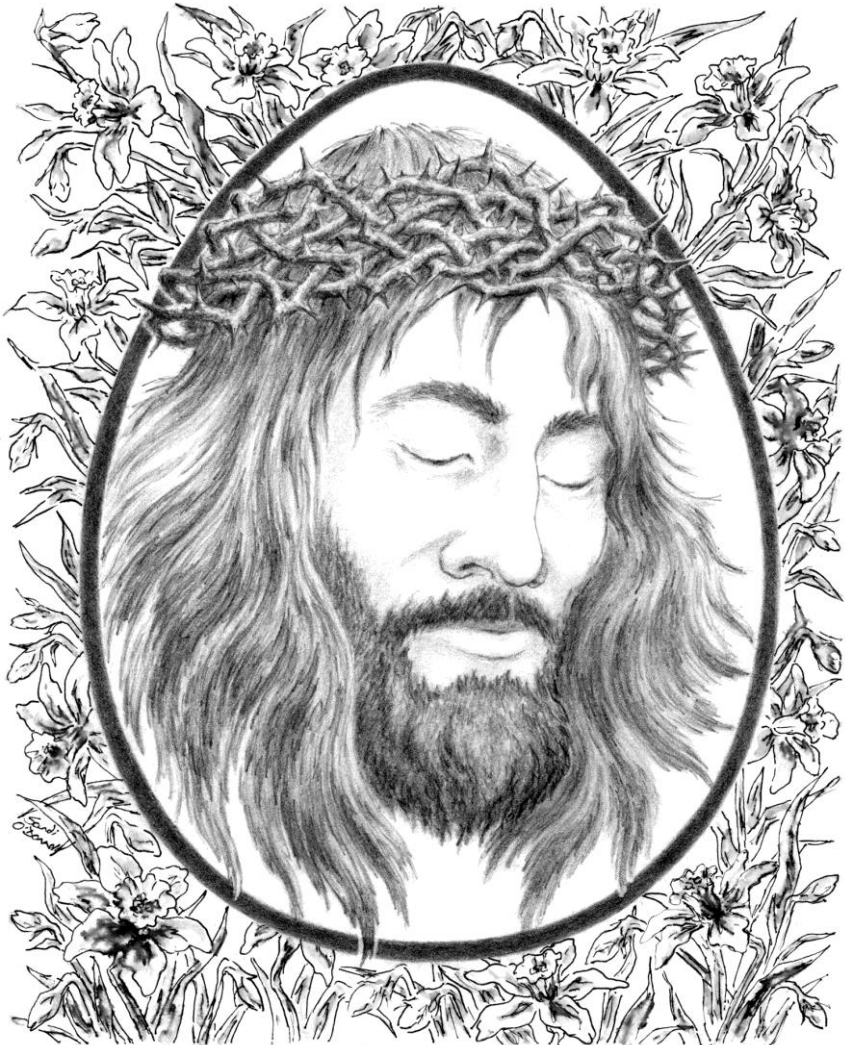


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

April 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: by Sandi O'Donnell

Verse of the Month

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” *Matthew 28:6*



Dear Friends,

March often feels like a month that is still finding its way. One day the sun appears, the next day the rain is back, the paths are muddy, and the dog returns from a walk looking like a swamp creature. The snowdrops slowly give way to the brighter colours of spring. Everything feels a little scruffy and a little hopeful at the same time.



Perhaps that is why Lent sits so naturally here in the calendar. Lent is not the sparkle of Christmas. It is a quieter season, a journeying time — somewhere between winter and spring, between struggle and renewal, between the ordinary rhythms of life and the deeper call of God.

Recently I prepared to make an unfamiliar journey to Winchester Hospital. I checked directions carefully and watched road signs closely. Despite all that preparation, I still managed to get lost.

There is something about unfamiliar journeys that unsettles us. We prefer the roads we know.

In recent weeks I have also been reminded how difficult new journeys can be for many people. Several in our church family are adjusting to new surroundings in care homes or spending time in hospital recovering from illness. For families and loved ones these moments are rarely easy. There can be guilt, fear and questioning about whether the right decision has been made. Yet at the heart of those decisions lies a desire for safety, dignity and wellbeing.



Life often asks us to travel roads we did not expect to walk.

Lent invites us to recognise that following Jesus is also a journey — sometimes unfamiliar, sometimes challenging, but always leading us toward life.

In Mark’s Gospel Jesus says:

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)

Those words can sound heavy at first. The cross speaks of sacrifice and surrender. Yet it is also the place where God’s love is revealed most

clearly. The journey toward the cross is not about punishment or guilt; it is about transformation.

When Jesus speaks of denying ourselves, he is not asking us to belittle who we are but inviting us to place our priorities into harmony with God's greater purpose. In many ways that is captured in the vision we share as a church: "Loving Jesus, one another, and our neighbours."

Our mission flows from that same calling: to grow new disciples through community with Jesus at the centre.

This Lent I decided to make a small personal change by reducing my screen time and removing some distracting apps from my phone. In their place I have been trying to create space for prayer or short acts of worship. It is nothing dramatic — simply a small attempt to rebalance the day.

That is really what Lent is about: not extreme self-denial followed by a binge at Easter, but a gentle realignment of our lives with God.

Jesus often spoke about small beginnings — seeds in the soil, yeast in the dough, quiet growth that happens almost unnoticed. The kingdom of God grows in ordinary ways.

That ordinary life of faith is reflected in the values we are trying to live together:

Transforming Hospitality – Everyone belongs.

Faithful Growth – Rooted in prayer and praise.

Purposeful Living – Giving, loving, inviting.

You may have noticed that even something as simple as the new chairs in church has prompted a range of reactions! Some people are delighted by the comfort and flexibility they bring; others are still adjusting. In their own small way, they remind us that church life is always a shared journey. We experience things differently, yet we walk forward together.

As we look ahead, another conversation is beginning — the future of the church hall. This will be an important topic for our community in the months ahead, requiring listening, prayer and imagination as we discern what God might be calling us to next.

The good news is that we never travel these roads alone.

Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

He walks with us through uncertainty and through the ordinary muddle of daily life. The road to the cross may not always be easy, but it is always the road that leads to resurrection.

So, as the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear, perhaps Lent offers a simple invitation. Each morning, we might pause and pray the words Jesus taught us:

“Your kingdom come, your will be done.” (Matthew 6:10)

In that quiet space we place our hopes, worries and plans into God’s hands. If you feel a little scruffy and a little hopeful this March, you are probably exactly where Lent is meant to find you.

May your path be steady, your heart hopeful, and Christ walk beside you on the journey to the cross.



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

The APCM will take place on Wednesday 29th April at 7.00pm in St John's Church.

All are welcome to attend as we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the life and work of our churches.

St Boniface Church News April 2026

You are warmly invited to join us for our Easter services:

Good Friday – Friday 3rd April 10.00am Service of Reflection, led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with reflections by Pat Wootten

Easter Sunday – Sunday 5th April 11.00am Holy Communion (*time to be confirmed*)

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

Good Friday Event

Friday 3rd April, 11am–2pm Join us at St John's Church this Good Friday. A relaxed, family-friendly event for all ages.

Crafts, games and activities

Refreshments available.

Drop in at any time between 11am and 2pm.

Free event – all welcome.



Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who has donated men's clothing for the Street Pastors. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference.

Good-quality men's clothing is still welcome, especially warm coats and jackets, hoodies and jumpers, joggers (S, M or L), and thick socks. Donations can be given to David Edes. Thank you for your continued support.



2nd April – Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



Parish Pump

The Cross of Jesus

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;



a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of God's love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, *'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed'* (1Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order *'to bring us to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).



The idea of substitution lies at the heart of understanding what Jesus did on the cross: *'For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.'* (John Stott).

Parish Pump

They crucified Him with the criminals. Which is more amazing, to find Jesus in such bad company, or to find the criminals in such good company?Jesus did not die for the sake of a good world, He died for the sake of an evil world.

Karl Barth

The Shroud of Turin

Science Fiction

Many of us like to tune in to Star Trek and hear Captain Kirk's call; 'Beam me up, Scotty'.

Scientific Fact

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the best attested facts of history, as stated in Prof JND Anderson's book of many years ago and this picture of the tortured face of Jesus hangs on the wall in CS Lewis's house. In John 20;3-9 Peter and John went to the tomb, but it was John who saw the linen cloth (the shroud) and the head cloth separate, and he believed that Jesus had risen so he probably took them back with him.

Some people may want more convincing evidence than this. On Nov 30 2025, it was stated that The Shroud of Turin is the single most studied artifact in human history. The Shroud of Turin Conference International was held in 2025 and its success proved that the Shroud has reached new heights of global interest - it was a revival of truth. Also, in 2024/25 there is a quote that his body shut down because of trauma.

In 1978 NASA scientists and others spent 6 days working on what might have caused the image on the Shroud. The image of Jesus is imprinted as a very thin layer on top of the blood-stained linen and is way beyond our scientific knowledge. However, in August 2024 Paul Hanson recorded news media around the world, who confirmed that the Shroud dates back to the time of Christ. A new blood test of that year showed particles in the blood staining the shroud were associated with Gamma rays such as a nuclear reaction and radioactive nuclei-like Potassium-40. It may explain how the image was formed.

Historical and Biblical Truth

There is a good video by David Onysko (BABL.2020) entitled 'The Shroud of Turin **"A FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS?"**'.

(See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQjQ2A1_vOc)

It shows the marks from the crown of thorns, the scourging (700 marks), the spear thrust, and the nails. It shows that many prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled by Jesus on the cross. But it also shows the journey taken by the Shroud up to Edessa (with Jesus' Icon of a bearded face) and onward to Turin in 1593.



This is the face of Jesus as it was after two men had laid his body in the tomb, and this is described in the Gospels. But also, this image was imprinted on the Shroud at the time of his resurrection.

I find this an incredible discovery, with such strong scientific evidence. I hope you will consider it seriously.

Jim Stanley-Smith

Revd Dr Helen Williams announced as the next Archdeacon Designate of Bodmin

The Diocese of Truro has announced that the Revd Dr Helen Williams will become the new Archdeacon Designate of Bodmin later this year.



Helen is currently serving as Team Vicar in the Shaftesbury Benefice in the Diocese of Salisbury and is expected to take up her new post in the summer. Many in our community will remember Helen from her time at Twin Spires, where she was part of parish life. Her appointment will be of particular interest to those who knew her during those years.

Helen brings extensive experience in rural ministry and in working with children and young people. Before ordination, she trained in astrophysics and later worked as a science teacher. She served as a Reader in the Diocese of Winchester and then as a Licensed

Lay Minister in Salisbury Diocese, continuing to teach while preparing for ordination at Sarum College. Her curacy was completed in Wareham before she moved to her current role.

She has spoken warmly about her excitement at joining the Diocese of Truro and getting to know the Christian communities of Bodmin and the surrounding area. Senior clergy have welcomed her appointment, praising her spirituality, intellect, and compassion.

Her official start date will be confirmed in due course, but she is expected to begin her new ministry this summer.

FREDS

March's litter pick

It was really good that more than a dozen people were able to make it to this month's session which centred around the top of Horns Drove. The good turnout was especially gratifying given the dismal weather following the sunshine earlier in the week.



We were able to cover quite a wide area, and collected a fire extinguisher, TV and wreckage from a large tyre, as well as the usual tedious food packaging waste lobbed into any available shrubbery. John was the only remaining picker in the photo, as I wasn't back to the start in time to record everyone else.

Please watch the Church website and both the church page and Nursling and Rownhams page on

Facebook for our plans for picking in the Bank Holiday weekends at the beginning of both April and May.

Mary Carter

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, hands-on task taking around **3–4 hours once a month**.

If you might be able to help, please speak to one of the **FREDS** (Mary Carter, Marion Swinerd or Shelley Mabey) or contact the **church office**. We'd also be glad to hear from anyone who could help with the production and printing ready for bundling.

Safeguarding We are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Please scan the QR code for information about safeguarding and how to raise any concerns.



Loving people in later life

Nearly one in five people in England are aged 65 and over, with more than a quarter of the population expected to be above 65 by 2065.

These figures illustrate why UK churches need to keep a focus on outreach to older people. To ignore them is to miss out on a major mission opportunity.

And so current initiatives include lunch clubs, exercise sessions, singing classes, tea and coffee times, outings and a broad range of social activities open to the community.



But 'later life' or 'retirement years' is a catch-all term that says little about the fast-growing number of people in these age groups. A fit-and-well 65-year-old is very different to a 95-year-old person living in a care home.

One – hopefully helpful – way of describing ministry to older people focuses on their health and ability. My proposed categories would be:

The 'go-go' people: Men and women, often new to retirement, who are physically and mentally active and often looking for opportunities for voluntary service in areas, perhaps very different to their previous paid work.

This age group is often the backbone of many churches, providing the voluntary support for all kinds of church activities – from staffing the church toddlers' group to membership of the church council.

The 'slow-go' people: Men and women who are no longer as active, perhaps because of illness, adjusting to life following bereavement, or needing to care for a family member.

Here the mission opportunity may be around inviting them to join in church social events, such as lunch clubs or drop-ins, where they can meet new people and be drawn into the life of the church.

The 'no-go' people: These are older people who are now home-based or living in a care setting. Visits from church members, services held at care homes, and 'live-streaming' of church services can also be a link for them to the worshipping community. Many churches have adopted care homes in their area.

And then, at the end of life, churches can also provide sensitive funeral services, tailored to the wishes of the bereaved, and their families.

Ministering to men and women in later life can be richly rewarding, both for the people concerned, and for the churches who take on this important ministry. We ignore it at our peril...

Parish Pump

Agapé? What's That?

The **6.30pm** service on **3rd May** will be an Agapé service and you may be wondering what that is.

Agapé (pronounced Ag-a-pay), from Ancient Greek, is "the highest form of love, charity" and "the love of God for man and of man for God". This is in contrast to philia, brotherly love, or philautia, self-love, as it embraces a profound sacrificial love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstance So what is an Agapé service?

The Agapé fellowship meal or service is a very ancient tradition of the Church. The invitation to share is offered to everyone. Nobody is too old, or too young, to take part. All are invited, not only those who are "fully signed up" members of the church but everybody, whether an ordained minister of the church or somebody who comes into church just for the company and a sing. Maybe that is you, or maybe you are somewhere in between those two. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, or even if you have yet to start, the Agapé service is for you to take part.

In this parish we share bread that is gluten and dairy free but unfortunately not guaranteed to be nut-free, and alcohol-free grape juice. In this way we hope to include almost everybody. The service is very informal with lots of time for people to enjoy sharing this simple "meal" with the church family.



This will be the 4th such service in St John's church in recent times. This time we will have chairs in church instead of pews so I hope we can sit in a more informal way, perhaps around tables.

Marion Swinerd

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.

Church Services in April

He is risen!

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.

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Christine Owen, BCM, BPP

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

10am Family Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Ewan Brown.

6.30pm Easter Praise

Led by Steve Beak with Lynn Black



Sunday 12th April – Easter 2

10am Morning Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise

Led by Claire Thompson BCM, with Sharon Wills

6.30pm Evening Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise

Led by Ewan Brown

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

10am Contemporary Service – A modern service of prayer and praise

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

4pm LEGO Church (in St John's Church)

6.30pm Prayer Meeting – a short meeting for prayer

In place of 6.30pm service



Sunday 26th April – Easter 4

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 Lynn Black

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

10am Service of Reflection.

Led By Rev Graeme Dixon with reflections by Pat Wootten

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

11am Holy Communion time TBC

Sunday 12th April – Easter 2

11am Morning Prayer

Led by John Sofrin with Sharon Wills

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Pat Wootten

Sunday 26th April – Easter 4

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon



Other Opportunities for Prayer and Worship:

Each week:

Mondays – Morning Prayer 9am on [Zoom](#) (not on 30th March or 6th April)

Tuesdays – Morning Prayer 9.30am on [Zoom](#) (not on 31st March or 7th April)

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 (not on 1st or 8th April)

Thursdays – Morning Prayer 10am on Facebook Live (not on 30th April)

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

Fridays – Morning Prayer 8.30am in St Boniface Church (not on 3rd or 10th April)

Friday 17th April 2.15pm (normally 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](#) (for new Christians)

Third Tuesday 7–9pm NEW Art Group – in St John's Church

Thursday 2nd & 16th April 10am – midday Coffee Break
this month in Horns Drove Community Centre (see page 18)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting ONLY 17th April this month (see p15)

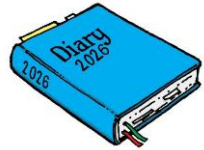
Sat 4th April 10–11am Litter Pick venue tbc (see p11)

Sat 11th April 8.30am Men's Breakfast – at the Balmoral Inn contact Mike Bunce

Sat 18th April 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p24)



Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 12th April**
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
- + **Good Friday 3rd April in St John's Church**
11am – 2pm Crafts, Games, Activities and Refreshments (see p6)
- + **Wednesday 15th April Final date return for Electoral Roll forms**
(see p5)
- + **Wednesday 29th April 7pm APCM in St John's Church (see P6)**
- + **Saturday 2nd May 10-11am Litter Pick (See p11) venue tbc**
- + **Saturday 9th May 8.30am Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact Randell McKay**
- + **Saturday 16th May 9.30-11am Ladies Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p24)**
- + **Friday 22nd May 2pm Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see below)**

Come and join us at
Friday Friends



The Pastoral team invites you for an

'Afternoon Tea' Friday, 22nd May 2026

St. John's Church Hall starting at 2.00 pm.

A time for space, quiet reflection and prayer and for an 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.



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.

There will be no Tots Café on 30th March or 6th April

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 April:

2nd – Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat

9th – Easter break, **NO MEETING**

16th – Romsey Ukulele Group, rocking along all afternoon

23rd – Wally Cozens, C & W singer with a bit of Elvis.

30th – Bob talking about Vintage Vehicles

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

Mike Ward

Dare to be True – George Herbert: Verse and Prose

By Wendy Cope, SPCK, £16.99

A fresh and affectionate celebration of George Herbert - the greatest devotional poet in the English language - introduced by award-winning poet Wendy Cope.

Herbert's verse, playful in form yet profound in reflection, continues to speak across the centuries, uniting poetic artistry with questions of meaning, belief and the human condition.

Drawing on Herbert's friendships with John Donne and Lancelot Andrewes, Cope situates him within the rich world of 17th-century literature and faith. As T. S. Eliot once wrote, Herbert is "a major poet" and in this volume, readers will see why.

From his celebrated poem *Love (III)* - described by Simone Weil as "the most beautiful poem in the world" - to lesser-known works revealing his honesty and humour, this collection invites a new generation to rediscover the clarity, depth and craftsmanship of Herbert's voice.

Perfect for readers of poetry, literary history, and those drawn to reflections on art, faith and human experience.

Parish Pump

Resurrection life

Did you have 'a good Lent'? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of His earthly ministry as He set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing He would be killed there? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) harrowing, and by 3 o'clock on Good Friday - the hour at which Jesus traditionally died - I am wrung out.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter. No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year - much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

It's all summed up in the poem 'Easter Wings' by the 17th century poet and priest George Herbert. For me, it's not the words of the poem so much as its shape - it's written in the shape of a butterfly's wings. Now that's clever; - to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.



We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it - yes, live the Resurrection in ourselves -as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to 'do little things with great love.'

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the more boundless I find it to be. Which I guess is why God gives us a season - seven weeks up till Pentecost - to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, your Easter bonnets, your egg-pacing; in fact, have a great Easter. But don't let the Resurrection pass you by. It's the gateway to what Jesus calls 'life in all its fulness'.

Parish Pump

'Still a 'long way' to go on working class vocations,' Synod hears

Progress has been made, but much more needs to be done, in order to increase the representation of people from working class backgrounds in lay and ordained leadership roles in the Church of England, the General Synod was recently told.



The Bishop of Barking, Lynne Cullens, who is heading a key advisory group to encourage working class vocations, said there was still a “long way to go. There was a poverty of both expectation and opportunity which restricts vocational journeys of many.”

The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, who Chairs the Ministry Development Board, said there is a ‘cultural disconnect’ experienced by people from working class roots.

“We heard those frustrations around vocations, discernment, training, finances, housing, and leadership progression, above all around a kind of cultural disconnect, where you are invited to be part of something, but you never fully feel that you belong. But at the same time, we heard hope - genuine hope, cautious, sometimes fragile, but a kind of real optimism.”

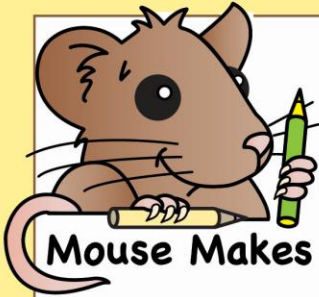
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, welcomed the work to encourage working class vocations. She highlighted shift workers, saying that 27 per cent of the UK work force regularly work evenings and nights – and they will include many potential lay and ordained ministers.

“Our current processes exclude shift workers, and we need to do more to ensure that our vocational processes are accessible to those outside traditional working patterns. Their experience brings gifts to the church that we urgently need,” she said.

Parish Pump

The Christian teaching about who crucified Christ is not that the Romans or the Jews or whatever people happened to be there did, but that you and I did, and that all human societies without exception are involved in the crucifixion of Christ.

Northrop Frye



GOOD NEWS
 HOSANNA
 DEATH
 VNCOE EUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVS YU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY
 JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
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 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26

I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32

We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47

I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel

Jesus is alive! He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

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.



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Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.

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 18th April from 9.30–11.00am**

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



Tracey Jones



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 Pray for those who join our services over Easter (Easter Sunday 5 April). Pray that they would know God's touch. Pray that he would be working in their hearts helping them to understand something more of his unconditional love for us and what Jesus has achieved for us.



MONDAY Pray for wisdom and diplomacy skills for all world leaders as they look for ways of working together. Continue to pray for just and lasting peace to come in the Middle East and Ukraine. Pray for those who are suffering the effects of war and for those who have been traumatized or bereaved. That they will find healing, comfort and hope.

TUESDAY Thank God for the many people who serve God in different ways in our churches and especially our churchwardens, PCC treasurer and secretary. Pray that they will know God's strength and enabling in their ministries. Pray for our APCM (Wed. 29 April), that the right people might be elected.

WEDNESDAY Pray for our home groups. That they will be places where people will feel supported and enjoy fellowship with one another and can grow in their faith and love of God. Pray for God's help for the leaders.

THURSDAY Pray that the fashion industry will move away from the linear 'take-make-waste' model for making and selling clothes and instead move towards a circular model where the production of an item, its longevity and what happens at the end of its life are equally as important.

FRIDAY Thank God for the young people and children in our church family. Pray that they will flourish physically, mentally and spiritually. Pray for them to know God's love and support surrounding them and giving them hope as they grow up in a harsh world. Pray for parents to have wisdom as they seek to support their children. Pray for support for Ewan as he leads the youth work.

SATURDAY Pray for the work of Southampton City Mission as they run the Basics Bank and Marketplace projects. Pray that they would have the resources they need to help people. Pray too for their schools work, that the children would be receptive and understand more of God's love for them as the staff and volunteers share Bible stories and answer their questions.



Prayer isn't about the place; it's about the posture of the heart. You don't need perfect words, perfect silence, or a perfect setting. Just an open moment and a willing heart.

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him.” — Psalm 145:18

A Mindful moment: Right now, wherever you are, take one slow breath and whisper a simple prayer... “God, I'm here.” Dear Lord, thank You that I can come to You just as I am. Meet me in the ordinary moments and hear even the prayers I can't put into words. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

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