

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

November 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.



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Cover image: by Sandi O'Donnell



Verse of the Month

I thank my God every time I remember you.
Philippians 1:3 (NIV)



Dear Friends,

November is a month shaped by remembrance. As the light fades and the year turns, we pause to look both back with gratitude and forward in hope. From All Saints' Day to Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us, giving thanks for their lives and for the ways they continue to shape our journey of faith.

At All Saints/Hallows, we remember with gratitude those we have loved and lost. Each life reminds us that we are part of something far greater - a community of faith that stretches across time and eternity. We echo the words of Hebrews: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

A week later, on Remembrance Sunday, we recall those who gave their lives in the cause of peace. We give thanks for their courage and sacrifice, and we pray for peace in our own generation. As I write, the conflict in Gaza may be about to end. We pray for all who grieve, and we hold onto hope that peace and justice will prevail.



Remembrance, at its best, is not about looking back with sentimentality, but about remembering with gratitude - and allowing that gratitude to shape how we live today.

So, what does it truly mean to be thankful? The word *thankfulness* comes from the Greek *charis* — the same word for grace. It reminds us that everything we have, everything we are, is a gift from God. John the Baptist said, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven." (John 3:27). That means that life itself is grace - unearned and freely given.

But there's a beautiful distinction here: Gratitude recognises the gift; thankfulness responds to the Giver. Gratitude begins when we see the goodness of what God has done - in creation, in the people who bless our lives, and most of all in Jesus Christ.





But thankfulness takes the next step. It doesn't stop at noticing the gift; it moves toward a relationship with the Giver. To be thankful is to turn our gratitude into action - to offer ourselves in response to God's grace. Nowhere is this clearer than in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

In Jesus we see the ultimate gift: the gift of God's own self, given for us. His cross reveals both the depth of our need, and the depth of God's love. Gratitude recognises that gift; thankfulness responds to it. We are thankful for Jesus' sacrifice, for the forgiveness and hope He offers,

and for the Spirit He gives to guide and strengthen us. But true thankfulness doesn't end with words of appreciation - it becomes a life of discipleship.

Jesus said to His followers,
"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)

Our thankfulness, then, sends us out. We live thankfully not only by saying *thank you*, but by doing His will: serving others, seeking peace, loving our neighbours, and sharing His grace in word and deed. In this way, thankfulness becomes mission. Every act of love, every offering of time.

We've seen many expressions of that gratitude and thankfulness in our church family recently. Our Gift Day was an extraordinary display of generosity - far beyond what we imagined. Thank you for giving so freely. It's a reminder that gratitude opens our eyes to the gifts of God, and thankfulness opens our hands to share them.

We are also deeply thankful for all who serve in our churches - in worship, pastoral care, maintenance, hospitality, and prayer. Your service is thankfulness in action.

This spirit of gratitude and thankfulness runs through our vision and values:

- **Transforming Hospitality** - Everyone belongs. Gratitude sees every person as a gift from God; thankfulness responds by opening our doors and hearts to all.



- **Faithful Growth** - Rooted in prayer and praise.
Gratitude gives thanks for God's presence; thankfulness seeks to grow in faith through prayer and worship.
- **Purposeful Living** - Giving, loving, inviting.
Gratitude recognises that life is a gift; thankfulness responds by living generously and purposefully for God's kingdom.

This is also our mission: *to grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre*. Thankful hearts draw others to the Giver of all good gifts.

Scripture gives us many examples of thankfulness in hardship. In *Psalms* 28, David cries out for help yet ends with praise:

"Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me." (Psalm 28:6–7) David's gratitude comes not from comfort, but from confidence in God's faithfulness.

Job, too, shows this deep trust when he says, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21). This is the faith that sustains us — gratitude that recognises God's gifts, and thankfulness that continues to respond to God's goodness even in loss.

Paul expresses it beautifully:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Thankfulness is not denial; it is faith in action. It is the choice to trust that, even when we cannot see the way forward, God's love is still holding us. As we move through this month of remembrance, may our gratitude and thankfulness deepen together. Let gratitude open our eyes to the gifts around us: to beauty, to memory, to the grace that sustains us. And let thankfulness move our hearts to respond - to love, to serve, and to be sent into the world as Christ's hands and feet.

"Rejoice in the Lord always... In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:4–6). May our remembrance lead us not only to sorrow, but to service. May our gratitude for the gift of Jesus lead to thankfulness that lives out His mission of love.

Many blessings,

Rev Graeme



St Boniface Church News

Harvest Festival

On 28th September, Pat Wootten led a very humbling service, with much for us to think about, and with all the much-loved traditional Harvest hymns.



The church was beautifully decorated to reflect 'Rural Life from years past'.



A huge quantity of tins and packet foods were generously donated, to find their way to a local food bank. Many thanks to all those who gave, to help re-stock their larder.



Remembrance Sunday – 9th November 2025 **80 years since the end of the second World War**

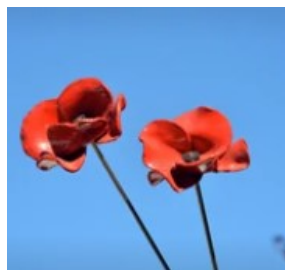
We will remember, particularly, the men from Nursling and the Hamlet of Upton, who died in both WWI and WWII.

On display will be one the ceramic poppies created especially for the 'Blood-swept Lands and Seas of Red'; originally from the installation at the Tower of London, in 2014.

The late Jean Wylde bought one of these poppies when they were put up for sale, and it has always taken pride of place, each year, at this time, on the Altar. Her daughter is very kindly lending it to us again, to continue that tradition, for which we are very grateful, for others to see and enjoy in remembrance. In addition, this year, we will have a poppy which is one of 20 thousand poppies, from the Commemorative Lancaster Bomber Poppy Display. Marking 80 years since VE Day 8 May 1945 and VJ Day 15 August 1945, this poppy has come from the striking, captivating and poignant installation from the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln.



Twenty thousand of these ceramic poppies have been created by Darius Sirmulevicius, a Lithuanian artist, now living in Kirton, Lincolnshire. Each poppy is handcrafted; no two poppies are the same and each is a unique piece in its own right. They were displayed in the shape (aerial view) of a Lancaster Bomber aeroplane, flying through the clouds. Again, the poppies which formed this installation, were being sold with proceeds going to support the work of several military charities. This initiative ensures that the stories of resilience, courage and unity remain both relevant and inspiring for years to come. The flower team at St Boniface have bought one such poppy, which should arrive in time to be put on display, alongside the poppy from 2014, as a token of remembrance on Armistice Day.



If you are able to attend our special service, I hope you will have time to take a look at these beautiful poppies, and to pause and reflect on those who fought, those who never returned home, children who were evacuated and women on the home front.

Open Day

In support of Nursling Men's Shed, the church will be open to visitors on Saturday 22nd November, from 10-2pm. There will be historical documents and photographs to view.



Christmas 'Carols by Candlelight'

This special traditional service is always much anticipated. We hope to celebrate this on Sunday 21st December at 3.30pm. The church will be decorated to represent 'The UK at Christmas'. More details later.



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



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



Harvest Festival Service Flower and Food Donations

Many thanks to the St John's Flower Ladies, who decorated the church so beautifully and creatively for the Harvest Festival Service on 5th October.



The generous donations from our Church family for the Southampton City Food Bank were truly appreciated.

Thank you! Abbie Seymour

Clergy Appreciation Week 16th – 22nd November 2025

Hello Dear Friends,

November is here, and this means time for Clergy Appreciation Week.

It is our opportunity to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Graeme, and Steph, Jim, Lynn, Ewan and our wonderful Church Wardens for everything that they do for each one of us.



We are so very blessed in both of our Churches. I am sure that we all thank those who lead our worship and take part in the services throughout the year, but this is just an extra opportunity to show our appreciation in whatever way that you feel led.

With our love and thanks to each one of you. You are all precious and treasured Children of God.

Pat and Sharon Wills

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 5.5)

Do everything in love. (1 Corinthians 16.14)

Be kind to one another and tender-hearted (Ephesians 4.32)

Here are Some Ideas of Ways to Say “Thank You” to our Clergy

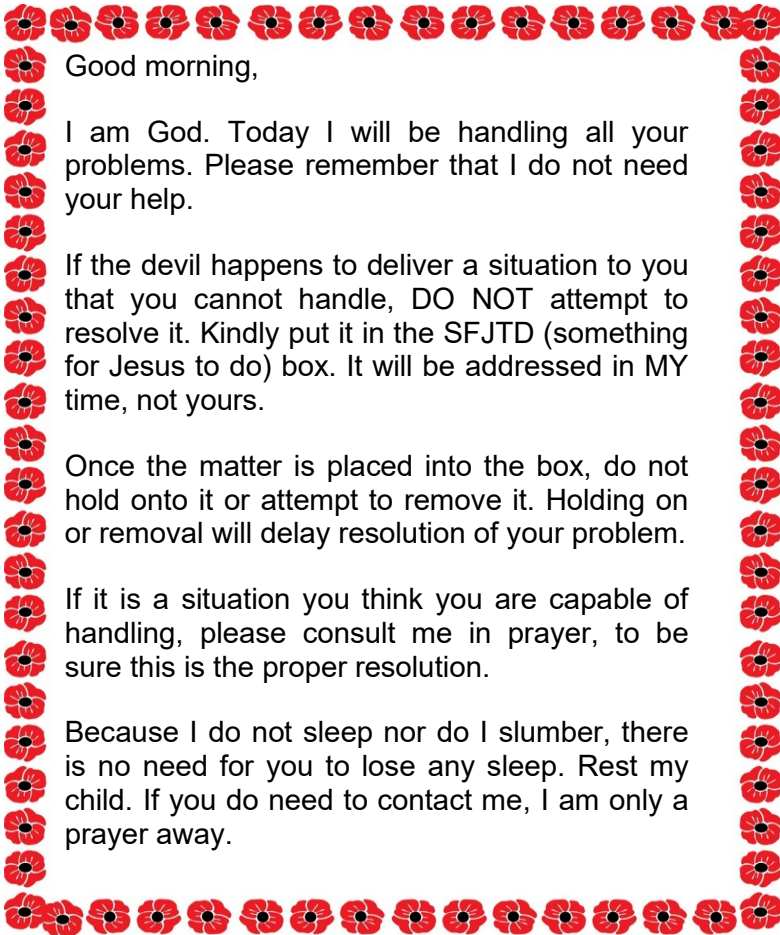
- ♥ Pray for our leaders and their wellbeing
- ♥ Pray more, complain less
- ♥ Offer to help - don't wait to be asked! Our leaders are ordained to give, and it can be hard for them to ask for things. Volunteer your time as a sign of support and service
- ♥ Write them a note expressing your gratitude
- ♥ Encourage them to take time off - and try not to disturb them with non-urgent queries when they do! (...Graeme's day off is Thursdays)

Ideas borrowed from:



Good Morning

Many thanks to Fiona Skidmore, for sharing these beautiful words, which were displayed in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Chapel, at RAF Coningsby, Lincs



Good morning,

I am God. Today I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, DO NOT attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer, to be sure this is the proper resolution.

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you do need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

An Invitation to those who have Been Bereaved

**Please join us on Sunday 2nd Nov at 6.30pm
in St John's Church
for our Holy Communion Service
with a special invitation to those who have lost loved ones.**



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.

November's Retiring Collection is for The Bible Society

More than 200 years ago people who believed passionately that the Bible had something to say for the whole of humanity founded The Bible Society. Today, we still share that vision. When we read the Bible, we find out more about God, more about ourselves, more about the world. That's why we want to share it.



We believe the Bible is God's gift to the world. We want everyone to discover its message for themselves. We translate the Bible and make it accessible. We bring it into public spaces where its voice can be heard. We encourage people who've never thought the Bible was for them, to explore it for themselves and see life through a different lens.

Leaf Some Green Stuff

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much.



Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants. 'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside! **Parish Pump**



Highlights from September's PCC Meetings (9th & 18th)

Health and Safety

- ✓ Graeme will update our Emergency Evacuation Plan to include the use of chairs.
- ✓ Graeme will update the Job Specification for Sidespeople, who play an important part in any evacuation of our two churches.

Policies - The following were reviewed:

- ✓ Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
- ✓ PCC Code of Conduct
- ✓ Complaints Policy
- ✓ Data Protection and Privacy Policy

St Boniface

Men's Shed Agreement

- ✓ The wording of the new Agreement, covering the use of St Boniface Church Hall by the Men's Shed, was approved ready for signing by both parties.
- ✓ The Men's Shed had received funding for two new windows for the Church Hall. The PCC approved installation of these. Our grateful thanks are extended towards the Men's Shed for their maintenance of the building.
- ✓ Urgent electrical works (approximately £15,000) for St Boniface church were approved. From the giving day, and subsequently, £8,800, had been donated towards the electrical work. Our thanks go to the Barker Mill Trust for their grant of £1,000.
- ✓ Necessary tree work in the churchyard had been completed by SSEN.

St John's Church

✓ Pews to Chairs

Installation of the chairs is planned for the New Year. To date, donations of approximately £25,000 had been received towards the cost. There had also been some online interest to purchase pews.

- ✓ New external lights will be fitted to be angled towards the front door of the church and the side path.
- ✓ A significant crack, from floor to roof, had appeared in the wall behind one of the choir stalls, and visible from outside. This is being monitored.

Next Standing Committee: Mon 3rd Nov

Next PCC Meeting: Tues 18th Nov 2025

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

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary



Church Services in November

The Saviour comes

St John's Church, Rownhams

Our livestreamed worship is primarily via our [YouTube](#) channel. We will make every effort to livestream our 10am services, 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.

Sunday 2nd November - All Saints/4 before Advent

10am All Age Worship – An informal service, suitable for families
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon and Ewan Brown.

6.30pm All Souls Service - A quiet service, with a special invitation to those recently bereaved
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon



Sunday 9th November – Remembrance/3 before Advent

10am Remembrance Service
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

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

Sunday 16th November – 2 before Advent

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

4pm LEGO Church (in Rownhams School Hall)

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



Sunday 23rd November – Christ the King/next before Advent

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 Christine Owen BCM, with Rev Jim Stanley-Smith

Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday

10am Morning Prayer led by Rev Graeme Dixon.

6.30pm Healing Service, led by Rev Graeme Dixon
with Christine Owen BPP



St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 2nd November - All Saints/4 before Advent

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Tony Wingett

Sunday 9th November – Remembrance/3 before Advent

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP

Sunday 16th November – 2 before Advent

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, with Linda Klein

Sunday 23rd November – Christ the King/next before Advent

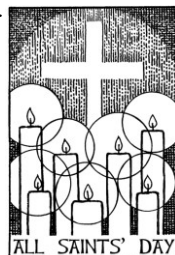
11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

Sunday 30th November – Advent Sunday

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP



Other Opportunities for Prayer and Worship:

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 in St John's Church

Thursdays – Morning Prayer 10am on Facebook Live

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

Fridays – Morning Prayer 8.30am in St Boniface Church

Friday 7th & 21st Nov 2.15pm (first & third Fridays each month) Prayer Meeting at Dorothy Stratford's home. Please contact the office for the address.



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 the details provided here 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** (see p19), 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 6-7pm ROOTS Group (ages 11+) in St John's Church Hall

Mondays 7-8pm MORE for ages 11-16 in St John's Church Hall

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 p18)

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](#) (for new Christians)

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break in Horns Drove Community Centre **6th & 20th November** (see p18)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 7th & 21st Nov (see p15)

Sat 1st Nov 10-11am Litter Pick meet end of Bakers Drove where it joins Rownhams Lane. (see p20)

Sat 8th Nov 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact Peter Skidmore

Sat 15th Nov 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: **Sat 15th Nov 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 9th November**
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 15th Nov 7.30pm Tearfund Big Quiz**, in St John's Hall (see below)
- + **Sat 22nd November 10am-2pm St Boniface Open Day** – Supporting Nursling's Men's Shed (see p8)
- + **Fri 28th November from 2pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea** (see p12)
- + **Sat 6th December 10-11am Litter Pick** (venue tbc)
- + **Sat 13th Dec 9am Romsey Golf Club Family Breakfast** (see below)
- + **Sun 21st Dec 3.30pm Carols by candlelight in St Boniface Church** (TBC)



Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Saturday 15th November 7pm St John's Church Hall



Get together with your friends, family and community, for an epic evening of poverty-beating fun

Free to take part but there will be an opportunity to donate to the work of Tearfund.

Every pound raised at the Big Quiz Night will help transform the lives of people living in poverty.

If you would like to donate online, please visit

www.justgiving.com/page/quiz2025

Family Breakfast Sat 13th Dec 9am (please arrive 8.30am)
at Romsey Golf Club. Adults £13.95 * Children £7.95

Full English breakfast with veggie option, tea, coffee, fruit juice, toast, jam

(in place of Men's Breakfast and Ladies Get Together)

Please contact mikebuncewoodsiders@gmail.com to reserve your place.





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 meets again this month:

November 6th & 20th
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 **November 2025**.

- 6th** - Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat
- 13th** - Paddy Maxwell, singer, raconteur and humour
- 20th** - Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat
- 27th** - A talk by Peter Ransom from N & R Community Band about Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar with music and other effects

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

Mike Ward



Our youth groups meet regularly **during school term time**, in addition to one-off events. Below is our regular weekly programme of activities. Please contact youth@twinspires.org.uk or the office for details:

What's On @ **TWINSPIRES**

TOTS	ST JOHN'S TOTS Mondays 9:30-11am 📍 Rownhams Community Centre	AGES 0-5
ROOTS	ROOTS Mondays 6-7pm 📍 St John's Church Hall	AGES 11+
MORE	MORE Mondays 7-8pm 📍 St John's Church Hall	AGES 16+
BEACON	BEACON Wednesdays 7-8:30pm 📍 St John's Church	AGES 11+
IGNITE	IGNITE Fridays 4:30pm-5:30pm 📍 St John's Church Hall	AGES 4-7
NET	NET Fridays 6-7:30pm 📍 St John's Church Hall	AGES 7-12
TWINSPIRES TOGETHER	1 st Sunday of Each Month 10am 📍 St John's Church	
LEGO CHURCH	3 rd Sunday of Each Month (term-time) 4-5pm 📍 Rownham's School	

EMAIL: youth@twinspires.org.uk

WEBSITE: twinspires.org.uk



October's Litter Pick

Thank you to everyone who came to this month's litter pick, what with the unpredictable windy weather! A big shout out to Mary, Clive, Graham, Mark, Flora, other Mark, Claire, Val, Darren, Bettina and Richard for their mighty efforts this month. Also, a big thank you to Bettina and Richard and the management at Grove Place, for inviting us in for a cuppa and a tour of the beautiful grounds.

This month we tackled Upton Lane, a little further down past Grove Place, following lots of litter found closer to the Romsey Road end last month. We filled 6 bags of general waste, one bag of recyclables, and one bag of glass. We also found a fly tip, which was reported to the council via their app.

Next month we will meet at 10am on Saturday 1st November at the end of Bakers Drove, where it joins Rownhams Lane.



If anyone has any queries then please do contact myself or Mary Carter via the Village Facebook messenger.

Sophie Ross



Hampshire Men's Sheds Gathering



On Monday 13th October Nursling Men's Shed hosted a gathering of Hampshire Men's sheds. We also welcomed the recently appointed CEO of UK Men's sheds, Caroline Ellis and Chair of Trustees, Rob Lloyd. We were grateful to Wessex Insurance for sponsoring the event.

Members from Andover, Bitterne, Fareham, Church Crookham, Colden Common, Hayling Island, Romsey, Shirley and Wellow sheds joined us, along with members from our ladies section, and it was good to share ideas over tea, coffee and bacon butties.



In Caroline's address to us in the lovely St. Boniface Church next door, she stressed that the UK Men's Shed Association is there to support Sheds and raise the profile nationally, but every Shed is different and will manage itself. The purpose of Men's Sheds is to combat social isolation and provide an outlet for men to meet, chat and use their life skills to benefit the local community, which in turn raises self-esteem.

To find your local Men's Shed, search online for 'UK Men's Sheds'.

Mike Bunce

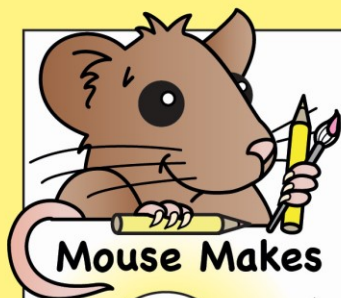
We are Losing our Peregrine Falcons

Our peregrine falcons are dying. We have lost 80% of our UK population in the past 50 years, making them one of the most-at-risk British birds.

Peregrine falcons are among the fastest animals on the planet, and the largest species of falcon in the UK. Although some rewilding and conservation projects are underway to help these beautiful predators, they are being decimated by pesticide poisoning and illegal hunting. According to recent statistics from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, our peregrine falcon population is shrinking about 7% a year.

Parish Pump





LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



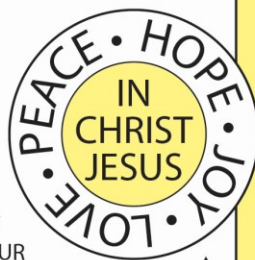
Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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



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From the Registers



Funerals

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

(1 Cor 15:20)

19 August Neville Caffyn (91)

St Boniface

28 August David Kelsey Rowbotham (85)

Interred at St John's

27 September Colin Jones

Interred at St John's

Prayer for November 2025

Dear Lord,

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday!

Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people.

We know that nothing is impossible for You, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.

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 the church leadership team. For wisdom and guidance for them. Ask that they will feel encouraged and supported and that they will know the power and strength of the Holy Spirit and have God's peace. Pray too that the process of changing the pews for chairs at St John's will go smoothly.

Remember this month those who grieve for loved ones lost through illness, accident, natural disasters, terrorism and war. Pray that they will be aware of God's love for them and know His comfort and peace. Pray too for those who attend our service for the recently bereaved - that it will bring them comfort.

Continue to pray for peace where there is war. For God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done. Pray for all those trying to find solutions where there is conflict. That there might be a de-escalation of violence and that each side would be able to understand the other's point of view. Pray for an end to terrorism.

Pray for pupils, staff and governors in our local schools. Pray for protection for all and that the pupils will be happy and will form good relationships. Pray that the staff might feel supported by each other and by the governors and given the strength to cope with their workload. Ask too for wisdom for them as they relate to the pupils.

Pray for protection for the staff of the Bible Society, especially those working in difficult and oppressive situations. Pray that they will be encouraged and that they will shine as lights to all they minister to. Pray for unity and efficiency in all their mission and activities.

Pray for integrity for our government and for wisdom and the desire to see how best to govern the country. Pray that they will be able to discern what the most important issues are and the best solutions. Pray that they will have compassion for those who are really struggling financially and will see how best to help them.

Pray for the climate talks in Brazil this month (COP30). Pray that world leaders will work together and make decisions that will protect the planet and all who live on it. Pray that collective actions will begin the long repair of the damage we have caused. Pray that the huge fossil fuel lobby will not carry more influence than leaders of countries already suffering badly from climate change.



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If you're a parent, grandparent, or carer,
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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

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