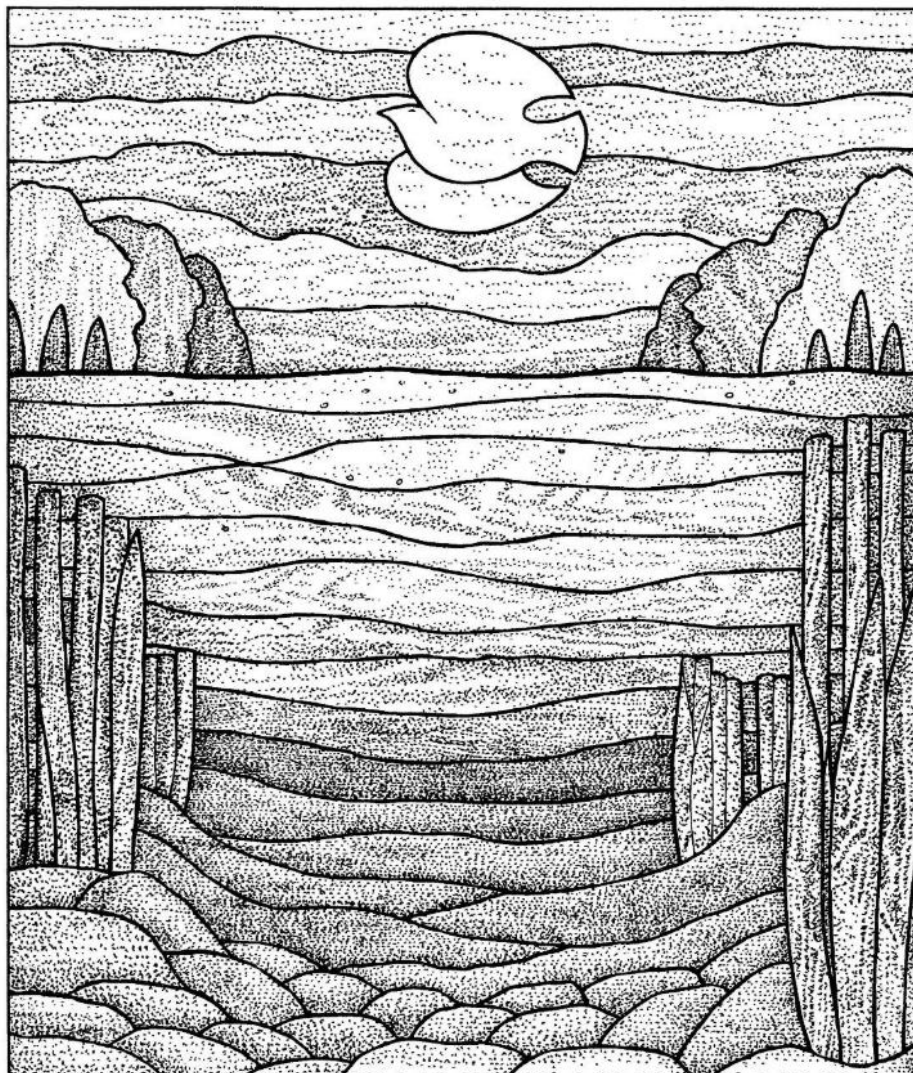


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

February 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

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

“Come and See”

As we move through the early stages of this year, we are still walking in the light of Epiphany—the season when God reveals who Jesus truly is. Epiphany is about discovery: about eyes being opened, hearts being stirred, and lives being quietly, and sometimes dramatically, changed. It reminds us that faith does not begin with having all the answers, but with being willing to look, listen, and step closer.

In John’s Gospel we hear of two of John the Baptist’s disciples beginning to follow Jesus. Jesus turns and asks them, “What are you looking for?” They reply, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” And Jesus answers with three simple but life—changing words: “Come and see.” (John 1:39)

That invitation lies at the very heart of Christian faith. Jesus does not offer them a lecture, a rulebook, or a set of arguments. He invites them into relationship. He invites them to spend time with him, to see who he is, and to discover what that might mean for their lives.



This is what Epiphany is really about—encountering Jesus for ourselves.

And when Andrew does that, he cannot keep it to himself. He runs to his brother Simon and says, “We have found the Messiah.” He doesn’t explain everything. He doesn’t try to persuade. He simply shares what he has experienced and brings his brother to Jesus. Later Philip does the same with Nathanael, saying, “Come and see.” Even at the empty tomb the angels say to the women, “Come and see the place where he lay.” Again and again, God’s way of growing faith is through simple, personal invitation.

That is how faith spreads best—not through clever arguments or perfect words, but through people sharing their own lived stories.

Each of us carries a story of how we have met Jesus—in joy or sorrow, certainty or doubt, hope or healing. Some stories are dramatic; others are gentle and quiet. All of them matter. When we invite someone to Alpha, to

church, or even just into a conversation about faith, we are not being asked to be eloquent or impressive. We are simply being asked to be honest about who we are and what we have found. “Come and see” really means, *come and meet the Jesus I have met*.

This is exactly the spirit behind our Alpha course, which commences at the end of January. Alpha is not a test you have to pass—it is an invitation to explore. Over food, friendship, and conversation, people are given space to ask big questions and discover more about God at their own pace. It beautifully reflects our vision of “Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours” and our mission to “grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre.”



Alpha also lives out our core values. Transforming Hospitality—Everyone belongs means we create spaces where people feel safe, welcomed, and accepted. Faithful Growth—Rooted in prayer and praise reminds us that God does the deep work in people’s hearts. Purposeful Living—Giving, loving, inviting calls each of us to take that small but brave step of invitation.

Your personal invitation—sharing your own story and simply saying “Would you like to come?”—might be the way someone else begins their journey with Jesus.

That same spirit of invitation is shaping our church buildings at this time. At St John’s, the move from pews to chairs is not just about changing furniture; it is about making space. Chairs allow us to reshape our worship, to host Alpha, to welcome community groups, and to create a more open and flexible environment for people who may never have felt comfortable in church before. We are physically creating a space that says: *you belong here*.

At St Boniface Church, the electrical refitting may seem practical and unglamorous, but it is deeply spiritual. Light, warmth, sound, and safety all help to create a place where people can gather, pray, sing, and meet God. These changes are part of our shared calling to remove barriers and open doors so that others can come and see.



As we move through these weeks, I invite you to reflect on one simple question: Who might God be asking me to invite? It might be a neighbour, a friend, a colleague, or a family member. It might be someone you have been praying for quietly for years. You do not need the perfect words—just a willingness to share who you are and what you have found.



Jesus still turns to those who are curious, tired, searching, or hopeful and asks, “What are you looking for?” And he still gently says, “Come and see.”

May we be a church that hears that invitation—and joyfully passes it on.

Many blessings,

Graeme

Front Cover

This month’s cover image, from Parish Pump, shows a dove over the River Jordan—a symbol of new beginnings and God’s presence. The event of Jesus’ baptism is so important that it is recorded in three of the gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke



Each account describes the moment when Jesus is baptised and the Holy Spirit descends upon him, affirming His identity and the start of His ministry. As Lent begins, we are invited to reflect on this pivotal event and prepare our hearts for the journey towards Easter.

Scripture references for Jesus’ baptism can be found in:

- Matthew 3:16-17
- Mark 1:10-11
- Luke 3:21-22

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was



legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.
8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spiritual, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."
10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.
15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

Parish Pump

Aspects of Romantic Love

God obviously approves of romance—after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was His idea.



The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!



When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13—the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Today, romance is still alive and well in Britain—last year we sent about 25 million Valentines to each other.

And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And *you are involved!* For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and his people.

Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is His beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all—Himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom getting together at last, so at the End of Time, Christ will return for His Bride.

Parish Pump

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.

St Boniface Church News February 2026

Thanks to Mike Hanks for the photographs of St Boniface Church at Christmas.

Just a reminder that our traditional services take place every Sunday at 11 am.
Avis Wood

Window Displays – Christmas 2025

A few pictures of the church displays for Christmas 2025. The theme for the window displays was the four nations of the UK.

The music sheet for each nation was:

- ✚ England - Jerusalem
- ✚ Scotland - Flower of Scotland
- ✚ Northern Ireland - The Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)
- ✚ Wales - Land of My Fathers

Each display also included a sheet of four photos of famous castles and items associated exclusively with each nation.

Mike Hanks



First litter pick of 2026

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came to this morning's cold and frosty litter pick.

At first glance of the area, it looked as if there wasn't much litter to pick. But by the end of the hour, we had filled 3 bags of general waste and 2 bags of recyclables and acquired a car battery, a cat playhouse and a large tyre!

Having a look at my records of where we have picked in the past, we haven't picked around Fernyhurst Lake for about a year.



For February's litter pick let's meet at the usual time of 10am Saturday 7th February in Lakeside Avenue. All the Best

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 21st Feb from 9.30–11.00am**

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



Tracey Jones



Coffee Break



Thanks to our lovely volunteers, we have enjoyed meeting with friends and welcoming many new faces to 'Coffee Break'. 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 on Horns Drove, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, between 10am & midday.

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).





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.



The droughts, heat and hunger threatening the Middle East and Afghanistan

World Vision has warned that millions of people in the Middle East and Afghanistan are suffering such severe drought, heat and hunger, that the aid agency fears we are reaching a 'tipping point'.

In its recent report, *Children on the Brink*, World Vision reviews the current situation:

Iraq's catastrophic drought has displaced more than one million people in the region.

- Lebanon has its most severe drought on record, with more than 40 per cent of the people reliant on water trucking.
- Afghanistan has an estimated 17.5 million people in food crisis, of which two million are in food emergency.
- In Syria, one million people are rated at 'food insecure'.
- Meanwhile, the West Bank is struggling with "severe restrictions on land and water access, damage to infrastructure, and hunger and malnutrition."

Considering all this, World Vision warns: "The Middle East and Afghanistan are approaching a critical tipping point as drought conditions intensify rapidly across the region. Rising temperatures, prolonged dry periods, and chronic water-management challenges are driving alarming levels of food and water insecurity."

"Close to 50 million people in the Middle East and Afghanistan are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity that threaten their wellbeing and survival."

Alongside internal and cross-border displacement, the risk of "deepening tensions between communities" is rising, the report continues. "Children and already vulnerable families are being pushed to the brink, resorting to negative coping mechanisms to secure the food, water, and shelter needed."

World Vision's response in the region includes restoring watersheds, using earth and stone structures to increase water retention, recharge groundwater, and improve year-round availability. It is also promoting what it describes as 'climate-smart technologies', including drip irrigation, also called trickle irrigation; drought-tolerant seeds and livestock; and training in agroecological and conservation agriculture practices.

However, the reports warns: “The scale and pace of drought demand unified action from national authorities, international donors, and local communities.”

Meanwhile, the recent World Meteorological Organisation’s *State of the Climate in the Arab Region* report has found that a number of countries in the region had temperatures of above 50 C (122 F) in 2024. The agency’s Secretary-General, Celeste Saulo, says these high temperatures are pushing society to the limits. “It is simply too hot to handle. Human health, ecosystems and economies can’t cope with extended spells of more than 50 C.”

Parish Pump

Peaceful Mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

Why not take a moment to memorise one of these verses?

Parish Pump

Hymns for Professionals

Dentist - Crown Him with many crowns
Contractors - The Church’s one foundation
Obstetricians - Come labour on
Golfers - There is a green hill far away
Politicians - Standing on the promises
Librarians - Let all mortal flesh keep silent



Church Services in February

God is love

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 1st February – Candlemas

- 10am All Age Worship** – An informal service, suitable for families
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Ewan Brown.
- 6.30pm Holy Communion** – A quiet service
based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Lynn Black



Sunday 8th February – 2 before Lent

- 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 15th February – next before Lent

- 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 22nd February – Lent 1

- 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 David Thompson



St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 1st February – Candlemas

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Tony Wingett

Sunday 8th February – 2 before Lent

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson BCM with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 15th February – next before Lent

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP

Sunday 22nd February – Lent 1

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with David Thompson



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 6th & 20th Feb 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.

<p>Please note the details provided here are accurate at the time of printing, but are subject to change</p>

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 p11)

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 4.30–5.30pm 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](#) (for new Christians)

Thursday 5th & 19th February 10am - midday Coffee Break

this month in Horns Drove Community Centre (see page 11)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 6th & 20th Feb (see p15)

Sat 7th Feb 10–11am Litter Pick meet at Lakeside Avenue (see p10)

Sat 14th Feb 8.30am Men's Breakfast - contact Nick Lauenders

Sat 21st Feb 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p10)



WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

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 8th February**
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
- + Saturday 7th March**
10-11am Litter Pick (See p10) venue tbc
- + Saturday 14th March**
8.30am Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact Mick Bunce
- + Saturday 21st March** 9.30-11am Ladies Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p10)

Come and join us at
Friday Friends



The Pastoral team invites you for an

'Afternoon Tea'

Friday, 27 March 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.



 **twinspires**

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



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

We look forward to seeing you.

Are you interested in volunteering with the magazine team? We need help with production, printing, and preparing the magazine for distribution. Let one of the FREDs know if you'd like to join us.

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 February:

5th – Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat

12th – Peter Ransom from the Community Band talking about the Dambusters raid in 1943 together with music

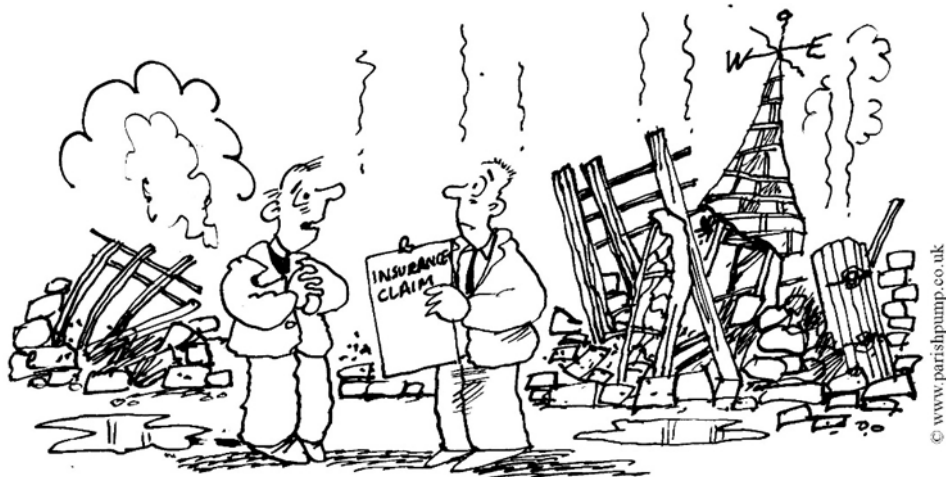
19th – Phoebe Merrick from Romsey History Society talking about Broadlands House

26th – Paddy Maxwell, singer, raconteur and humour all the way

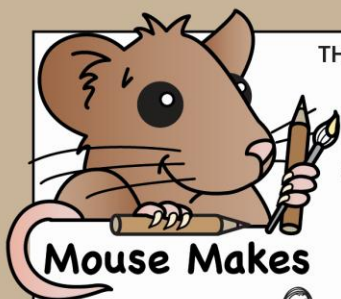
A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR to all our members

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

Mike Ward



...er...apart from the little hiccup....it was an excellent church Burns Night celebration



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God **first**
Worship *only* Him.

①

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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.



How to Handle Temptation

'I can resist everything except temptation.' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when 'He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.' (1). Temptation is a test of whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most venerable moments, especially when we are stressed.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about putting His own needs first but being nourished by God's word. 'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we need to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this was not God's way! 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: The devil took Jesus up a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was to be marked by suffering and honouring God. 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.' (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is to be our experience of living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, like Him, we will find strength in the Spirit's power and the victory of the Cross.

Consider these verses:

'Watch and pray, so that you enter not into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' (Matthew 26:41)

'Since Jesus Himself has endured being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.' (Hebrews 2:18)

'Blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he is tested, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12)

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

Parish Pump

4th anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine war

As 24th February approaches, the statistics are grim for the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Massive displacement: 6.9 million refugees have fled Ukraine, with a further 3.7 million internally displaced.

Significant casualties: Russia has hit one million casualties in all, including 250,000 soldiers killed. Ukraine has had about 53,000 casualties, including about 15,000 deaths.

Immense destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure, medical facilities and educational facilities.

Impact: Russia now occupies about 20% of Ukraine, including Crimea. Worldwide, a weakened global economy, threatened food security, and documented war crimes, including chemical weapons used by Russia.

Expense: Billions of dollars have been given in aid to Ukraine. (About \$175bn from the US, and \$197bn from the EU since 2022.)

The future is unclear, but here are some memorable quotes of two leading Ukrainians:

At the start of the war, when offered evacuation from Kyiv by the U.S. government, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy famously stated, "I need ammunition, not a ride."

The following day, on 25th February he emphasised Ukraine's determination, stating: "We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and we will defend all of this."

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk focuses on themes of resilience, freedom, and hope. "Ukraine is wounded, but it is not defeated! Ukraine is exhausted, but it is standing and will remain standing! Believe me, no one thinks of giving up."

A recurring theme in Zelenskyy's speeches is that "Life will win over death, and the light will win over darkness."

Parish Pump

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.

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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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The Boffins and the Technocrats

The boffins and the technocrats
Help folk like me and you
Inventing lots of clever things
That tell us what to do!



My car now has a clever light
Dispelling doubt or fear,
Without it I'd have not a clue
When to shift up a gear!

Of course there is the Sat Nav
To help me find my way
The time I learned to read a map
Was just a wasted day!



My PC's a law unto itself
So busy telling me
To upgrade this or restart that –
The net I never see!

And sometimes, when my work is done
I turn on my TV
All chance to watch my programme gone –
“Retune” it says to me.



The oven, fridge, and microwave
They make a beeping sound
Or else they have bright lights which flash
To order me around.

And so I am a harassed man,
I live a hassled life;
The one who shouts at me the least
Is my sweet and lovely wife!

By Nigel Beeton from Parish Pump

Prayer for February

Dear Lord,

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope.



Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world.

Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation.

Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Daphne Kitching

When you pray...



Words and wisdom of Jesus –
He doesn't say, *if* or *in case*,
He says, *when*... you pray.

And we will.

From deep within,
Our spirit calls out to God,
Created to communicate with the Creator.

Cinemas can ban,
Statistics can suggest we won't,
But Jesus says, *when* you pray...
Say, *Our Father*,
And when we do, He hears and answers
And pours out His love,
Always.



By Daphne Kitching

Suggestions for Your Prayers

Pray for peace to come where there is conflict. That those on both sides of conflict situations will be willing to listen to the other point of view and that just and lasting peaceful solutions can be found. Pray for those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost their homes, and those living in fear.



Pray for Graeme and Ewan and all the church leadership team; for good health and that they will stay close to God. Pray that Graeme will have God's wisdom as he leads the work here and that God will show all the leadership team the best way forward for our churches.

Pray for all our outreach groups; eg the many and various youth groups, Alpha, Mums and tots, coffee break, various monthly gatherings and the annual events. Thank God for the provision of chairs, and the greater flexibility they will allow.

Pray that God would strengthen our marriages and family life. That each married couple would know God's help to love and support each other and to learn how to handle disagreements in a positive way. Pray that all relationships within our church family would be caring ones, encouraging one another and that those who are single will feel included and valued as part of our family.

Remember those suffering from dementia, their carers and other family members, doctors, other professionals and friends as they seek to support them. Pray for patience, strength and love.

Pray for the ministry of Scripture Union as they seek to bring the good news about Jesus Christ to children, young people and families – and to encourage them to develop spiritually through the Bible and prayer. Pray for their staff and thank God for the resources they produce.

Continue to pray that world leaders will take the climate crisis seriously. That there will be consensus on the need to stop using fossil fuels and that there will be investment in new technologies. Give thanks for those working on these and pray that God would give them inspiration and success.

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."



The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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