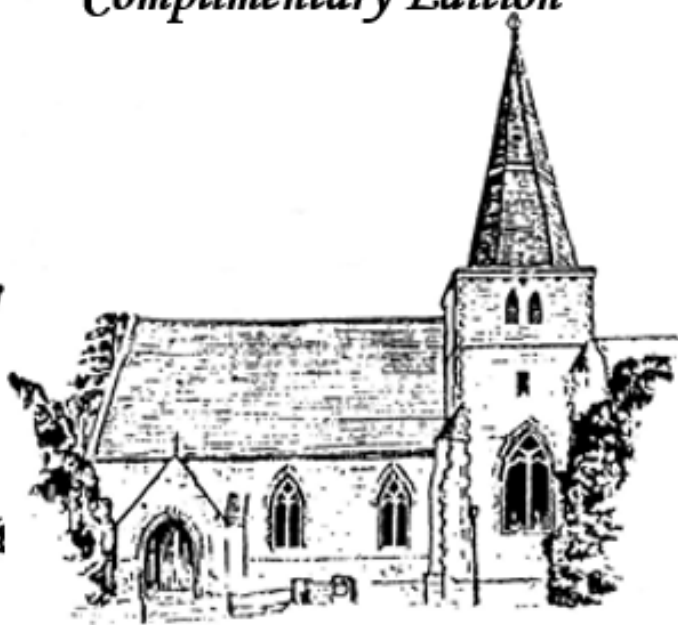


NURSING & ROWNHAMS

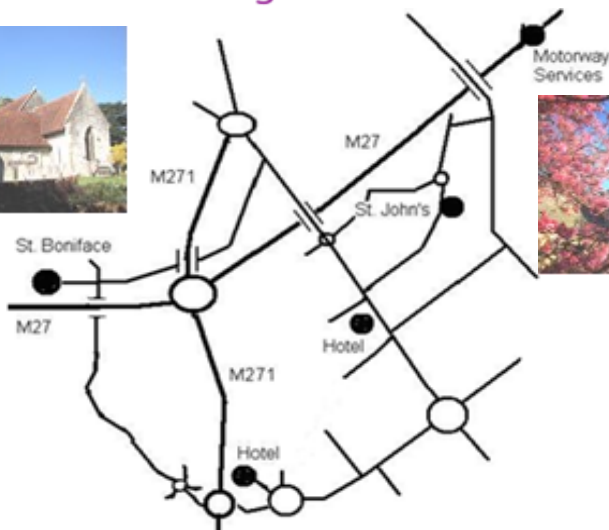
Twin Spires News
Complimentary Edition



170th Anniversary
October 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

Verse of the Month

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

This year we mark a wonderful milestone: 170 years of St John's Church standing at the heart of our parish. It is both humbling and inspiring to look back across the generations and give thanks for what God has done here, for the men and women who have faithfully served, and for the ways in which our community has been shaped by this place of worship, prayer, and hospitality.

When I first read our parish profile in discerning the call to come among you as vicar, I was struck by these words:

“to be open to being church in new ways and new places, while affirming and strengthening the old where it is still serving us well.”

That balance of rootedness and openness to change continues to resonate. It echoes the reflections of our former vicar, the Rev RF Wilson, who in 1871 published *Seven Years' Work in a Country Parish*. Wilson wrote with striking honesty about the tensions every parish faces: *“There will always be found in every parish two opposite forces...the one zealous for improvement and advance, prompting what is new, the other suspicious and impatient of change, desiring to keep things as they are.”*

Those words ring as true in 2025 as they did in 1871. Each generation of Christians is called to discern afresh how to be faithful to Jesus, how to serve our neighbours, and how to love one another well. Sometimes that requires preserving traditions that still nourish us; at other times it requires courage to embrace new opportunities, even when they feel uncomfortable. Wilson himself experienced the sting of criticism for things we would now take for granted—more frequent communion services, the use of hymns instead of only metrical psalms, even preaching in a surplice! He saw, too, the dangers of *“over haste and over caution, over independence and over consultation.”*

And yet, amidst those challenges, Wilson witnessed the grace of God at work. He marvelled that the church grew “despite himself,” – through God's generosity and the willingness of parishioners to yield personal preferences for the sake of the common good. - something I absolutely acknowledge in my own ministry here. That, I believe, is still the secret of flourishing in church life: to trust in God's faithfulness and to place the needs of the body above our individual desires.

The very origins of St John's are a testimony to God's transforming hospitality. Wilson tells us that the site of our church was once a "muddy marshy swamp" where on Sundays there was not reverence but "thoughtless merry-making and too often wild lawlessness." The so-called *Revel Oak*, where many gathered for such purposes, may well be the oak tree that still stands in our vicarage garden today. The church was built here as an act of hope - that those who gathered for idleness might instead find "occupation" in worship, fellowship, and discipleship. For 170 years St John's has sought to embody that welcome, to be a place where all belong, where lives are transformed through the love of Jesus.

And yet, our story goes even deeper. Long before St John's was built, this parish already had a sacred heart: the site of St Boniface, which has been a place of Christian worship perhaps since the 12th century. For over eight centuries, prayer has been offered there, and generations commended into God's eternal keeping. Together, St Boniface and St John's remind us that we are heirs of a long and living tradition, carrying forward the faith of those who have worshipped here for hundreds of years.

That calling continues today. Our vision is clear:
"Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours."
And we seek to live this out through our core values:

- **Transforming Hospitality – Everyone belongs.** From the building of the church to offer an alternative to the revelry at the oak, through generations of parish life, hospitality has been central. Today, that welcome is seen in our Men's Shed, Tots group, youth work, Lego Church and much else. These are not just activities but ministries of embrace, ways of saying to our community: *You matter. You belong.*
- **Faithful Growth – Rooted in prayer and praise.** Wilson may have faced criticism for singing the creed or introducing hymns, but he understood that growth comes from worship. We too are committed to prayer and praise as the soil in which discipleship grows. Week by week, we gather to be nourished by God, drawing closer to Jesus so that we might be sent out to serve.
- **Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.** Our mission statement reminds us that we are here "to grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre." That is not just the vicar's work, or the PCC's, but the calling of every member of our congregations. Each act of generosity, each moment of love offered, each invitation extended is a seed planted in God's kingdom.

Looking back over 170 years, we give thanks for the steadfastness of those who came before us: their prayers, their sacrifices, their vision. We give thanks too for God's faithfulness, who has sustained this parish through times of change, conflict, and renewal. And looking forward, we pray for the courage to continue in that same spirit: open to the new without abandoning what still gives life; willing to hold together tradition and innovation for the sake of the gospel.

I am delighted to share that our anniversary celebrations will include a special visit from the Bishop on **Sunday 19th October at St John's**, when he will join us to give thanks for our 170 years. Fittingly, this service may also be a confirmation. What a wonderful way to mark our heritage and our future together, as new disciples publicly affirm their faith and we as a church family surround them with our love and prayers.

Wilson once lamented the criticisms he received, but he also rejoiced in the evidence of God's grace breaking through. That is my prayer for us today: that despite our imperfections, our hesitations, even our disagreements, God would bring growth "despite ourselves." May St John's remain a beacon of light and love in this community, a place where Jesus is loved, neighbours are served, and all are welcomed home.

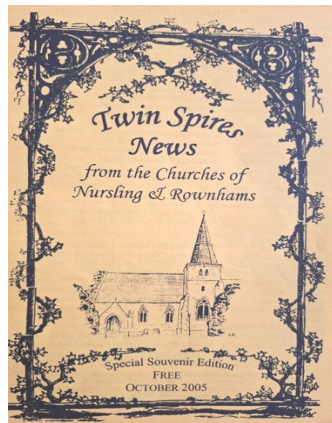
So, as we celebrate 170 years, let us recommit ourselves to our vision. Let us be a people of transforming hospitality, faithful growth, and purposeful living. And let us place our trust, as Wilson did, not in our own strength but in the generous God who has called us, sustained us, and who will, by his grace, lead us on.

Many blessings,

Rev Graeme

For our magazine cover this month, to commemorate St John's 170th Anniversary, we have tried to recreate the 150 year souvenir edition of Twin Spires News from October 2005. Yes, some of us Freds (four editors) have been working on the magazine for well over 20 years!

If you would like to be involved in gathering news from our church family, or find out what is involved in typesetting the magazine, please get in touch, we would welcome new helpers, as we anticipate having a vacancy soon, due to relocation.



Freds

Suicide Prevention Campaign

On Friday 26th September, Christine Hartley is walking a leg of the Baton of Hope relay in Portsmouth. This is to help raise awareness of the need for suicide prevention, and in memory of some of those lost to suicide (especially those known to participants).

*In Loving Memory of
James Edward Hartley
10th Sept 1977 – 8th Oct 2021*



“You have the best and only hand you will ever be dealt, so play it to the best of your ability.”

The **Baton of Hope** relay tour has been visiting various towns and cities around the country, organising exhibitions and walking events in each location, to highlight the issue and to honour some of those already lost.

If you would like to contribute to this wonderful charity, please have a word with Christine, or make a donation via their website:

<https://batonofhopeuk.org/donate/> Alternatively, you can donate by text. For £5 please text BOH – 70970 or for £10 please text BOH - 70191



Thank you for your kind support and your help to raise awareness of this important, but little-discussed, issue.

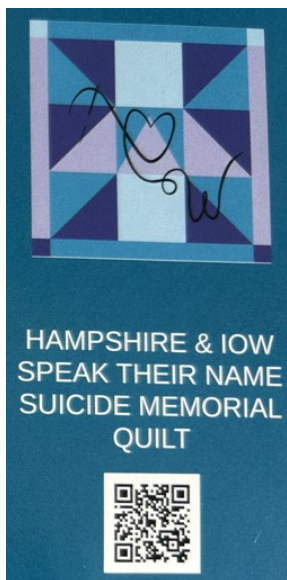
Next month we will update you on how the event went.

Freds

‘Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.’ Desmond Tutu

The Hampshire & IoW 'Speak Their Name' Quilt

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight 'Speak Their Name' Quilt is a work of art created by people bereaved by suicide. Each square is made with so much love and represents a person who lived and will always be loved and missed. The resulting art is a powerful representation and celebration of the people's lives behind the statistics we so often hear about.



It's been estimated that for every person who tragically ends their life by suicide, a conservative estimate of 10-15 people are intimately affected - and up to 135 may be more distantly affected across family, friends and communities.

Suicide loss is traumatic, heartbreaking and can be isolating and stigmatising. Our intention is to bring a small element of healing to those who have lost a loved one and some hope to those struggling themselves.

Please contact us if you would like to make a square for someone: hampshirequilt@gmail.com. Or if you would like to make a donation to support the Quilt, please use the QR code here.

Lara Kynvin & Beeb Deacon (Co-founders)

St Boniface Church News

Bettina is a valued member of our St Boniface Church congregation. She faithfully organizes the readers and intercessions rota each Sunday.

As a congregation, we gave her - and hubby, George - a basket of yellow roses, freesias and gypsophelia, together with a card (signed by as many folks as we were able to get done in the time), in celebration of their Golden Wedding, at the beginning of September.

Bettina was completely overwhelmed, but nonetheless thrilled and very appreciative of everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness. She later informed us that she had yellow roses in her wedding bouquet. How about that!?



Many thanks to our devoted flower ladies who decorate our beautiful church with flowers so faithfully each week. The recent photos below are courtesy of Angela Wright. August was a busy time, with 2 bespoke memorials to commemorate, plus VJ day and a funeral, of a member of grove place, whose wife was a governor at Nursling School. Thankfully we are blessed with a good team of volunteers who step up to whatever has to be done! That was not easy during the extreme heat we experienced this summer! .

Avis Wood



Pastoral Letter Regarding St John's Church 'Re-ordering'

For many years, we as a church have been discerning how our building can best serve the mission God has given us. Our vision is simple but profound: ***"Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours"***. This means that we long for our building not only to be a place of worship on Sundays, but also a place of welcome, hospitality, and community throughout the week.

Our Gift Day at St John's, on 14th September, was dedicated to our giving towards purchasing chairs to replace the pews. This is not really about furniture: it is about people, mission, and welcome. It is about creating a space that reflects our values of ***Transforming Hospitality*** - *where everyone belongs*; ***Faithful Growth*** - *where we are rooted in prayer and praise*; and ***Purposeful Living*** - *where we give, love, and invite*.

Why chairs matter

Replacing the pews with high-quality chairs will give us the flexibility to use our church building in ways that are simply not possible at present. Pews limit us; chairs release us. They will help us live out our mission: *to grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre*. With chairs, we will be able to:

- ✓ **Help newcomers feel at home.** When someone comes to church for the first time - whether for a baptism, wedding, funeral, or a seasonal service, chairs allow them to choose where to sit and to feel at ease. A flexible layout makes the building less intimidating and more welcoming, creating an atmosphere that is warm, hospitable, and personal.
- ✓ **Run events** such as our Good Friday Craft Day, Light Party at Halloween, Summer Fair, and Christmas Fair more easily. We can move furniture freely and set up spaces that are inviting and practical.
- ✓ **Be truly accessible:** With chairs, we can create space for wheelchairs, walking frames, prams/buggies, ensuring that no one feels excluded or awkward.
- ✓ **Deepen our schools' work:** We will be able to welcome larger groups of children and families for seasonal services, creating an environment where the young people feel at home in church and not as restricted.
- ✓ **Be creative in worship:** From café-style services and prayer stations, to church concerts and drama productions, chairs allow us to use the building in ways that meet people where they are.
- ✓ **Offer flexible hospitality:** We can clear space for coffee mornings, lunches, Alpha evenings, church celebrations, and gatherings where food and friendship go hand in hand with faith. With flexible space, we can offer quiet and reflective days, show films, hold exhibitions, creative flower festivals and community events - turning our building into a true hub for both faith and community life. We could create space for art classes, poetry readings, and other creative events.

In this way, our church becomes not only a house of prayer and worship, but also a vibrant hub for both faith and community life, exemplifying our vision of loving our neighbours.

Pews have served us faithfully for many years, but they do bring restrictions. They fix us in rows, make it difficult to adapt the space, and limit how we can use the building for worship, fellowship, and community events. Chairs, on the other hand, offer freedom and flexibility. They allow us to shape the space to fit the occasion, to create layouts that feel welcoming and inclusive. In this way, chairs help us put people first and live out our calling to be a church for all.

The process we must follow

Significant changes in church buildings are overseen by the faculty system. It recognises that church buildings are places of worship. And it allows us to balance mission, worship, and wider community use, with care and conservation. As part of this process, the Chancellor has directed that the chairs must be of a particular standard: robust, long-lasting, and fitting for the dignity of worship. This does make them costlier than some alternatives, but it also means we are investing in something that will serve us well for generations.



How you can help?

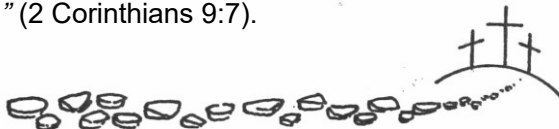
We know this is a big undertaking, and not easy in challenging times. Yet we trust that God will provide as we step forward together. Each chair costs £190 to buy (we need 112 of these) and each chair with arms costs £288 per chair (we need 28 of these). We also require 4 dollies to stack and store the chairs costing £270 each.

Perhaps you might consider purchasing the chair you sit on – and maybe the one next to you. Or you may prefer to support the project gradually, by spreading your giving over several months. Every contribution - large or small - is part of making this vision possible.



As Paul writes, *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Walking together in unity



We also want to acknowledge that not everyone will feel the same about this decision. For some, pews carry history, beauty, and symbolism. Their removal may feel like a loss. But our unity as a church family is more important than furniture. We are called to walk this journey together, to listen to one another, and to remain united in our greater purpose: to love Jesus and our neighbours.

As the psalmist reminds us: *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"* (Psalm 133:1). Our unity in Christ is a witness to the gospel - and it will matter far more to our community than the furniture we sit on.

An opportunity before us

At last, we have the chance to act on the vision we have carried for so long. By replacing the pews with chairs, we create a multi-functional, flexible space that allows us to welcome the outsider, to be fully inclusive and host community events with joy.

This is about more than comfort or convenience – it is about mission, discipleship, and hospitality. It is about being the kind of church where *everyone belongs and everyone is welcome*.

Together, we can shape our church, so that it is ready for the future – a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come to know the love of Jesus.

Thank you for walking this journey together in faith, hope, love, and unity. May the Lord guide us as we step forward and may all we do be for His glory.

With every blessing,

Graeme

Come and join us at
Friday Friends


St. Boniface & St. John's Church

The Pastoral team invites you for an
'Afternoon Tea'
Friday, 28 November 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.



Visiting the House of Virgin Mary & the Tomb of St John

Many thanks to David Hookings, who kindly shared photos of his holiday. Do bear us in mind, if you have your own memories to share with our church family, perhaps about your visits to historic places or sites of Christian significance etc. We would be delighted to hear from you: twinspiresnews@live.co.uk **Freds**

In May this year, my wife and I visited the House of the Virgin Mary, located on Mount Koressos in the vicinity of Ephesus which is 7 km from Selcuk.

We then visited the Tomb of St John the Apostle in St John's Basilica located in Selcuk, Turkey.



ST. JEAN IN MEZARI
THE TOMB OF
ST. JOHN

David Hookings



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

Can You Help?

You may not know that there is an organisation in our village called Nursling and Rownhams Helping Hands that was originally started by the church, but is now independent, that offers a helping hand to people in the village who need one. It is mainly used by those who need a lift to a medical appointment.



All our volunteers are DBS checked, and we need someone who is not meeting clients to organise these. Our current DBS checker has just resigned so we are looking for a replacement.

The job involves keeping a note of when the DBS checks are due and then processing them. It needs to be someone happy to use the internet and to meet with the volunteer to check out their ID.

There is an average of about three checks needed per year, so it is not an onerous job. If this is something you would be happy to help with, I'd love to hear from you.

Claire Thompson

Thank you to everyone who supported our Garden & Flower Event at St John's Church in August. Well before the event, our talented 'flower ladies' had created some stunning arrangements! We are very grateful to them for their ongoing displays. Also a huge thank you to all those who kindly donated flowers for us ahead of the event and everyone who support us throughout the year with donations to the flower fund.

Abbie Seymour



Church Services in **October**



Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. We will make every effort to livestream, but there are not enough volunteers to cover every service. **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



HARVEST

Sunday 5th October - 16th Sunday after Trinity

10am Harvest Festival – An informal service, suitable for families
Led by Ewan Brown and Andy Ball.

Following the service, do join us in St John's Church Hall, for a shared lunch, and an auction of food and goods, to raise money for SCM Basics Bank

6.30pm Holy Communion - A quiet service based on Common Worship

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Sharon Wills



Sunday 12th October – 17th Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion – A service based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

6.30pm Evening Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Claire Thompson BCM, with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 19th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

10am A special 170th Anniversary Service
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Bishop Geoff

4pm LEGO Church (in Rownhams School Hall)

6.30pm Prayer Meeting – a short meeting for prayer
Led by Dorothy Stratford (in place of 6.30pm service)



Sunday 26th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

10am Immerse - A modern service diving deeper into following Jesus one issue at a time
Led by Steve Beak

6.30pm Evening Prayer An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Marion Swinerd BCM, with Lynn Black

St Boniface Church, Nursling

All services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 5th October – 16th Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Tony Wingett

Please support our **FairTrade** stall after church today



Sunday 12th October – 17th Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 19th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP



Sunday 26th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

Other Opportunities for Prayer and Worship:

Friday 3rd and 17th October 2.15pm (first & third Fridays each month)

Prayer Meeting at Dorothy Stratford's home
(contact the office for the address)



Each week:

Mondays – Morning Prayer 9am on [Zoom](#)

Tuesdays – Morning Prayer 9.30am on [Zoom](#)

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

Meeting ID: 112 879 792 Password: 107871

Wednesdays – Early Prayer Time 7am, St John's Church

Thursdays – Morning Prayer 10am on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/NurslingAndRownhams/live/>

Fridays – Morning Prayer 10am in St Boniface Church

There are various small home groups meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, along with many groups for children, teenagers and young adults. See page 2 of the magazine for details, or contact the office.

Please note that the details provided here (and in this magazine) are accurate at the time of printing, but are subject to change

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 generally 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.

Mondays 9.30-11am Tots Café in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p26)

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

Tuesdays 7.30pm Alpha Course in the Vicarage (new course starts 7th Oct for approx. 10 weeks. Please contact the office to participate)



Tuesdays & Wednesdays Bible Study Home Groups (See p2)

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

Thursdays 1-4pm Ladies' Shed Group (venue: Nursling Men's Shed)

Thursdays 2.15-3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p20)

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

First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group in St John's Church Hall

First Wednesdays 8-9pm CONNECT! on [Zoom](https://zoom.us) (for new Christians)

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break in Horns Drove Community Centre 2nd & 16th October (see p20)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 3rd & 17th Oct at Dorothy Stratford's home (please contact the office for the address)

Sat 4th Oct 10-11am Litter Pick meet Upton Lane, in a layby between Grove Park and Grove Place (see p19)

Sat 11th Oct 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact Arnold Rust

Sat 18th Oct 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see below)



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 18th Oct from 9.30 - 11.00am**

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!



Tracey Jones

Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 12th October**
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 18th Oct 9.30am - 12.30pm Vocations Morning**
at St Boniface, Hursley Road **Chandlers Ford**, SO53 2FT (See p26)
 - + **Sun 19th Oct 10am Anniversary Service**, led by Bishop Geoff in St John's Church, followed by refreshments (see below)
 - + **20th – 24 Oct 11am-5pm Art Exhibition: 'The Itchen and other magical places.** St Denys Church, Old Chilworth, SO16 7NN.
Artists include: Lizzie McKellar, Lorraine Morris, Frinny Farthing
 - + **Sat 1st November 10-11am Litter Pick** (venue tbc)
 - + **Fri 7th November 11am** A service for those who have died and been homeless in Southampton (see p24) St Mary's Church, St Mary's St
 - + **Sat 8th November 8.30am Men's Breakfast** contact Peter Skidmore
 - + **Sat 15th November 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together** in St John's Church Hall
 - + **Fri 28th November from 2pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea** (see p11)
-

170 Years Young!

St John's Church is celebrating 170 years since it was founded and, as well as looking back over all that time of serving the local community, we're also looking forwards, to what we hope will be an exciting new era in our history, when our pews are replaced by chairs.

Bishop Geoff will be leading a special Anniversary service in St John's at 10am on **Sunday 19th October**, which will be followed by cake and coffee. We'd love to welcome you to this event.



If you want to be a lasting part of either our history or future (or both), by purchasing an old pew or funding a new chair, please contact us on office@twinspires.org.uk or by ringing the church office on 023 80 738 143, to express an interest.

Ann Laird, Churchwarden

Street Pastors New Recruitment Autumn 2025!

Thank you for your support of our ministry. I hope we might work together now more than ever before, so we are truly **'striving together as one for the faith of the gospel'** here in Southampton (Philippians 1:27).



Southampton Street Pastors is a safe, trusted movement of believers, prayerfully sharing the love of Jesus with those outside the church.. Every patrol is different, and we thank God that He continually puts us in the right place at the right time, to be there for those who need us most.

We are excited to be recruiting once again: the next round of training starts on **Friday 3rd October**. Every time we go out, we also have dedicated Prayer Pastors who pray from our base or from home. Prayer Pastors receive regular updates over the phone throughout the patrol, to stay informed on how God is working. Prayer is vital to our work, and we have a mix of people who feel called to this ministry, both young and old, who find it a fulfilling way to spend their time.

2025 training dates:

3 - 5 Oct, 17 - 19 Oct, 31 Oct - 2 Nov

Fridays 7:15pm - 9:15pm

Saturdays & Sundays 9:30am - 4:30pm



Pray for our city!

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective James 5:16

What is a Prayer Pastor?

Prayer Pastors are crucial to our ministry, as they pray for the people and situations our Street Pastors face during night-time, evening or afternoon patrols.

Prayer Pastors can join at any time. Come as an observer to find out more first or call/email to discuss: [Southamptonstreetpastors.org](https://southamptonstreetpastors.org)
office@southamptonstreetpastors.org * 023 8033 3387

September's Litter Pick

Thank you to those of you who came along to this month's litter pick. A big shout out to Mary, Marion, Mark, Flora, Sarah, Claire, Clive, Pat, John, Val and Darren for their mighty efforts this month.

This time we decided to litter pick along Upton Lane, as it hasn't been tackled since April last year by us community pickers.

I didn't spot any general waste bins along the roadside. Maybe someone could correct me if I am wrong! I sadly keep a record of where we have worked and how many bags of general and recyclable waste we pick up. Upton Lane is by far the biggest litter cache. In September, we filled 5 bags of general waste and 4 bags of recyclables, which are 'brown bin' items and glass.

As we had a big job on our hands, we were late in returning to base and so didn't get a group photo this time. We will tackle Upton Lane again in October. The meeting point will be on Upton Lane in a layby between Grove Park and Grove Place on **Saturday 4th October at 10am**. We look forward to seeing those of you who can spare us an hour for this worthwhile exercise. If anyone has any queries then please do contact me, or Mary Carter, via the Village Facebook messenger.

Sophie Ross



Our Retiring Collection in October is for The Leprosy Mission

How They work

Everything The Leprosy Mission does is focused on their mission to break the chains of leprosy and empower people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Their Strategy has three goals:

- **Zero leprosy transmission**
- **Zero leprosy disability**
- **Zero leprosy discrimination**



To achieve these goals:

- They support and protect the staff to be the best they can be
- They engage people in their work & make it easy to support the Mission
- They speak with one voice globally to raise awareness & call for action
- They strengthen their partners and invest in research

As a Christian organisation, their strategy is Christ-centred, with prayer and spiritual growth at the heart of their work and decision making.



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.

We enjoyed seeing everyone again in September after our summer break. Coffee Break meets again this month:

October 2nd & 16th
between 10.00am and midday
in the Community Centre in Horns Drove.

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

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 annual membership 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 **October 2025.**

2nd - John Sherbourne, playing keyboard, singing & talking about Musicals

9th - Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat

16th - Wally Cozens, C & W singer with a bit of Elvis thrown in

23rd - Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat

30th - Braishfield Ukelele Music Society (BUMS) singalong whilst they play & sing

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

Mike Ward

Congratulations, Graduates in Kimbilio



We're delighted to share the news that for the 2024/25 academic year, all 52 of the sixth graders at the Kimbilio Mapendo School have passed national exams and other requirements. Certificates in hand, they move onward to secondary studies!

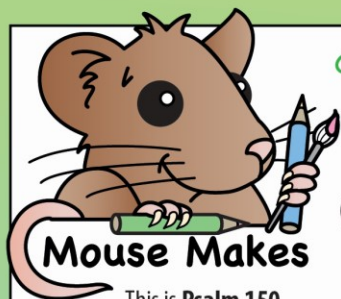


Kimbilio is charting a much-needed path for their resident children, as well as children in the local community. Before the Kimbilio Mapendo School opened 4 years ago, the lack of educational opportunity in the community was mammoth.

The primary school has made a vast improvement in the community landscape. Each year, a new grade of secondary school is added to enable primary school graduates, to continue through the secondary years. And Kimbilio won't stop there! In addition to sponsoring students at the nearby University of Lubumbashi, there are plans and designs in place for Kimbilio to open a vocational college in 2026.

Many thanks for your kind support for our various projects. Your donation is a lifeline, a lesson, and a step towards a better future for a child in DR Congo – a part of their journey towards hope and empowerment. For more information and ways to contribute to the charity, please visit: <https://www.congochildrentrust.org>

Kimbilio (Swahili for 'refuge') is a grassroots charity, established in 2009, to work with street children in Lubumbashi, Funds are raised through the UK registered Congo Children Trust.



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.

*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

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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 our 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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You can raise FREE donations for us when you shop online

So far we have raised over **£673** since we started.



Baptisms
14 Sept

From the Registers



'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'
Robyn Eloise Henry



(Ephesians 4:5)
St John's

Prayer for October 2025

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers.

Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love - and a kinder world.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**

Daphne Kitching

Commemoration Service for 21 People



Friday 7th Nov 11am
at St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street

Suggestions for Your Prayers



Praise God that he is the Lord of all things. He is in ultimate control of the world. Pray for an outpouring of his Spirit that the desire for more power and more money that fuels wars and climate change will decrease and desire to serve God will increase.

Pray for Graeme and Steph. For God's protection for them and the family. Pray for their health. Ask that God will guide Graeme and the PCC; that they will be able to discern what the priorities should be and how best to reach out to those in the community. Pray too for unity within the church family.

Pray for Ewan and Izzy. Pray for good health and thank God for them and all they both do for our church: Ewan with the young people and Izzy with the website. Pray that Ewan will be encouraged in his work, that God will give him fresh ways to communicate the gospel with the young people and that there will be enough helpers to run all the youth groups. Pray that each young person who attends will grow closer to Jesus.

Pray for new students starting at university or college this month: that they will settle well and make new friends. Pray too that God would protect them and help them to resist unhelpful peer pressure. Ask that those who are Christians will link up to a fellowship where they can be supported and grow in their faith.

Pray for wisdom and insight for all those who are seeking the prevention and cure of leprosy; for skill and sympathy for those who minister to the patients and that those who have been separated from their families because of the disease might be healed and reunited with them.

Pray for those who come to our Monday Tots group. That the children will enjoy coming and that the parents will find it a place where they can find encouragement and support. Pray too that God will use it to help them come to know him and his love and care for them.

Give thanks for Scripture Union as they provide materials to help churches run Light Parties as an alternative to Halloween Parties. Pray particularly for the one at St John's to be well attended and much enjoyed.

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.

Vocations Morning

Saturday 18 October
9:30am – 12:30pm

St Boniface Church, Hursley Rd,
Chandler's Ford SO53 2FT

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

Join Bishop Rhiannon and Revd Dr Amy Roche, along with members of the Mission & Ministry Team, to find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries. There will be a particular focus on opportunities for lay ministry including Exploring Theology, Bishops Commission for Mission and Bishops Permission to Preach.



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

For more information and to book,
please contact Tracey Nicholls:
Tracey.Nicholls@winchester.anglican.org
01962 710983



Scan to Book



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

(no meeting on Monday 27th October due to half term holidays)

Connect with other parents and bring your little one
for play, crafts, friendships, nursery rhymes and Bible stories

Refreshments provided

Entry is free, although voluntary contributions are always welcome.



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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 from **Tues 7th Oct 2025 at 7.30pm in The Vicarage (for c.10 weeks)**

For more details, to help with catering, or to sign up:
email: office@twinspires.org.uk or phone: **023 80 738293** and leave a message.

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