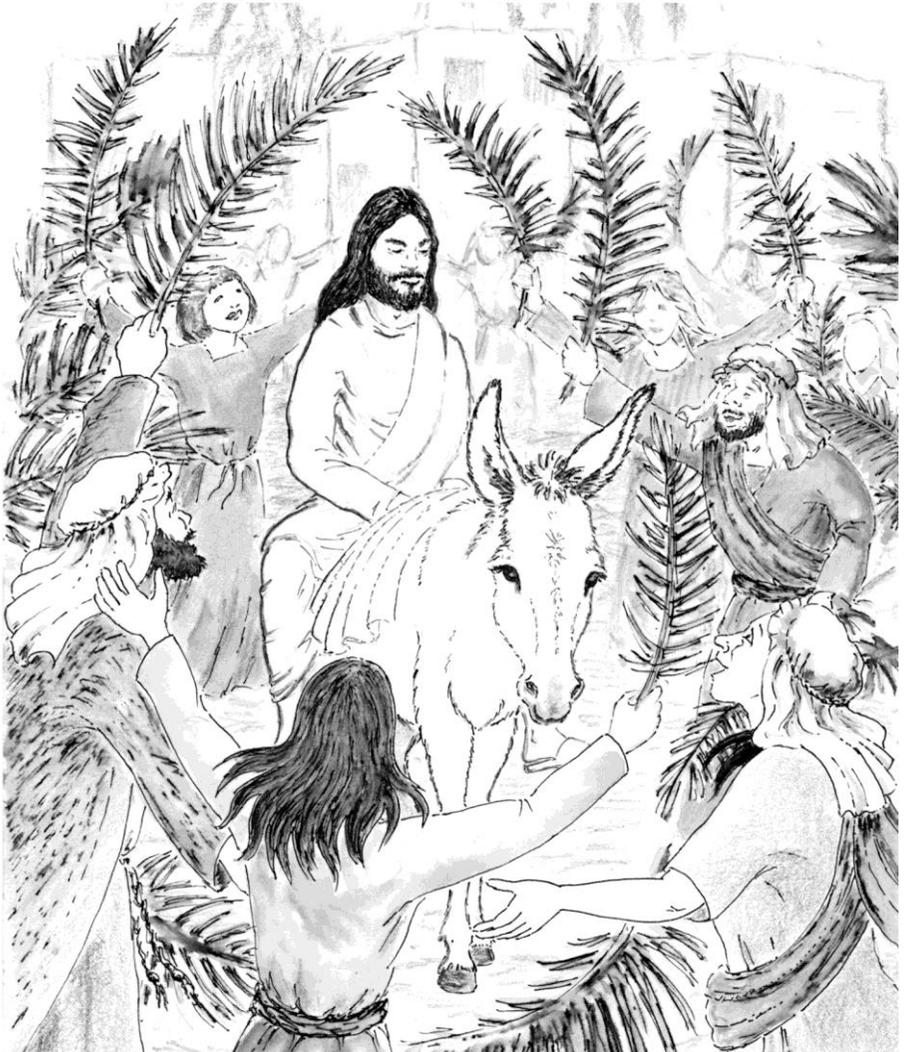


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

March 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

Cover Image: 'Journey through the Palms' by Sandi O'Donnell

Verse of the Month

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,
“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

John 12:13

Dear Friends,

As we begin to think about the season of Lent, many of us have been struck by the sheer persistence of the rain. It seems to have been falling endlessly — more than forty days by some reckonings — soaking the ground, filling the rivers, including every culvert around the church and reminding us daily of forces far beyond our control. The rain has shaped our landscape and, in quieter ways, our hearts and conversations too.



Forty is, of course, a deeply biblical number. When the rains came in the time of Noah, they fell for forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7). Those days were not simply about destruction, but about transformation — a painful ending and a hopeful beginning held together by God’s promise. Noah and his family waited, unsure of what the world would look like when the waters finally receded, trusting that God was at work even when all they could see was water.



We hear the same number again in the Gospels, when Jesus is led into the wilderness for forty days (Matthew 4). This was a place of testing, hunger, and temptation, but also of deep clarity. The wilderness was not a mistake or a detour; it was a necessary place where Jesus’ calling was refined and strengthened.

Throughout Scripture, forty marks moments of preparation and discernment. Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai in the presence of God. The Israelites wandered for forty years in the wilderness, learning what it meant to depend on God rather than on certainty or comfort. Elijah journeyed for forty days to Horeb, exhausted and afraid, only to encounter God not in noise or power, but in a still, small voice.



Even Nineveh was given forty days to reflect, repent, and choose a different path.

In that light, it feels fitting that the lead up to our own forty-day season has been accompanied by so much rain.

The rain has not only affected the fields and roads; it has also made its presence felt closer to home. Many of you will be aware that our church hall roof at St John's, which received a temporary repair recently, will continue to struggle under the relentless weather. Water has found its way in, and we are increasingly aware that it is not just the surface that is affected, but the structure itself. What is a short-term fix is now prompting deeper questions about what is sustainable, what needs strengthening, and what we are being called to do next with the hall.

This can feel unsettling. Buildings, like lives, often hold memories, ministries, and moments of joy. To acknowledge weakness in their structure can feel like acknowledging vulnerability in ourselves. Yet Lent gives us permission — even encouragement — to look honestly at what is sound and what is not.

Rain has a curious power. Left unchecked, it can erode and weaken; yet, in the right measure, it nourishes, softens, and prepares the ground for growth. Scripture often uses water as an image of the Spirit — life-giving, cleansing, and shaping. Jesus speaks of “living water” (John 4), and the prophets speak of God pouring out the Spirit like rain upon dry ground.

The same rain that reveals weakness in a roof also reveals where attention, care, and renewal are needed. In the same way, the rain of God's Spirit does not always arrive gently. Sometimes it exposes the places in our lives, and in our shared life as a church, that require courage, prayer, and change.

As we reflect on what comes next for our church hall, this Lent invites us not into anxiety, but into discernment. Our vision as a church is not rooted in bricks and mortar alone, but in being a community grounded in God's love, growing in faith, and reaching out in hope and service. Our values — prayer, hospitality and generosity — guide us as we consider how best to steward what we have been given.

Lent reminds us that temporary fixes are sometimes necessary, but they are rarely the final answer. God's work is often deeper, slower, and more transformative. Just as the wilderness shaped Jesus for ministry, and the

rain reshaped the world in Noah's time, so this season may be shaping us — inviting us to listen, to pray, and to trust God with questions we cannot yet fully answer.

Beyond Lent lies Easter. Beyond rain lies new growth. The softened ground is not wasted; it is prepared.

So, as the rain continues to fall, and as we begin our Lenten journey, may we remain attentive to what God is revealing among us. May we trust that the Spirit is at work — not only preserving what has been but preparing us for what is to come.



With every blessing,

Graeme

The Church Electoral Roll – why should you be on it?

Once again it is the time of year when we review our Electoral Roll to ensure that all those who should be on it are, and to remove any who should no longer be on it. The revision will take place between Wednesday 1st April and Wednesday 15th April 2026.

From Wednesday 18th March a copy of the current roll will be in each church. If you are already on the roll, please check your entry for accuracy, and if you spot a mistake on the roll then do let me know, otherwise, **the only people who need to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church, or reached the age of 16**, and have not yet completed an application form.

It is only by being on the roll that you can have your say in how your local church is run – usually by attending the APCM (29th April this year), but if we should ever have to call a Special General Meeting then you need to already be on the roll to attend that too.

For new applicants, there are a few printed application forms available at each church, however, I would encourage you to email electoralroll@twinspires.org.uk so I can send you a form to be completed electronically. Forms need to be returned to me by **15th April** at the very latest, so please don't delay. Completed application forms from St Boniface Church can be given to Graeme Dixon. At St John's Church please give your completed form to me, a welcomer, or put it in the Perspex box by the door.

If you are not sure if you qualify then do read the notes on the form and, if you are still in doubt, please ask.

Sue Muldowney, Church Electoral Roll Officer

Bishop Sarah Mullally to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March

In a special service at St Paul's Cathedral, at her Confirmation of Election, Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January.



The Confirmation of Election is a legal ceremony, set within a church service, at which Bishop Sarah, the Archbishop-Elect, legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Sarah's first act as Archbishop was to take up the Primatial Cross and give the blessing

at the end of the service.

The Confirmation will be followed by an Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March, where Archbishop Sarah will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Between her Confirmation of Election and Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the UK. She also co-pressed at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February, where she delivered the Presidential Address.

By tradition, Archbishop Sarah will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her Installation.

Bishop Sarah said: "It is an extraordinary and humbling privilege to have been called to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities. With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion.

"These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world. I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality.



"I want us to be a Church that always listens to the voices of those who have been ignored or overlooked, among them victims and survivors of church abuse who have often been let down.

"I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God's call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation."

Parish Pump

St Boniface Church News March 2026



We would like to invite you to our special service on Sunday March 15th, a small posy of flowers will be given to every mum/carer at the end of the service.

Commemorative Flowers

If you would like to remember a loved one with a bespoke arrangement of flowers, we would be very happy to do this for you in our memorial window. Please contact Avis on 07767608577 for further details.

German Visitors

A group of German visitors will be coming on Sunday May 3rd. We look forward to meeting them and sharing refreshments after they have viewed the Church and learned about its long history. We await further details of their itinerary.

Avis Wood

Daughters of Mothers

There are certain small things that you notice,
Little things you have started to do,
That prompt you to question, and wonder
If the face in the mirror, is *you*.

The realisation is dawning,
As one year hurtles after another,
That in word, thought and deed,
In gesture and glance,
You have somehow turned into your mother!

By 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.

PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate the Passover. This festival commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.



Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the moneychangers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, '*Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done*'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

Parish Pump



TWINSPIRES CHURCHES

Easter



GOOD FRIDAY EVENT

Crafts . Games . Activities
Refreshments .

Free event, all welcome

3rd April 2026

from 11:00 to 14:00

St John's Church,
Rownhams

02380738293

office@twinspires.org.uk

Highlights from the PCC Meeting on 20 January 2026

Safeguarding

The Parish Dashboard is up to date.

Sue Muldowney is stepping down as Safeguarding Officer at the APCM. Anyone interested in taking over this role, please speak to Sue, Graeme or contact the Church Office.

Health and Safety

The outside path from St John's Church to the Church Hall is now well lit at night. An additional light had been fitted to illuminate St John's Church carpark.

Finance

- ✓ The Christmas Fair at St John's had raised c£600 before deduction of expenses.
- ✓ We are currently £1,600 short of donations for the new chairs at St John's Church, but there are still some pews to sell.
- ✓ Donations of £750 + Gift Aid had so far been received towards the cost of £2,500 for the new Hymnal at St Boniface Church.

Policies

Subject to minor amendments, the Policies were approved:

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

Reflections on Christmas 2025 Services and Events

We had offered a lot of services and events, across our two churches. We had welcomed many visitors but there had been a disappointing number of church attendees, particularly at St John's Christmas Fayre.

It was agreed that for 2026 we would:

Discontinue the Carols by the Bonfire and support the local Community Carols;

Advertise all events in two editions of the Village News and TwinSpires Magazine;

Produce leaflets just for the schools, local pubs and back of church for personal invitations;

Make better use of our website and social media for advertising.

Church Administrator Maternity Leave

There is a vacancy, as a fixed term contract for one year, to cover maternity leave. Anyone interested should contact Graeme or the Church Office.

St Boniface Church

- ✓ **Electrical Works** Phase 1 of the works, to make the electrics safe, was well under way. Further improvements to the electrics will be carried out in Phase 2.
- ✓ **Lee Church Triptych** This had been returned to the loft of St Boniface Church.

St John's Church

- ✓ **Pews to Chairs** The new chairs had been delivered. There are still a few pews to be sold. Chair cushions will be purchased in due course.
- ✓ **Key Safe** A new larger key safe, with buttons, will be purchased. It was emphasised that all users must ensure the buttons are not left displaying the code.
- ✓ **Church Repairs** It was agreed to proceed with plasterwork in the Vestry, and repair to the crack in the Chancel wall.
- ✓ **Church Hall** Basic remedial roof repairs are being carried out on the existing Hall. There would be a meeting to progress the new hall.
- ✓ **Use of St John's Church** It was confirmed that the Church building should be a place of welcome for the local community through church events, but it would not be hired out. It was felt important that we do not lose the sacredness of the Church building in our social events, and that the Church does not become just another hall, now that we have the chairs.
- ✓ **New Contemporary Service** Graeme had introduced a new style of service; exploring and reshaping the traditional Morning Prayer, on the third Sunday of the month. This will continue to be refined over the coming months.

Future Dates

Standing Committee: Monday 2 March 2026

PCC Meeting: Tuesday 17 March 2026

APCM: Wednesday 29 April 2026 7pm St John's Church

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

Christine Owen PCC Secretary

February's litter pick

Thank you to everyone who came to this month's litter pick, it is much appreciated. It was lovely to see a couple of newbies, one doing their Duke of Edinburgh service award by litter picking!

As so often, the litter was well hidden from first glance, but, by the end of the hour, we had filled three bags of general waste (including many cigarette butts), 3 bags of recyclable and a vast number of glass bottles.



Extraordinarily, two guys did sterling work retrieving two stacking chairs and a mass of glass bottles from deep in the undergrowth. Whatever will we unearth next?

Having a look at my records of where we have picked in the past, we haven't picked around Horns Drove, near to the old Post Office since April 2025. For March's litter pick let's meet at the usual time of 10am Saturday 7th March along Horns Drove, by the old Post Office.

Sophie Ross

Magazine Helpers Needed

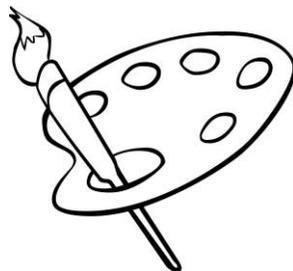
We're looking for a few volunteers to help with the monthly bundling and stapling of the Twin Spires magazine. It's a simple, practical task that takes around 3 to 4 hours each month.

If you'd like to support the magazine team in this small but important way, please speak to one of the FREDS (Mary Carter, Marion Swinerd and Shelley Mabey) or contact the church office.

New Monthly Art Group

The new **Art Group**, will meet on the **third Tuesday of each month**, from **7–9pm**, in **St John's Church**, this month's session is on 17th March.

Participants are invited to bring along any artwork they are currently working on, together with their own materials. If you are starting afresh, please bring a soft pencil, paper, and a drawing board or tray to work on. You may also like to bring a few simple objects to draw, such as fruit, vegetables, or soft toys.



If you have previous artwork you would like to share, you are welcome to bring a small selection, this will provide an understanding of people's interests and techniques. If you don't have any, don't worry.

It is hoped to build up some materials for people to try, but at this early stage these are not yet available, so please bring what you need if possible. For drawing I do have some soft pencils to loan and at this stage any paper will do.

There will be a small fee or donation requested to help cover materials and refreshments.

For more information contact Sandi O'Donnell

Email: s.b.odonnell@btopenworld.com.

Tel: 02380 199558 or 07886 775864

Church Services in *March*

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 March – Lent 2

- 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 John Pennells

Sunday 8th March –Lent 3

- 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 Andy Ball

Sunday 15th March – Lent 4/Mothering Sunday

- 10am Contemporary Service** – A modern service of prayer and praise
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Andy Wickens
- 4pm LEGO Church** (in St John's Church)
- 6.30pm Prayer Meeting** – a short meeting for prayer
in place of 6.30pm service



Sunday 22nd March – Lent 5

- 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 Sharon Wills



Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

- 10am Palm Sunday service** – A special Palm Sunday Service with
Christine Owen BCM, BPP, Claire Thompson BCM and Marion
Swinerd BCM
- 6.30pm Healing Service** – Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 1st March – Lent 2

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Tony Wingett

Sunday 8th March – Lent 3

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson BCM with Linda Klein

Sunday 15th March – Lent 4/Mothering Sunday

11am Morning Prayer

With Steve and Sarah Beak

Sunday 22nd March – Lent 5

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon and John Sofrin

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Linda Klein with Steve Beak

The
Season
of
Lent



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 Mar 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 p18)

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://www.zoom.us) (for new Christians)

Third Tuesday 7–9pm NEW Art Group – in St John's Church (see p13)

Thursday 5th & 19th March 10am – midday Coffee Break
this month in Horns Drove Community Centre (see page 18)

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

Sat 7th Mar 10–11am Litter Pick meet at Horns Drove, old post office
(see p12)

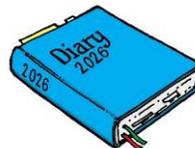
Sat 14th Mar 8.30am Men's Breakfast - contact Mike Bunce

Sat 21st Mar 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p24)



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.

Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 8th March**
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 27th March 2pm** Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see p19)
 - + **Maundy Thursday 2nd April in St John's Church**
7pm Holy Communion
 - + **Good Friday 3rd April in St Boniface Church**
10am Service of Reflection
 - + **Good Friday 3rd April in St John's Church**
11am – 2pm Crafts, Games, Activities and Refreshments (see p9)
 - + **Saturday 4th April** 10-11am Litter Pick (See p12) venue tbc
 - + **Easter Sunday 5th April in St John's Church**
10am Family Holy Communion
6.30pm Easter Praise
 - + **Easter Sunday 5th April in St Boniface Church**
11am Holy Communion
 - + **Saturday 11th April** 8.30am Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact Mick Bunce
 - + **Wednesday 15th April Final** date return for **Electoral Roll** forms (see p5)
 - + **Saturday 18th April** 9.30-11am Ladies Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p24)
-

Book Review

Do you want something which will increase your faith? Try **EVER INCREASING FAITH** by Smith Wigglesworth. He was an illiterate plumber from Bradford who used to heal the sick and raise the dead after being "baptised in the Holy Spirit" at an Anglican church in Sunderland. He brought hundreds of thousands to faith in Jesus Christ. A must read for all Christians (and non-Christians).



Available from many good book shops.

Rick Wakeman



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.

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 March:

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

12th – Nursling and Rownhams Community Band, a great afternoon

19th – Marlene, singer who loves coming to the club

26th – Julie Facey from Romsey Flower Club talking about “Miss Willmott and her lost garden” a Victorian/Edwardian Gardener. Sounds interesting.

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

Mike Ward

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.



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

We look forward to seeing you.

Promoting

a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young
people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Sue Muldowney

Role: Parish Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 07794 348428

E-mail: safeguarding@twinspires.org.uk



Name: Jackie Rowlands

Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Tel: 01962 737317

E-mail: safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org

Local Authority Social Services:

0300 555 1373

IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 101.

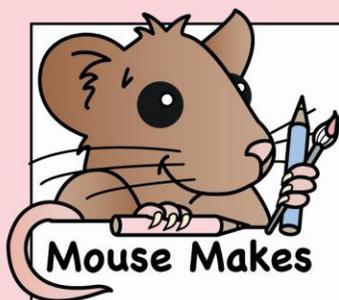
OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Action On Elder Abuse: 080 8808 8141

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

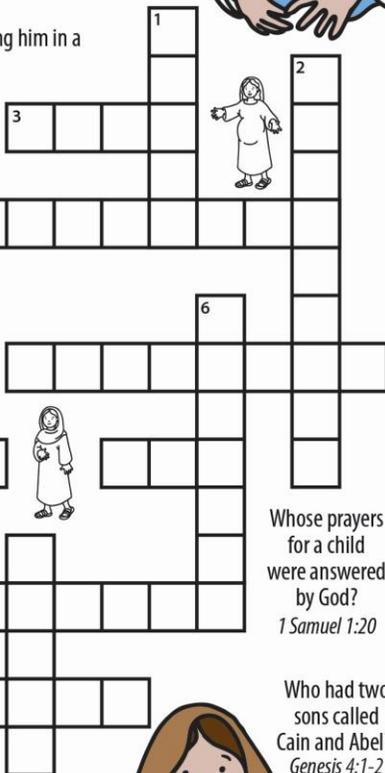


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?
Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

Exodus 2:1-3
and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

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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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In 2025 we raised £154.19



Kimbilio

Sanctuaire des Enfants



Kimbilio Prayer news January 2026

Clement wishes us all a happy new year. "We thank God for finishing last year and entering the new year of 2026. All the workers and children praise God."

1. The tailoring course has just finished successfully. Pray that God will continue to help this project to continue successfully.
2. Pray that the Kimbilio children will continue to love school and that the teachers will continue to work well.
3. The Boys' Transit home has received 21 young boys who had joined the army. As they are vulnerable and physically immature minors the government has decided to remove them from the army and send them to Kinshasa. One has already returned to his home safely. The others are waiting for their plane tickets. They will be enrolled in a technical college to be trained as builders, electricians, mechanics, plumbers etc. While awaiting their plane tickets to go to Kinshasa they will stay at Kimbilio. Thank God their arrival, with the support of social workers, was peaceful and they expect to move on very soon.
4. Pray that the building of the Kimbilio Technical School will continue well and that the roof will be on soon.
5. Continue to pray for the plan to build a day centre, that God will touch the hearts of donors.
6. Pray for all the Kimbilio team and supporters locally and in England and America.
7. Continue to pray for the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. People are tired of the killing. May God help the war to end and peace to prevail



Prayer for March



Lord,

In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that ***whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.***

Jesus says he is ***the Truth.*** He also says he is the ***Light of the world.***

Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that he has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us - we can live by the real Truth - and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us.

Thank you so much.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

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 March from 9.30–11.00am**

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



Tracey Jones



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

Suggestions for Your Prayers

SUNDAY Continue to pray for victims of war. Those who have lost loved ones, homes, who are traumatised and those living in fear. Pray for provision of safe shelter, food, clean water, warmth and medical help for those who need it. Ask that the survivors might have courage, strength and hope. Pray for world leaders to have wisdom and be able to use their influence to bring peaceful solutions.



MONDAY Thank God for all our youth and children's groups and pray that God would bless Ewan and all his work. Pray that there will be enough people to help him run the groups. Pray that the young people will learn of God's love for them revealed in Jesus. Pray that those already in our fellowship might continue to grow in their faith.

TUESDAY Ask God to strengthen and encourage every woman with a mothering role whether to her own children and grandchildren or to others who need her care. Especially remember mothers of children with disabilities and life limiting illnesses. Pray too for those who would love to be mothers but are unable to be. (Mothering Sunday 15th).

WEDNESDAY As we see further evidence of climate breakdown, pray for all those involved in developing green technologies - that God will bless their work and help us to find affordable alternative sources of energy.

THURSDAY Pray for Christians in countries where they face persecution. Pray God would help them to face the future with peace in their hearts, knowing that he will give them the words and wisdom they will need when the time comes, and the strength to face prison and hardship.

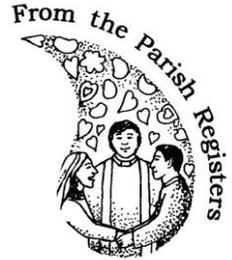
FRIDAY Pray for all our members of Parliament, politicians, local and national - that they would seek to act with justice and integrity and to work for the good of the nations. Pray too for their family lives, that their relationships would be faithful, loving and strong and they would be able to find the right balance in how to divide their time between home and work.

SATURDAY Pray for our parish meetings - Standing Committee (2nd), PCC (17th).

Pray for our Healing Service on Palm Sunday (29th) that our loving Heavenly Father will reveal His love to everyone who seeks His help.



From the Registers



Funerals

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15:20)

27Jan

Mr Bryan Cox (85)

Interment of Ashes

12 Feb

Mr Michael Sheppard

Interment of Ashes

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