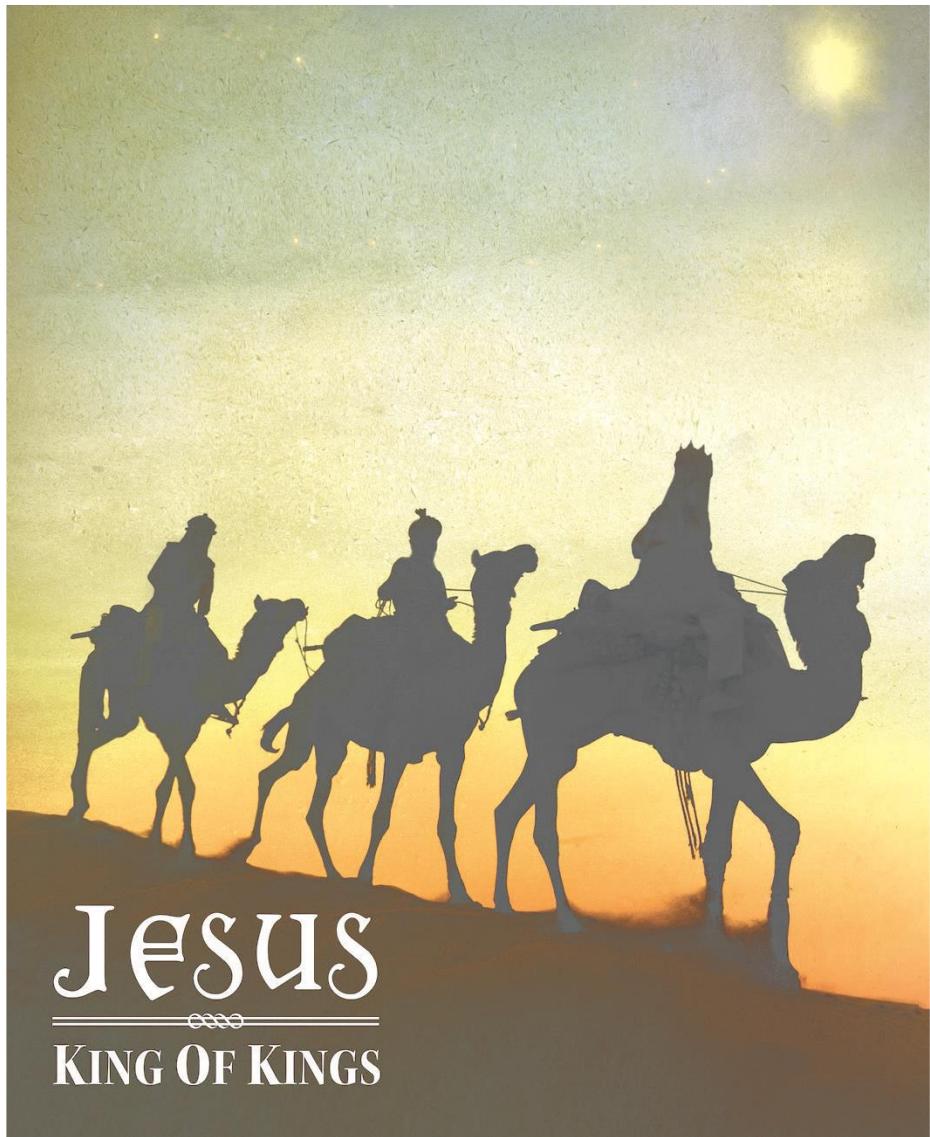


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

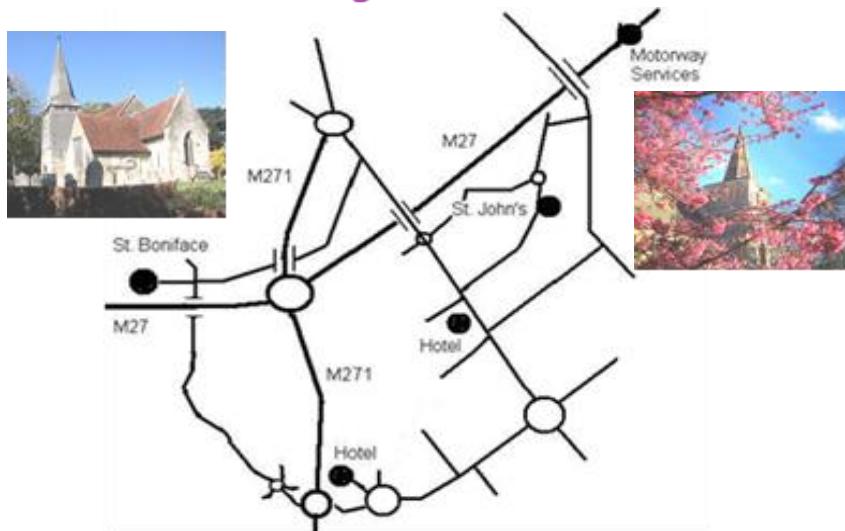
Web Edition

January 2026



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

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear friends,

As we step into a new year, we do so in the light of Epiphany—a season when God reveals who Jesus truly is. Epiphany invites us to look again, to pay attention, and to recognise the ways God is working among us as we begin 2026.

We start with the wise men – outsiders, travellers who followed a star they did not fully understand. They arrived with gifts whose meaning they themselves couldn't have grasped. Their story reminds us that God draws people from unexpected places, often long before they understand what is happening in their hearts. The strangers become guests; the guests become worshippers; and the worshippers become part of the unfolding story of God's love.



This speaks clearly into our vision: “Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours.” Epiphany invites us to look outward – to those who may be searching, questioning, or quietly longing for hope. And it especially encourages us to create space for them.

That’s why the new chairs arriving at St John’s are more than just furniture. They allow us to shape our space with greater flexibility – to gather around tables, pray in new ways, welcome community events, and create environments where seekers feel at ease. Like the stable that welcomed the wise men, the space we prepare can help others draw near to Christ. This year, let us ask: Who will God lead to us? Who are the outsiders or the curious ones He is already prompting toward faith? And how will we respond?

In that spirit, I am delighted that a new Alpha Course begins this January. Alpha provides a gentle, open way for people to explore the Christian faith – ideal for those who, like the wise men, are searching but may not yet know what they will find.



I encourage you to pray for Alpha, invite someone to come, or offer support in any way you can.

Epiphany also includes the moment when John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). John saw what others did not yet see. Helping people see Jesus clearly remains part of our mission: “to grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre.” Through welcome, worship, prayer, and friendship, we can be people who help others recognise the presence of Christ.

Yet even in this season of revealing, doubt still appears. Later, from prison, John sends word to Jesus asking, “Are you the one who is to come?” (Matthew 11:3). If John could question, so can we. Jesus answers him not with rebuke but with evidence of God at work – lives changed, hope restored. Epiphany reminds us to trust God’s work even when we cannot yet see the whole picture.

We also meet Simeon, who waited faithfully until the moment he could finally hold the Christ child and declare, “My eyes have seen your salvation.” Simeon teaches us patient, confident hope – trusting God’s promises even when the wait is long. That is a wonderful encouragement as we look ahead to the opportunities and challenges of the coming year.

There is also practical renewal happening in both our churches. At St John’s, the new chairs give us the flexibility to welcome more people, host new ministries, and adapt our worship as the Spirit leads. At St Boniface, electrical work, plaster repairs, and fresh paint will help ensure that our building continues to be a safe, warm, and beautiful place for worship and welcome. These practical acts of stewardship reflect our value of Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.



As this year begins, I want to encourage us to be a praying community. We should be praying as a matter of urgency – praying expectantly and persistently – as we wait for God to reveal His plans and purposes for us. This truly is a year of opportunity for both our churches.

At St John’s, prayer will help us discern how best to use our renewed space and how to embrace those God sends our way. At St Boniface, prayer will help us see beyond building work to the deeper work God is preparing to

do in the lives of His people. In both churches, let us ask: Lord, whom are You bringing to us? And how can we love them well?

As we journey through Epiphany, may our eyes be open like Simeon's, our hospitality wide like the stables, and our worship wholehearted like the wise men's. And may our prayers rise with urgency and trust as we seek God's will for the year ahead.

With love and every blessing,

Graeme

The Seven Deadly Sins: Pride

Our new series looks at the 7 Deadly Sins, a list compiled by Pope Gregory 1 in AD 590 to describe the nature of sin. This month we consider pride, '*the beginning of all sin*' (Augustine).

Pride is preoccupied with self and denies the need for others or God. We see it present in the first sin, when Adam and Eve wanted to become like God (Genesis 3:5).

What does pride look like? Jesus told the story of two men, a Pharisee and a tax collector, who went to pray in the Temple (Luke 18: 9-14). The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: '*God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.*' (11,12). He illustrates how pride is essentially putting ourselves in God's place and believing we can run our own lives. It's subtle and self-deceptive and eats away our lives: '*Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*' (Proverbs 16:18).

So how do we deal with pride? The answer is humility. The tax collector stood at a distance '*he would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*' (13). This man was right with God, because he acknowledged his sin and his need for forgiveness. Humility is being realistic about ourselves, and acknowledging our total dependence on God. We develop it by giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God and repenting of our desire to do things our way: '*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up.*' (1 Peter 5:6).

'Humility is not in thinking less of yourself, but in thinking of yourself less'
(Rick Warren).

Parish Pump



Welcome to Twin Spires News for another year. We publish both on the website www.twinspires.org.uk and in print. Those who wish to receive regular copies, but are happy to read it on their screen, can receive it by email. Electronic editions have the advantage of being in colour so, if you are able, do look at us online as well, even if you receive a printed copy. As well as being in full colour, any links will also be clickable which makes life that little bit easier.

Annual Subscriptions of £6 are now due. This price has not increased, owing in part to our advertisers. Please support them and inform them that you have seen their advert here. You can help us to keep the subscription level down by:

1. Encouraging your friends and neighbours to subscribe. The larger the circulation, the cheaper each magazine becomes to produce.
2. Paying your subscription early in the year.
3. Paying for your magazine annually – it helps us to budget, and saves you the price of 2 magazines per year.

As last year, we encourage those of you who are able to pay by **bank transfer** - our preferred option. With your subscriber copy, you should find a separate sheet (thanks to our faithful 'finishing team'!) which will tell you about all your payment options. You can also find out about regular giving and one-off donations to support our churches financially on page 20 of this magazine.

Due to the early publication date this time, we would especially appreciate it if those of you making traditional payments would deliver the payment direct to the home of your distributor. We want to avoid disturbing you unnecessarily at such a busy time. Please use the standalone insert included with this magazine. Church visitors and new readers please enjoy one free copy!

Thank you to everyone who helps with the production and distribution of Twin Spires News - and special thanks to our faithful finishing team. We hope you continue to enjoy reading the magazine. We love receiving and sharing your news, prayers, poems and pictures, so please do keep those contributions coming. **Happy New Year from the Magazine Team**

St Boniface Church News January 2026

Toy and Gift Service

This service took place on November 30th and was led by Pat Wootton.

A vast array of toys and gifts had been collected, and these were distributed to children by S.C.R.A.T.C.H



Congratulations to Pat and David Wootton, who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary on December 7th. A card signed by members of the congregation was given to them with our good wishes.

2026

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

Avis Wood

Can you help the Magazine Team?

We would love some volunteers to help us out.

Maybe you could learn or help with the monthly magazine production?

Could you spare time to help with the printing of the magazine?

Or maybe help with the folding and bundling ready for distribution?

Please let one of us FREDS know if you are interested.

Nursling Men's Shed

Four mornings a week for men and Thursday afternoon for ladies

Here in Nursling & Rownhams we have a wonderful resource - the Nursling Men's Shed which is at St Boniface Church Hall. Nursling Men's Shed is part of UK Men's Sheds Association UKMSA and below is an explanation about what Sheds are like, taken from their website www.menssheds.org.uk



Men's sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds - a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

The Nursling Men's Shed is a wonderful friendly place and very well equipped too. It has a range of mechanical and hand tools, as well as lathes, pyrography equipment and a sewing machine. Sessions are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, and on Thursday afternoon a ladies session is held.

Perhaps you could be interested in taking up some new practical interests or developing DIY skills or want to fix/restore something but need a bit of help.

So how about trying something new in 2026? Perhaps pop in one day and see what goes on and meet a bunch of friendly people. The kettle is always on if you fancy a cuppa while visiting too.

To find out more contact Mike Bunce on 07742957858 and for the ladies' sessions Sandi O'Donnell 07886 775864.



The workshop at Nursling Men's Shed

Highlights from the PCC Meeting 18th November 2025

Safeguarding

The 'Appropriate Boundaries' document was discussed.

Health and Safety

The outside path around St John's Church is now fully lit at night. An additional light will be fitted to illuminate St John's Church carpark.

Policies

The following are being updated for review at the next PCC Meeting:

- ✓ N&R Complaints Policy
- ✓ N&R Data Protection and Privacy Policy
- ✓ N&R Pay Policy
- ✓ N&R Whistleblowing Policy

St Boniface

- ✓ **Men's Shed.** The new Agreement stated that no welding work could be undertaken, and therefore permission would not be granted to extend the temporary structure at the front of the Church Hall.
- ✓ **Lee Church Triptych.** The three solid panels, originally from Lee Church, had been in St Boniface Church loft for 40 years. They are now temporarily stood at the back of St Boniface Church. A decision needs to be made regarding their future. It is unlikely we would get permission for their permanent fixture because they are not part of St Boniface Church history.

St John's Church

- ✓ **Pews to Chairs.** The chairs will be picked up from the factory in Italy on 13/14 December and delivered to us a week later. To ensure we do not run out of seating for the Christmas services, any further pews sold cannot be collected until the New Year. It was suggested we source locally produced cushions, with the congregation being asked, for the short term, to bring their own, if required.

- ✓ **Church Hall.** This will be progressed in the New Year.

Vision and Values

Our new Vision Statement and Values were approved. It was agreed our new Vision Statement "Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours", would be displayed in both our churches; the monthly magazine, and included in Sunday preaching.

Next Standing Committee: Monday 5 January 2026

Next PCC Meeting: Tuesday 20 January 2025

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

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary

Our Vision

Over the last year, several church members have taken part in the diocesan GROW course, helping us reflect on and shape our renewed vision, values, and mission. These were first introduced at Pentecost and express who we believe God is calling us to be.

Our Vision:

“Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours.”

At the centre of our vision is Jesus’ call to love God and love others. We want every part of church life to reflect this — in our worship, in how we care for one another, and in how we reach out to our community.

Our Core Values: How we live out the vision

1. Transforming Hospitality – Everyone belongs.

We aim to be a church where all feel welcome and valued. True hospitality reflects Jesus’ welcome and changes both those who offer it and those who receive it.

2. Faithful Growth – Rooted in prayer and praise.

Growth begins with staying close to Jesus. Through prayer, worship, and Scripture, we deepen our faith and become more fruitful as a church.

3. Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.

Each day is an opportunity to live out our faith in practical ways: offering our gifts, showing Christ-like love, and inviting others into community and relationship with Jesus.

Our Mission:

“Grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre.”

Like the early church, we believe disciples grow through shared life — learning, worshipping, serving, and supporting one another with Jesus at the heart.

What this looks like

- Gathering in worship to love Jesus and encourage one another.
- Building deeper relationships through small groups and prayer.
- Serving our community with kindness, hospitality, and creative outreach.
- Inviting others to explore faith through friendship and shared activities.

Our vision, values, and mission are more than statements — they express God’s call to love deeply, welcome generously, and live purposefully so that lives and communities may be transformed.

Graeme Dixon

PRAYING OUR VISION INTO BEING

Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours

Prayer is at the heart of everything we aim to be and do as followers of Jesus, so here are some thoughts on how we can turn the words of our Vision into reality in our daily lives. 'We love each other because He loved us first' (1 John 4:19)

Loving Jesus

When we love someone, we want to spend time with them, so our prayer times become very important. We may not be able to be like Daniel and get down on our knees three times a day, or spend most of our time talking with God like Brother Lawrence, but we can make sure we set aside time for Jesus each day. Also if we are in a loving relationship we want to please the other person – that becomes a strong focus for what we do and say, a way of showing love towards them. In the same way, Jesus wants to spend time with us and to bless us. This results in each one of us being transformed by Jesus so that we are equipped for the tasks He is calling us into.

Loving one another

This includes all the people in our Christian family, whether they are known to us or not. As well as spending time together and trying to bring happiness to those we love – and this could be praying for and supporting Christians anywhere in the world - we can practise putting their needs first, seeking their wellbeing. In our churches we can grow together in our worship and through talking about what Jesus is doing in our lives. We can be comforters and encouragers in the daily ups and downs of life, often through sacrifice, as Jesus taught us, and always through prayer.

Loving our neighbours

This is loving and reaching out to those around us who don't yet recognise Jesus. Some we may know, others we look forward to meeting. So, we just aim to 'love one another' in mostly the same ways, especially by preparing the ground with our prayers. Jesus answers our prayers, and you may be surprised at the 'coincidences' you meet with when moving forward in obedience to His nudges. I've often been amazed how saying something very simple like 'have you tried praying?' opens into a really meaningful discussion. Of course, there are the more formal opportunities to bring the love of Jesus into our communities, like serving on the local Council, helping with a food bank etc – the possibilities are endless! Let's remember the parable Jesus told about the Good Samaritan.

Moving forward in prayer with faith will bless us with a foretaste of Heaven, as we see 'Your kingdom come' in this place and at this time.

Dorothy Stratford

December's litter pick

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came to December's litter pick, following a wet and windy night before! Like the previous month's pick, I was pleasantly surprised how little we picked in the area. This month we filled 4 bags of general waste, a bag of recyclables, and another bag of glass along with some wheel hub caps and a couple of fire extinguishers.

There were some other folks who didn't make it into the picture – thank you for taking the time to contribute to the pick, it is all much appreciated.

After a quick conflagration at the end of the pick, we decided that next month we will meet 10am Saturday 3rd January 2026 along Balmoral Way at the junction with Romsey Road.



May I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have taken the time to come and pick. Special thanks to Mary and Marion for all they do to support me!

You probably won't read this until after Christmas – so I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year! **Sophie Ross**

Ladies' Get Together

We meet on the third Saturday morning of each month, for a catch up over a cuppa in St John's Church Hall.

The next ladies' gathering is on: **Saturday 17th Jan from 9.30 - 11.00am**

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!



Tracey Jones

Anglicans in Hong Kong offer prayers and support in aftermath of deadly fire

"Pray with us," the Archbishop of Hong Kong, the Most Revd Andrew Chan, has asked, following a horrific fire in seven residential tower blocks in Wang Fuk Court, in Tai Po. At least 146 people were killed. The complex was home to about 4600 people, and in addition to those killed, dozens have been critically injured, and others are still missing.



Community organisations - including the Hong Kong Anglican Church, known as the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSCHK) - have rallied to support those displaced by the fire. The HKSCHK's Welfare Council has launched a disaster support fund, and an HKSCHK church centre in Tai Po has been opened to provide a shelter for people now made homeless by the fire.

Archbishop Chan said: "As fellow children of God, even though we are separated by geographical distances, I ask of you to pray with us in Hong Kong for the mercy and love of our Lord"

Parish Pump



Thanks to our lovely volunteers, we have enjoyed meeting with friends and welcoming many new faces to 'Coffee Break' over the last year. It's a friendly place for you to drop in for a chat, over coffee and cake, to take time out and meet with others in the community.

We usually meet In the Community Centre in Horns Drove, on the first and third Thursdays of each month between 10am & midday.

This month, we will meet once, on Thursday 15th January.

Wishing all our amazing volunteers and Coffee Break friends a Happy New Year!

The Coffee Break Team

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

Church Services in January

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 4th January – Epiphany

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

6.30pm Holy Communion - A quiet service
based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Sharon Wills



Sunday 11th January – 1st of Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

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 Marion Swinerd BCM, with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 18th January – 2nd of Epiphany

10am Morning Prayer - An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Andy Wickens

4pm LEGO Church (in Rownhams School Hall)

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



Sunday 25th January – 3rd of Epiphany

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 Claire Thompson BCM, with Andy Ball

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 4th January – Epiphany

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Tony Wingett



Sunday 11th January – 1st of Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson BCM with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 18th January – 2nd of Epiphany

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP

Sunday 25th January – 3rd of Epiphany

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

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 2nd & 16th Jan 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**, 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 p21)

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 p19)

Fridays 4.30-5.30pm 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)

Thursday 15th January 10am – midday Coffee Break only one meeting this month, in Horns Drove Community Centre. (see p13)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 2nd & 16th Jan (see p15)

Sat 3rd Jan 10-11am Litter Pick meet in Balmoral Way at the junction with Romsey Road (see p12)

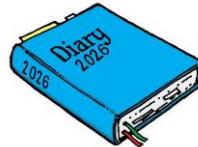
Sat 10th Jan 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact Andy Ball

Sat 17th Jan 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p12)



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

Dates for Your Diary:



+ Contributions for Next Month's Magazine

by 6pm, Sunday 11th January

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

+ Friday 23rd January

2.30pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see p19)

+ Saturday 7th February

10-11am Litter Pick (See p12) venue tbc

+ Saturday 14th February

8.30am Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact Nick Launder

+ Saturday 21st February

9.30-11am Ladies Get Together in St

John's Church Hall (see p12)



A Huge
Thank You
from
Kimbilio
for all
your
support in
2025



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Epiphany!

You probably know from tales of Greek mythology that gods and goddesses would often appear out of nowhere in ancient Greece to beguile or trick mortals. The word for this in everyday Greek was 'epiphany'; - the appearance or manifestation of a divine being on earth to humans. For Christians Epiphany is the season after the 12 days of Christmas.



Our Epiphany Bible readings tell of the 'manifestation' of Jesus to a wider audience than those in the Christmas stories. We mark this in the first instance by placing the Wise Men in the crib scene; they have now arrived to see the consummation of their hopes and travels. And our Epiphany readings usually continue through the season with Jesus' baptism; John the Baptist's witness to Christ, Jesus' family attempting to take charge of Him because of His popularity with the crowds, and the Presentation in the Temple. In all these, something of divine glory is being made manifest.

In more common parlance today, an epiphany means a sudden or blinding realisation ('I had a sudden epiphany that John was going to marry Celia'). That modern meaning is helpful; 'Gosh, epiphanies can be part of *our* Christian experience!' Remember that occasion we were so conscious of God's love holding us? Or the time we knew the words we used to that stranger were infused with a grace we didn't know we had? These and similar experiences which we've probably all had can be seen as *our* epiphanies- a time when God was made manifest to us (and possibly through us) in a distinct way.

Have you ever thought of those sorts of experiences as an epiphany? Not ring-fenced to a particular time of year, but part of our everyday experience, as we seek to live out our baptism promises, and follow Jesus through the ups and downs, the humdrum and the extraordinary, the joys and sorrows of the everyday.

The promise and reality of Christmas is 'Emmanuel-God with us'. And the reality of Epiphany is that God *IS* with us, in the everyday realisation of how great God is, how much God loves us, and how God pours upon us grace after grace after grace.

May we have many epiphanies in 2026 and may they all bring us closer to the God who has chosen in His love to reveal Himself to us.

Revd Roy Shaw, Parish Pump

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. Below is our proposed programme for January:

8th – Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat

15th - John Sherbourne, keyboard wizard, playing & talking about Music composers

22nd - Marlene, singer, raconteur, humour, loves coming to the club

29th - Wally Cozens, C & W singer. Regular at the club

A very happy New Year to all our members. And A BIG THANK YOU to all the new members who have joined us during the past year.

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

Mike Ward

Come and join us at
Friday Friends

St. Boniface & St. John's
Nursling & Rownhams

The Pastoral team invites you for an

'Afternoon Tea'

Friday, 23rd January 2026

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.



Tel: (023) 8073 8293 or email: office@twinspires.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

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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Peaceful mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His disciples in a boat. The wind blows, the waves rise, and the disciples are stressed.

Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. Like them, we can't control what comes our way. But like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us.



Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (*Psalm 4:8*)

The Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with peace. (*Psalm 29:11*)

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace - as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. (*1 Corinthians 14:33*)

Parish Pump

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

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.



Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
EPIPHANY





About The Blue Lamp Trust

The Blue Lamp Trust is a not-for-profit organisation operating across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, dedicated to improving the safety, security and wellbeing of vulnerable, elderly and high-risk residents.

The Trust delivers two key charitable services:

- Safe Home – formerly The Bobby Scheme – providing free home safety and security visits for vulnerable residents, including victims of crime, domestic abuse, and those living alone.
- Safe Online – formerly Cyber Bobby – offering tailored digital safety guidance, scam awareness support and online protection advice for older and vulnerable people.

To help fund these essential community services, the Trust operates a national driver training programme through its commercial trading arm, Blue Lamp Trust (Services) Ltd, delivering accredited professional training to drivers, fleets, businesses and licensing authorities across the UK.

The Trust is proudly supported by local emergency services, and its Board of Trustees includes key leaders from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service.

Bishop of Tewkesbury to be new lead safeguarding bishop

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett, is to be the Church of England's new Lead Safeguarding Bishop, taking over from Bishop Joanne Grenfell who leaves the role at the end of March 2026, when her three-year term ends.

Bishop Robert will work closely with the National Director of Safeguarding and other members of the National Safeguarding Team.

The C of E is continuing to strengthen its safeguarding practices by committing to independent scrutiny and improving delivery. Bishop Robert said, "Safeguarding should not be seen as a burden, but embraced with joy for the opportunity it offers to serve others.

Parish Pump

PCC Legacy Policy Nursing and Rownhams PCC welcomes gifts in wills, however large or small. We will use such gifts to make a difference to the work of the Church (eg by funding development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff). We will consult with the executors to identify the sorts of projects the donor would have liked.



From the Registers



| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Weddings | 'Marriage should be honoured by all' Cameron Beale and Ruby Macey | (Hebrews 13:4) St John's |
| Baptisms | 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism' Jax Joshua Doughty | (Ephesians 4:5) St John's |
| Funerals | 'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep' Bryan Cox (85) | (1 Cor 15:20) <i>Interred at St John's</i> |

Prayer for the New Year

2026

Dear Father, Lord of all time,
Here we are! Another New Year!

So many mixed emotions for different people, for different reasons. For some, the reluctance to leave a year which brought joy and happiness; for some the relief of leaving behind a difficult year; for some, sadness at moving into a year where a loved one has never been; for some, apprehension and insecurity about what might lie ahead in this world of polarisation, conflict and confusion about what is true.

Lord, help us to take time at the start of 2026 to refocus our hearts, minds and spirits – to tune into you, our un-changing God.

Help us to be calmed and encouraged by the promise of Jesus that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The safe Way. The ultimate Truth. The Life, your gift, to be with you for all eternity.

You promised never to leave us or forsake us. When we put our trust in you, through what Jesus did on the cross, we are secure, we are accompanied, no matter what the New Year brings.

We can go forward, safely.

Thank you, in Jesus' name,

Amen

Daphne Kitching

Suggestions for Your Prayers

Continue to pray for those suffering because of war. For those who have lost loved ones, homes and all those who have been traumatised; that they will find places of rest and restoration. Pray that all world leaders with influence might make wise decisions and that all those involved might be willing to find just solutions that can lead to lasting peace.



Pray for all the people who heard the gospel at Christmas. Pray that over the coming year many will respond to the gospel and receive the promise of total forgiveness and complete freedom through Christ alone. May people's New Year resolutions lead them to ask for God's help.

Pray for all our families with young children, life can be really tough with small children, especially when they are ill, and many families don't have the support of grandparents nearby. Pray that they would have people to encourage and support them.

Pray for all our church leaders and their families, that they would know God's protection on all areas of their lives. Pray for good health this year for Graeme and Steph. Pray that each of us in our church fellowship will grow closer to Jesus this year, that he will become more and more real to us and that we will be able to be good witnesses to him.

Give thanks for Ewan and pray for him as he heads up the youth and children's work. Pray that God would protect him and that he would be able to relate well and nurture the faith of our young people. Pray that God would give him all he needs to reach out to the young folk in our community.

Pray for the work of the Church Urban Fund (CUF) which works through local parish churches to help them bring about positive long-term and sustainable change in their neighbourhoods. Pray that the CUF will be able to empower local people to address the areas of greatest need in their communities and that they will be heard as they speak out against injustice.

Continue to pray about the environment. Pray that the fossil fuel industry too would stop putting profits before people and would instead use their influence to promote renewable sources of power. Pray that God would bless all those working on green technologies. Pray that governments all over the world will take very seriously the urgency of the problems caused by global warming and the need to act.

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Up and down

A psychiatrist was training some young clergy who were interested in doing counselling. Deciding to test them, she asked: "How would you diagnose someone who visits your church, walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, and then collapsing in a pew to weep uncontrollably the next?"

A young man at the back of the room raised his hand and ventured: "A football coach?"

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