and how crucial it is that our culture continues to be one of openness, attentiveness, and care.



We reviewed policies, procedures, and also practical aspects like safer recruitment and training. We asked ourselves:

- Are we doing enough to make people feel safe?
- Are our groups and gatherings spaces where people can speak up if something doesn't feel right?

I'm encouraged by the seriousness with which the PCC engaged in these conversations, and by our shared desire to keep improving.

So, let me say again: if you ever have a concern or need to talk about a safeguarding issue - no matter how small it may seem - please don't hesitate to speak to me, or to our Safeguarding Lead, Sue Muldowney. We're here to listen, respond, and ensure that every person in our church feels safe, heard, and valued.

At the heart of all of this - our volunteering, our building plans, our pastoral work and safeguarding - is a shared calling. A calling to love, to serve, and to build a church where all can belong.

The words of 1 Peter 4:10 speak powerfully into this:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

That's really what church is about. It's not about perfection or pressure: it's about all of us bringing what we have, however small, and watching how God uses it for something far bigger than ourselves.

So, this summer, I invite you to rest. To give thanks. To pray. And to consider if there might be a small way you can help us continue to love Jesus, one another, and our community - whether through time, prayer, financial support, or simply showing up.



Thank you for being part of this church. I'm so grateful for all we share - and excited for what lies ahead.

With every blessing,

Rev Graeme

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 16th August from 9.30 - 11.00am

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



Tracey Jones

Remembering David

My family and I have been so overwhelmed by pure kindness and support shown in the flowers, cards and letters we have received following the loss of dear David, we thank you all.



Graeme's support and kindness shown to Dave in those difficult weeks in hospital, and leading his beautiful service, will stay with me and my family always.

Leaving the church he loved, and full of happy memories for the last time, the sun was shining down on him. God Bless you Dave.

Angie Rowbotham

Remembering Peter Jackson

A much-loved member of our parish community

Peter Jackson, who passed away earlier this year, was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a cherished member of the Nursling and Rownhams community. Known for his broad smile, infectious laugh, and generous spirit, Peter touched many lives through his kindness, energy, and faith.

Peter's Christian faith guided everything he did. He lived a life of service - to his family, his profession, and his church. At Rownhams Church, he served faithfully as Gift Aid Secretary and was a school governor at Nursling Primary, eventually becoming Chair of Governors. After moving to Romsey in 2017, he joined the leadership team at Romsey Methodist Church and became a trustee at the Oasis Bookshop.

Peter had a distinguished career in medical physics, becoming Head of Medical Physics at Southampton General Hospital and later President of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine. Despite the demands of work, he always made time for family and community.

He also had many hobbies: cycling, sailing at Chew Valley and later Poole, ballroom and Latin dancing with his wife, and running in his later years. Whatever Peter did, he threw himself into it with enthusiasm and joy.

Peter will be remembered for his warmth, his wisdom, and the quiet way he gave of himself to others. His legacy lives on in the lives he shaped and the love he shared.



Catherine and Christine Jackson

‘You made us feel loved and special’

Margaret Audrey Jones 10th November 1933 - 2nd June 2024

On 16th July we gathered in St John’s Church to say our final goodbye to Margaret Jones. Her family and many of her friends were there to hear tributes from her son, daughter and grandson.

She will be remembered for her love of family and friends, her infectious laugh, happiness, care for others and, above all, her trust in God. She was instrumental in bringing her grandchildren, and her husband, Ron, to church.

Margaret packed a lot into her eventful life, shopping with her daughter, Yvonne, expeditions with her son, Philip, baking carefully crafted birthday cakes, treasurer of “Nursling and Rownhams Ladies’ Night” and an active membership of the “Nursling and Rownhams Women” group. She also helped in St John’s church, flower arranging, using her accounting skills and also as an administrator in the early days of the parish office. In recent years she suffered from dementia but, even then, managed to do the crossword in the paper, and always greeted visitors with ‘how’s the family?’

Our love and prayers are with Yvonne, Philip and all Margaret’s family – people she made feel ‘loved and special’.

Freds



**Come and join us at
Friday Friends**



twinspires

St. Boniface & St. John’s
The Pastoral team invites you for an

‘Afternoon Tea’

Friday, 26 September 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.

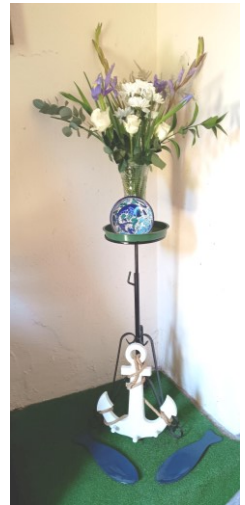
St Boniface Church News

On 12th July we celebrated **Sea Sunday** and the work of the Mission to Seafarers who support those working at sea.

Window displays at St Boniface Church reflected the Royal Navy, the fishing industry and the cruise industry. The flowers were mainly blue and white.

Thank you to Angela Wright for the photographs.

Avis Wood



The Barty Hardship Scheme – Offering Hope in Times of Need

I'm writing to share an important and exciting new initiative in our church: **The Barty Hardship Scheme** is an emergency support fund designed to offer practical help to people facing short-term financial hardship.

This scheme is inspired by the story of Bartimaeus, the blind man who sat by the roadside and cried out to Jesus, '*Son of David, have mercy on me!*' (Mark 10:47). Jesus didn't ignore him. He stopped, called him near, and asked the simple but profound question: '***What do you want me to do for you?***'

It's this moment – full of compassion, dignity, and divine attention – that lies at the heart of the Barty hardship Scheme. It invites us, as the Body of Christ, to hear the cries of those around us and to respond not with judgement or distance, but with love, generosity, and practical care.

As a church, our vision is clear: **to love Jesus, one another, and our community**. And one of our core values is transforming hospitality: offering welcome and care that reflects God's heart and changes lives. The Barty Scheme is a way we live that vision out.



This emergency support fund will be overseen by the Vicar and Churchwardens, and used to assist people in urgent financial need. It could mean helping someone who's facing homelessness find safe shelter for a few nights. It might support a local family struggling to pay a utility bill or put food on the table. It could provide travel for someone attending medical appointments, to support counselling for mental health issues, or perhaps temporary help during an unexpected crisis.

We know these needs exist – not just 'out there', but among us and around us. And when someone reaches out and says, in their own way, '*Can you help me?*' – we want to be a church that says yes.

We're inviting everyone in our church family to consider giving to the Barty Scheme – either through a one-time donation or by including it in your regular giving. It is a practical way to be part of something deeply spiritual: helping carry one another's burdens and sharing the love of Christ in action. This is not charity at a distance, it is hospitality that transforms. It is the church being the church.

Jesus met Bartimaeus' cry not with a lecture or delay, but with presence and power. Let us do the same. Let us be a people who respond with compassion, generosity, and courage when others fall on hard times.

If you would like to give to our hardship Barty Fund please contact Linda our treasurer at treasurer@twinspires.org.uk . Please join us in praying that the Barty Hardship Scheme will be a real blessing, and a faithful expression of our shared calling.

Rev Graeme

Act Now Change Forever – 9th July

Well I went to the mass lobby that I mentioned last month and saw Caroline Nokes and the photo is here to prove it!

I had attended some training and learned that I didn't have to be an expert. All I had to do was to tell her why I cared about Climate Change and Biodiversity loss and then talk about the ideas suggested by the lobby organisers.

The reason I care isn't just that, as Christians we are meant to be good stewards of God's creation, but firstly because I have been a Tearfund supporter for many years and it was probably at least 30 years ago when they started writing about how Climate Change was reversing the progress they had seen in developing countries.



I had worked out what I was going to say but had hoped that perhaps I wouldn't have to say anything! Looking on the Climate Change website it looked as if there were 4 of us registered and I hoped someone else would offer to be the spokesperson. However I was dismayed to learn that I was actually the only one who had finally committed to going so it was all up to me.

There were 3 others sitting with Caroline when I arrived and I felt very outnumbered. Fortunately, 2 of them then moved away a little so I was only talking to Caroline and an assistant. I'm guessing the others were people who knew about the subject matter so they could be called on if necessary to check facts. The other possibility is that they were watching closely to check I didn't take out a weapon!

I was surprised but pleased to discover that Caroline Nokes is now very much on board about the dangers of Climate Change and Biodiversity loss. She made the point, before I did, that they were in fact a greater threat than potential war. She also made the point before I did that it wasn't fair that the people who had done the least to cause Climate Change, were suffering the most.

As Deputy Speaker, she isn't allowed to vote or speak up on issues, but she can write to a minister and is taken more seriously than a back bencher would be. It has been shown that spending 20 minutes a day in nature is very good for our mental health, and she had already written to the Minister of Health suggesting GPs be encouraged to prescribe this to patients.

After my meeting with Caroline I went to the lobby hub, the QEII building. The various organisations that were part of the climate coalition had stalls. I spoke to the Tearfund representatives, and they were encouraged to learn that it was reading Teartimes that started me on this journey. There were various speakers too and I heard from someone who had been 13 when she first met her MP and managed to change his mind on the issue of hunting!

WWF had organised nature walks, and I attended one of these. We went to St James' Park and I learned a bit about the history of the park and some of the trees there. Apparently, it was originally the site of a hospital for people with leprosy. Then Henry VIII converted it to a deer park so he could hunt. James I improved the drainage and then kept a collection of various wild animals there. These were later moved to what became London Zoo.

There is still a variety of birds there. We were fortunate enough to see all 5 pelicans that live in the park before we left, and I went to catch a train home.

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, it also raises money for our churches. The last batch sent off raised **£35.35**. So far, we have raised about **£600** since we started collecting them.

July's Litter Pick



Firstly, thank you to those who came along to June's litter pick, as they didn't hear that it was cancelled in anticipation of the stormy weather. In July we met at the same place, at the cross-road where Redbridge Lane meets Frogmore Lane.

There are hidden, but much needed, ditches along Frogmore Lane, which harboured lots of surprises. The brambles concealed the usual plastic and glass bottles, food wrappers and a full packet of crisps (we didn't open it!). We collected 3 bags of general waste and 3 bags of recyclable plastic, aluminium cans and glass.

Next month we will meet on Saturday 2nd August at 10am in the Joe Bigwood Close carpark by the social club. This way we can tackle the skatepark, playground and surrounding woods at the start of the summer holidays.

Sophie Ross

Praying

During the latest Alpha course various groups have been praying while the sessions were happening. The difference this has made has been described as 'tangible'. So can I encourage you to pray while the Holiday Club sessions are in progress: This will be 4th – 6th August, between 9am and 12 noon. Just chat to the Lord about what you'd like to see going on there – and for good weather too!



House groups regularly report answers to prayer – it's a relaxed safe place to share what's bothering us, and to ask God for help. Do consider joining a group if you aren't in one already (please see page 2 of this magazine, or get in touch with the office: office.twinspires@gmail.com).

There is also the monthly Prayer Meeting in St John's at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month. Another opportunity to pray with others is at 2.15pm on the first and third Friday of each month at my home. (info from the office and do check the website/news sheet for any changes) These meetings usually last for about an hour and can cover any and every topic we want to bring to the Lord, and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

We can talk to God about anything – He knows it all already, and loves to hear our prayers, and to be involved in our lives. We don't need a special place or special words – just like talking to a friend. He's interested in the little details of our lives as well as the big spiritual issues. As we bring more things to God, we become more aware of what He is doing in our lives, how He is answering our prayers. Often, He leaves the answers to the very last minute or waits for us to take the first step ourselves, in order to increase our faith.

If you would like someone else to pray for you, there is usually Prayer Ministry after the morning service at St John's. This is totally confidential, and isn't restricted to a one-off, since Jesus tells us to be persistent in our prayers. There are regular healing services too where anointing with oil may take place (see website for details). The next one will be at 10am on 31st August. Jesus wants to lift our burdens whatever they look like, so do let Him come and meet with you.

Dorothy Stratford



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

The Bible, God's Living Word



What is the Bible? It is a Holy book,
And it will talk right back to you, if you take a look.
The answers you've been searching for to guide you every day,
To help you keep in step with God and show you how to pray.
God is the author of this book, He longs for you to see
He loves and cares about us, we are His family.

When you become a Christian, you're delivered from your sin
And God reigns in your heart, His Spirit is within.
So let God talk to you each day, from His Holy book
And find out what he has to say, so come on take a look.
You will be surprised and cherish the time that you spend,
You'll wonder at God's love for you and peace inside He'll send

It's full of good advice to live the way you should
And strengthen and sustain you and help you to be good.
If you follow God's advice, He will help you 'till the end
And assurance can be yours where eternity you'll spend.
The Bible gives you wisdom and will be your very guide
As you walk along life's highway, with JESUS by your side.

It shows you all the errors that others have made
And also gives good choices of those who never strayed.
It's full of stories of great things that God has done,
Especially the best thing of all, the giving of His son.
It was all part of God's precious plan because He loves us so
And He wants us to respond to that, to search for Him and know
That if we really look to HIM in our life's day by day
He'll answer prayers, give sound advice and show the perfect way.

He'll not force Himself upon you; it really is your choice.
He waits and listens patiently to see and hear your voice.
THE BIBLE is HIS LIVING WORD, it's always good and true
So, start to read it right away and it can change you too.

Our life was never meant to be lived through on our own
So, ask God into your life now and you'll never walk alone.



BIBLE = Best Information Before Leaving Earth

Lyn Banbury

Church Services in August



Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. We will use our best efforts to livestream. **If this is in your skill set, please get in touch.** 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 3rd August - Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10am All Age Worship – Forest Church

6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 10th August - Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 17th August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10am Contemporary Service

6.30pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

Sunday 24th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Immerse Service

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 31st August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10am Healing Service with Morning Prayer

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 3rd August - Seventh Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th August - Eighth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 17th August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 31st August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer



Our Retiring Collection in August

This August, our retiring collection will support the work of Street Pastors. Every contribution helps equip volunteers with vital supplies and ongoing training. More than that, it supports a ministry of presence: meeting people where they are, with love in action.





TwinSpires Churches

WEEKLY TOTS CAFÉ

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 during school term time, in the Community Centre, Horns Drove

MONDAYS 9.30 - 11AM

(The first meeting after the summer break is on Monday 8th Sept)

Come and make new friends and join in the fun, with games, activities and toys.

Drinks and snacks are provided too.

Entry is free, although voluntary contributions are always welcome.



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). Our administrator is in the office on Tues, Weds & Friday mornings. 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. Some activities may not take place during school holidays (see those marked * below).

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 p15)

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

Thursdays 1-4pm Ladies' Shed Group

Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p21)

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** in St John's Church Hall

***First Wednesdays 8-9pm CONNECT!** on [Zoom](#) (for new Christians)

***First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break** in Horns Drove Community Centre **No Coffee Break in August**, (see p21)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 1st & 15th August at Dorothy Stratford's home

Sat 2nd Aug 10-11am Litter Pick meet at Joe Bigwood Close car park by the social club (see p11)

Sat 16th Aug 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p5)



Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 10th August**
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
 - + **Mon 4th – Weds 6th August 9am – midday Holiday Bible Club**
at St John's Church (see below)
 - + **Sat 16th August 3pm The Garden Gathering at St John's Church**
(more details to follow)
 - + **Sat 6th Sept 10-11am Litter Pick** (venue tbc)
 - + **Sat 13th Sept 8.30am Men's Breakfast** contact nicklaunders@gmail.com
 - + **Sat 20th Sept 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall
 - + **Friday 26th – Sunday 28th Sept Twinspires & Romsey Abbey Youth Weekend Away** at Avon Tyrell, Christchurch. Spaces are limited Please email: youth@twinspires.org.uk for more details & price
 - + **Friday 26th Sept 2pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea**
in St John's Church Hall (see p7)
-

**TWINSPIRES
HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB**

**A 3 DAY
HOLIDAY CLUB
EXPLORING
THE HEROES
OF FAITH**

**4TH-6TH AUGUST
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
9 AM - 12PM
SCHOOL YEARS R - 6**

**BOOK NOW BY EMAILING
YOUTH@TWINSPIRES.ORG.UK**

Boniface Bike Ride 2025

Our 2025 Boniface Bike Ride was a repeat of the 2012 ride from Hook of Holland to Fulda.

In June Andy, Jacob, Mike & Maria cycled, unsupported, the 368 miles over 7½ days.

It was a challenging ride, both with the length and the hot weather we experienced on some days. We had no punctures and just one pannier problem during the trip.

Our arrival in Fulda coincided with the biennial cycle and walking pilgrimage with around 300 attendees. See below individual reflections from each of the members.



Andy - Cycling in the Netherlands is just a delight and Germany was good too. The flatlands help you settle into the saddle ready for the more undulating landscapes ahead. As with the last visit, it was cooler and wetter in the mountains. The electric storm above our heads as we left Arnsberg and several roads turning into fast flowing rivers were particularly "exciting" moments.

God's timing and provision continue to be mind-blowing: eg there was chaos at Utrecht where trains were being cancelled and moved between platforms due to the Amsterdam line being closed, trains were literally rammed full, when an empty train right next to us was allocated to our destination and had 4 bike spaces together free.

For me, the peace of cycling by the big rivers and the German fields of cereal crops on cycle tracks or quiet roads was particularly tranquil. Cycling through forests was very helpful on hot days. The event in Fulda and the kind efforts made by many people to talk with us and show interest in what we were doing were very encouraging.

The cathedral in Fulda is an incredible place of worship and in spite of the language barrier I felt a great sense of God's presence as we worshiped there. The long days in the sun felt more draining than the actual cycling and by the end of the day I was pining for a cold drink and a rest before tackling the evening.

Teamwork definitely helped. Mike packing a kettle, which the accommodation often doesn't have, was a real treat. That Mike had booked good accommodation and planned excellent routes with David was brilliant. Maria's kindness and German speaking were super helpful and Jacob's keen eye, ready to push on, "in the right direction" and fitness, were great assets, as was starting the day with a time of prayer, which reminded me we were doing a pilgrimage, not just a bike ride. Mike and Maria's willingness to take on this ride is inspiring. And of course, that with the help of our generous sponsors we raised over **£2,000** for CMS is a wonderful topper to this special ride.



Jacob - Having not completed this ride with the group before, I had been looking forward to travelling to this part of the history of St Boniface. I found the cycling very enjoyable in both countries. The views particularly in the sections of rolling hills in Germany were incredible, as was the engineering on display. It was a wonderful piece of God's timing that there was a family pilgrimage to the cathedral on the day that we had planned to arrive, and the event was wonderful. I spoke to a lady who had visited St. Boniface church in Nursling in the past and was interested in our pilgrimage.

I was particularly grateful to Maria for her translation, as I spoke almost no words of German before entering the country, and to Mike and my Dad for directing us throughout the long days of cycling in the heat.

Mike - It was a blessing to be able to complete this ride a second time, and with no knee problems this time. It was very challenging at times, but to have 3 other team members to encourage you really helps. We passed through some wonderful countryside and met many who were interested in what we were doing. It always amazes me the distances travelled by Boniface and others like him to spread the message of Jesus. My highlights were - the amazing cycle provision in both Holland & Germany; sleeping for up 10 hours some nights with that exhausted feeling and waking refreshed for another day; cream to relieve saddle soreness; the downhill from Winterburg (15km with little pedalling); the view from above Lauterbach towards Fulda and the Black Forest; the wonderful reception from the Fulda pilgrimage people; cold beers after a hot day cycling. In summary a memorable trip as all our Boniface rides have been and yes, I would do it again.

Maria - I was very pleased with the bike ride, so glad I did it! I was also glad when I had finished phew!! We had stunning weather and great accommodation every night - I very much appreciated that. Overall, the cycling was fairly flat. Winterberg was a ski resort I used the train for part of the long uphill, and where possible to shorten some of the other days. The boys were very supportive as I had not cycled long distances for 2 years. It all went very well.

For a fuller report go to the cycling section at www.mikebunce.co.uk

Andy, Jacob, Mike & Maria

Highlights from the PCC Meeting (7th July 2025)

Finance

'Funny Money' – donations of foreign currency and out of circulation UK currency totalled **£296** since January.



Policies

The following policies were reviewed and approved:

Reserves & Investment * Conflict of Interest * Legacy Policy *

St Boniface Church

- An estimated £12,000 of urgent electrical works is needed to make the church building safe.
- A survey of the dangerous **Cedar of Lebanon tree** in the churchyard estimated a cost of £20,000 to remove all limbs. Advice and approval will be sought from TVBC.
- SSSEN will be carrying out safety work in the churchyard regarding cables in trees.
- The cost of £20,000 to extend the **car park** is prohibitive. An intermediate solution of laying plastic grids, to enable extra parking on the grass when needed, will be investigated.

St John's Church

- The Chancellor has approved the purchase of the 'Durham' wood laminate chairs, with metal frame, in Beech colour, to replace the pews. Funding needs to be raised for the estimated cost of £30,000 for chairs and storage dollies. Cushions may also be needed.
- Our grateful thanks go to a church in Eastleigh who have donated a considerable amount of good quality audio system equipment, which will provide us with a digital system.
- More volunteers are urgently needed to help with the Children's & Youth Groups, as well as for our Holiday Club, running 4th - 6th August.

Remembrance Day Soldier Silhouettes & World War II Plaque

The Men's Shed will be asked to produce two metal soldier silhouettes to stand outside each church building on Remembrance Sunday. They have offered to make a small commemorative plaque for St John's Church. (St Boniface Church already have names displayed for both World Wars.)

Safeguarding

The 'Safer Church' notice and QR code will be displayed more prominently.

Future Dates:

Standing Committee: Mon 1st Sept & **PCC Meeting:** Tues 9th Sept 2025

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

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary

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.**

The club will be closed for our summer break in August. Please look in the next edition of TwinSpiresNews (or in the Village News) for our **SEPTEMBER PROGRAMME**

The Friendship Club would like to thank Test Valley Borough Council for their generous grant. This will provide financial security for the club for the current financial year.

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

Mike Ward



Coffee Break is a friendly place for you to drop in for a chat, over coffee and homemade 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. We look forward to welcoming you.

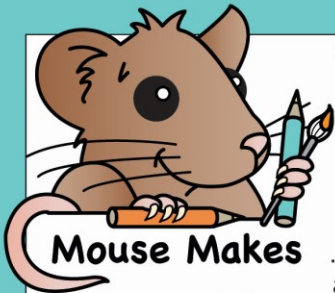
Coffee Break doesn't meet in August, in order to give our lovely volunteers a well-earned break, so our next meetings will be in the Community Centre on:

Thursday 4th and 18th Sept between 10am and midday.

If you need a lift, please contact Glennis via the Parish Office, on: 023 80 738293, or by email to: office@twinspires.org.uk.



The Coffee Break Team



Mouse Makes



Just as the different parts
of our body need each
other to make a **whole**,
living person so
Christians need each
other to make a
whole living church!



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts,
but all its many **parts** form one body,
so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised
by one **Spirit** so as to form one body...
Even so, the body is not made
up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ,
and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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

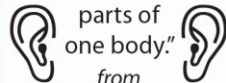
Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold**
then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are
many, we are one
body in **union**
with Christ,
and we are
joined to each
other as
different
parts of
one body."

from
Romans 12:1-7



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



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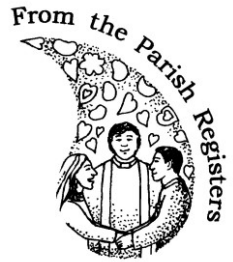
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nurslingandrownhamspcc/>

You can raise FREE donations for us when you shop online

So far we have raised over **£672** since we started.



From the Registers



Funerals

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

(1 Cor 15:20)

16 July Mrs Margaret Audrey Jones (91)

St John's

Prayer for August 2025

Heavenly Father,

August – summer holidays and sunny skies. All should be well and yet, around the world, all is *not* well!

Every day, it seems, new wars begin, catastrophes occur, world politicians play power games - and people suffer.

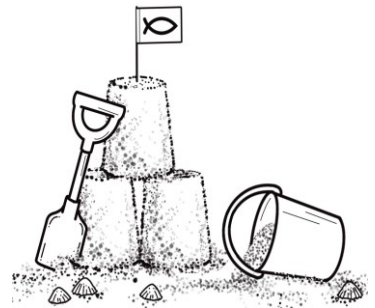
It can feel overwhelming, and we want to bury our heads in the sand, rather than build sandcastles on the beach.

Help us Lord, to look up; to see things with Your perspective; to remember that Jesus warned us that in this world we will have trouble. Then help us to remember that He told us to take heart, because He has overcome the world.

Father, help us to savor the summer, as we put our trust in You - our strength, our hope, our ultimate and unfailing security.

In Jesus name,

Amen



Daphne Kitching

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.

Suggestions for Your Prayers



Pray for our government and in particular for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. She has a very difficult job deciding what the spending priorities should be. Pray that God will help them as they settle in and learn what they need to know. Pray that God will guide them all and give them the wisdom, integrity and compassion they need to govern well.

Keep praying for those suffering from the worst effects of Climate Change. Pray that governments all over the world will take it seriously and make policies that will help to reduce our carbon emissions and fulfil their pledges to help poorer countries adapt.

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

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

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

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

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



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The Night Light Café

The Night Light Café is a friendly environment to relax, have a drink and feel safe.

A warm, welcoming space with free tea, coffee toast, snacks. The Café is free and run by the team from the Winter Beds Project at City Life Church.

The first month has gone very well. The Café has been greatly appreciated, by those coming in hungry and thirsty. We have averaged 19 people per night and 93 individuals have been through the doors.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community by providing a warm, welcoming space for those in need. Do consider joining the team. You will be blessed, as you share with people over a cup of coffee, game, etc. Often they will willingly accept prayer for their situation. **People can volunteer via the city life website:**

<https://www.citylife.org.uk/volunteering-and-vacancies/>



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