

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS  
**Twin Spires News**

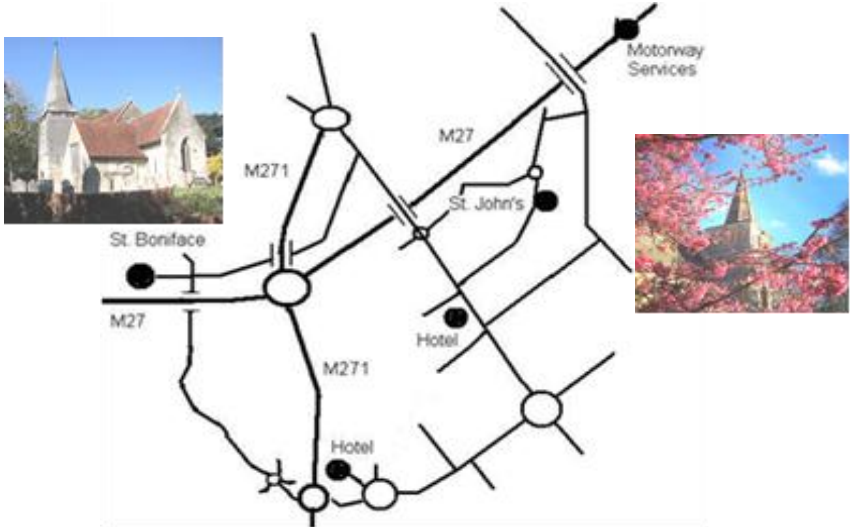
*Web Edition*

*May 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](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

Our website is [www.twinspires.org.uk](http://www.twinspires.org.uk)

This magazine is available to read on our website. If you would like to have your own printed copy of Twin Spires News, it is available from either of our church buildings, price 60p per copy or £6 for 1 year (Jan to Dec). Copies may be delivered free within the area, by arrangement.

There are a number of ways you can donate to church funds (outlined on page 23). Bank Transfer is the preferred method. More information on 'giving' is available from the Office and the church website.

Donate

There is also a [link](#) which offers a very simple option for any one-off on-line gifts. Look for the donate button on our website, or use the QR code.



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Cover Image: by Sandi O'Donnell



## Verse of the Month

“Peace be with you.” John 20:19 (NRSV)

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**“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else” – C. S. Lewis**

Dear friends,

We are in the Easter season. The days are lengthening, and even in the midst of unsettled weather, there are signs of new life all around us.



And that is, of course, the heart of Easter.

The great need of our world is hope: hope that things can change, hope that all will be well. Easter is not simply a memory of something long past. It is a living reality—the constant invitation of the Risen Christ into lives of renewal, transformation, and purpose.

As Easter people, we dare to believe that life can break out of death, that joy can rise from sorrow, and that God is at work even in uncertain times.

And these are uncertain times.

In recent weeks, we have watched with concern the conflict between the United States and Iran. It is a sobering reminder of how quickly our world can become unsettled, and how fragile peace can be.

In such a world, the message of Easter matters more than ever.

Hope is not naïve optimism. It is not ignoring the reality of conflict or suffering. Rather, it is the deep conviction that these things do not have the final word. The resurrection of Jesus declares that even in the darkest moments, God is at work bringing life, renewal, and a future.

That hope takes shape in the ordinary and the practical—in the life of our church, our relationships, and our shared calling to serve.

Over these past months, we have seen that clearly in our church re-ordering project. The day of prayer for the church hall at St John’s and the re-ordering of our churches are not simply about bricks and mortar. They are about mission. They are about creating spaces where life can flourish—spaces of welcome, hospitality, and encounter.

But these works are not just about reaching a finished end. They are not simply a destination. They are part of a journey we are travelling together.

In that sense, they echo something of the Artemis space programme. While it captures the imagination as a mission to reach new places, it is equally about the journey—the learning, the shaping, and the opening up of new possibilities along the way.

So too for us. As we continue this work, we are being shaped as a community. We are learning what it means to be more open, more generous, more outward-looking. The process itself is forming us.

And it is drawing us outward.

A renewed building is not an end in itself; it is a means of grace. It creates opportunities—opportunities to welcome, to serve, to listen, and to bless. It enables us to step more fully into the life of our community and into the common good.

Our vision remains simple: loving Jesus, loving one another, and loving our community.

From these values flows the common good. The life of the church is never meant to be self-contained. It spills outward. It seeks the flourishing of all.

In a world marked by conflict and uncertainty, this calling matters deeply. Where there is division, we are called to be people of reconciliation. Where there is fear, we are called to be people of hope.

The late Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann spoke of “radical hope”—a hope that resists fear and imagines a different kind of world, shaped not by scarcity, but by trust in God’s abundance.

That hope is what we are called to embody.

And yet, as humanity looks outward—to the Moon, to space, to the limits of our exploration—we are reminded of both our brilliance and our limits. However far we travel, there remains a horizon we cannot cross.

But we worship the God who made the universe—the One who set the stars in their place, and yet who knows each of us by name.

This is where our hope is grounded.

Not in how far we can go, but in who God is.

The resurrection of Jesus declares that even the greatest limits we face—sin, suffering, and death—are not the end of the story. In Christ, those limits have been overcome. Life is stronger than death. Love is stronger than fear.

That is why Easter hope matters.

It is the hope that keeps us moving, keeps us building, keeps us reaching out. It is the hope that reminds us that what we are doing together—shaping our buildings, deepening our life as a church, and serving our community—is part of something far greater than ourselves.

As we continue this journey together, may we remember that we are not simply working towards a finished project, but being formed as a people of hope.

A people who love Jesus, love one another, and love our community.

A people who journey together—not just toward a destination, but into the life God is already unfolding among us.

With every blessing this Easter season.

*Graeme*



## **Come to the mountain: the story behind the song**

We've recently introduced a new song, '*Come to the mountain*'. You may have wondered what it's all about?

I am currently studying for the Bishop's Permission to Preach, a one-year course in theology and practical preaching. Recently, we studied Isaiah in depth, and I was very struck by chapter 25. The song is based on this.

These are troubled times. The dominance of global superpowers, seemingly endless wars, widespread poverty and famine. International alliances are proving hollow and unreliable. In times past, days of prayer have mobilised the nation. But the nation has become secularised, and everyone does 'what is right in his own eyes' (Judges 21.25), while somehow believing that our religious heritage can save us.

Familiar? Yes, but this is actually ancient Israel in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC! Isaiah's message to the nation's leadership was: 'Trust in alliances or in military might is doomed. Only God can save us.'

Chapters 13-23 contain messages of judgement on the surrounding nations; judgement because of their arrogance and their oppression of God's people. Then, in Chapters 24-27, the viewpoint widens to the world as a whole, and the LORD is seen as sovereign, victorious and judge. And in the middle of this, Isaiah sings a marvellous song (25:6-10) that begins and ends with the words "On this mountain". That's the focus of my song.

*O come to the mountain, come to the Lord  
Come find forgiveness, freedom restored  
Come to the Saviour, sing of his grace  
Come to the mountain, the presence of God in this place.*

**Which mountain?** Mountains occur 20 times in Isaiah, and usually refer to God's holy mountain, mount Zion. This was the location of the Temple, the place where the presence of God was manifest in the midst of his people (1 Kings 8).

There may also be an allusion to Mount Sinai, where the LORD made the covenant with his people after they came up out of Egypt. Moses, Aaron, and 72 others went up the mountain as representatives of the people. There, they saw the God of Israel and they ate and drank (Exodus 24.9-11).

For us today, Jesus himself is the Temple (John 2.21), the place where God is present with his people as Immanuel (Matthew 1.23). If we are to receive his blessing, we have come to God's presence through him.

*O come to the banquet, O come to the feast  
For all are invited, from greatest to least  
The tables are ready, the food is prepared  
The wine it is flowing, the richest of fare.*

**What is on the menu?** This "rich food and well matured wine" (v6) represent all the blessings Jesus brought to us in the New Covenant of his blood. Salvation (v9) is won for us by Jesus through the cross and the resurrection. It is here, on the mountain of Calvary, that we can find forgiveness, freedom from our past mistakes and renewal into his image. It is rich food and drink indeed.

When we come together to celebrate Holy Communion, we get a foretaste of this banquet as we share the symbols of the New Covenant. But it is a pale shadow of what is to come; the heavenly banquet will be far more satisfying, far more delicious. It will be the party to end all parties.

*All nations are welcome, all people come home  
For death is defeated, our fears overcome  
The Lord wipes away every tear from our eyes  
He carries our sorrow through his sacrifice.*

**What is this banquet?** We've seen it's a New Covenant banquet. But unlike at Mount Sinai, this banquet is for all: *all* peoples, *all* nations; God wipes away the tears from *all* faces; he takes away the disgrace of his people from *all* the earth (v7,8). "On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will make for *all* peoples a feast of rich food" (v6).

It's also a victory banquet. It celebrates God's victory in bringing judgement (ch 24). It may seem odd that the Bible celebrates God's judgement and the destruction of God's enemies, but this must be seen at



## St Boniface Church News May 2026

### Mothers' Day

This special service took place on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Pat Wootten who led a very moving and thought-provoking morning. She was ably assisted by two of her great-grandchildren, Jack and Emily, who distributed posies to every Mum/Carer at the service.



### Easter Sunday

We were pleased to welcome Reverend Liz Pickett, who led our Communion Service on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We hope she will be able visit us again. Thank you Pat and John for the chocolate treats given to the congregation after the service.

### Open Day

The Church will be open on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 2 pm. If you are new to the area, come and visit our beautiful church and learn about its long history. St Boniface Day is celebrated on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and the church will be decorated to tell the story of St Boniface, his time in Nursling, Crediton in Devon, and Holland and Germany.

***Avis Wood with many thanks to Peter Wood for the photos***

## April's litter pick

As the litter pick date fell in the middle of Easter this year, we decided to limit ourselves to individual efforts: I know that one collector found half a sackful of rubbish between St John's churchyard and her home near Rownhams Road. Thank you to anyone else who carried out similar activities.

In May, Saturday 2nd May also falls in a Bank Holiday weekend, but we will meet in the usual way by the lower entrance to Nutshalling Avenue (Romsey Road end). Please gather at 10 am with stout shoes and gardening gloves: children are always very welcome, but do need to be accompanied by an adult. As always, thanks to all the public spirited residents who are able to help in this way.

*Mary Carter and Sophie Ross*

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## 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.

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**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.



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**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.

## Highlights from the PCC Meeting on 17 March 2026

### Safeguarding

Following discussion of the Diocesan Worksheet 1B Promoting the Welfare of Vulnerable Groups, it was agreed the following two actions should be taken:

1. Define a process for pastoral ways of working.
2. Create boundaries within which to offer help. (eg rough sleepers)

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

- ✓ **Chairs at St John's Church** Concerns had been raised about insufficient and random spacing between the rows of chairs. The remaining two front pews have been moved forward to allow the chairs to be spaced more evenly. The chairs can slide on the flooring and Graeme has asked that everyone be tolerant as we adjust to the chairs and all issues are resolved. An initial number of non-slip cushions had been purchased.
- ✓ **War Memorial at St John's Church** There had been an incident where Steph had hit her head on the corner of the wooden War Memorial, while cleaning the church. In the short term, two chair dollies will be kept in front of the Memorial to act as a barrier.

### Finance

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 had been reviewed by the Independent Examiner and were approved by the PCC. Income appears higher than the previous year, due to legacies and donations for the chairs at St John's Church, electrics and Hymnal at St Boniface Church. Outgoing resources included capital expenditure on the chairs and Hymnal.

Linda Purkess was thanked for all her hard work in preparing the Accounts.

### St Boniface Church

- ✓ **Church Warden** John Sofrin has been Church Warden for six years and would like a break.
- ✓ **Projects** There are a lot of projects planned over the next 12 months, with the interior decoration being a priority.

- ✓ **Path to Front Entrance of Church** The path is uneven and gets very slippery in the rain, preventing some of the congregation attending on wet days. A solution is being investigated.

## **St John's Church**

- ✓ **Church Administrator Maternity Leave** Four people had been interviewed for the vacancy.
- ✓ **Key Safe** A new larger key safe, with buttons, had been purchased for the church porch.
- ✓ **Church Hall Update** The current hall is not fit for purpose and the Feasibility Group had agreed to contact Kingswell Building Ltd., who design and supply modular buildings, to arrange an initial meeting to discuss what they can do and obtain illustrations and costs. It will be important to include the local community in this journey. A day of Prayer and Fasting was planned for 20 March, to seek God's guidance. We must not limit God's vision by our own thoughts.
- ✓ **Guttering Repairs** The guttering repairs outside the Vestry were approved. These repairs, together with pointing, would enable the Vestry wall to dry out before re-plastering.
- ✓ **Audio and Visual Contractors** It was agreed that our technical team would start the process of selecting a contractor to advise on the right equipment needed for our church.
- ✓ **Flooring** Graeme had met with the Architect, who recommended extending the current raised floor to the entrance of the church and between the first seats and chancel steps. Graeme will arrange a meeting with the Architect, DAC and PCC to determine the best option. The flooring we choose should have a high R rating, causing friction to avoid the chairs slipping. Carpet tiles are not conducive to children's activities where liquids can be spilt.

## **Archdeacon's Parochial Visitation**

A Visitation will take place at both our churches in August. The PCC are currently preparing and collating the relevant documents which will need to be inspected.

### **Future Dates**

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***

## ‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Stained Glass windows

You may know the story of the little girl with her family during a guided tour around a cathedral. As the bright sun streamed through one of the windows, she asked the guide who were the people depicted there. “Those are the saints,” he replied. Later that evening the girl told her mummy, “I know who the saints are.” “Do you, dear? Who are they?” the mother asked. The little girl replied: “They are the people who let the light shine through.”



When the summer sun rises, its light catches the east window of a church I look after. It shines through the figures and colours of the Annunciation scene to bathe the chancel in a warm glow. Later as the sun sets, it shines once again through the west window showing Christ surrounded by angels, with the same wonderful effect. They are two stained glass windows by the Victorian designer, Kempe. But in St Mary’s Church, Fairford in Gloucestershire, there are an incredible 28 windows of medieval glass that have survived the centuries and continue to astonish the visitor.

As the sun catches this array of windows, the colours take on a new, vibrant life. We see scenes in the life of our Lord and our Lady, Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles and the communion of saints. The eye moves round and we reach the west window portraying Christ in majesty and the day of judgement. This great work has been attributed to the royal glazier, Barnard Flower, who was influenced by the late medieval illuminated prayer books. The windows are a living witness to his skill and faith.

George Herbert has a poem that calls us to shine out like the church windows. It is easy, he says, to be “brittle crazy glass”, but in God’s good grace we can become like a window where colours and light, belief and life can combine and mingle to radiate out into the world.



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### 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 16<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30–11.00am**

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!

**Tracey Jones**

## 50 days after Easter

Pentecost. The word means '50 days after Easter'. It's the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts chapter 2, and it's the birthday of the Church. So far so good; but beyond this, things get a bit hazy for some of us. We are familiar with the idea of God the good Father, and we've heard and read of all that Jesus - God the Son - said and did. But the Holy Spirit? *Who He?!*

The images used of the Holy Spirit in scripture can be a bit of a barrier to understanding. Words like 'spirit' 'wind' 'flame' 'breath' are all a bit elusive, and they possibly leave us with a feeling that in trying to understand the Holy Spirit we're chasing rainbows. But if we dig a little deeper, we can see that these images speak of an unhindered force which can be powerful and yet gentle, cleansing and free.



The Bible is full of images of the Holy Spirit. There is 'dove', as seen on many Christmas cards and in stained glass windows. It's usually white. A white dove image speaks of gentleness and purity, unfettered as it wings its way across the sky.

Then there's the more difficult word 'advocate'. Someone who speaks up for us, comes alongside us, someone to aid us in times of need. We could go on with different images which tell us more of the character of the Holy Spirit, but there are two key things to remember. Firstly, this is the spirit of Jesus. All that Jesus was in earthly form, the Holy Spirit is to us now. Jesus is no longer among us as He was two thousand years ago, but the Holy Spirit makes Him available to us now.

Which brings us to the second point; the Holy Spirit is given by the good Father to us, His children - giving us, as it were, an injection of Jesus' personality, wisdom and holiness, enabling us to serve as Jesus did, enabling us, as Mother Teresa put it, 'to do little things with great love'.

The first Pentecost set the young Church in Jerusalem off on a great adventure which culminated in today's world where one in three people worldwide say they are Christians. It could be a great adventure for us as we ask God, the good Father, to gift us with the Spirit of Jesus. Let's do it!

***Parish Pump***

# Church Services in *May*

## *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 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Easter 5**

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

**6.30pm Agape Service** – An informal service with shared food.  
Led by Marion Swinerd BCM

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Easter 6**

**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 Claire Thompson BCM, with David Thompson

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Easter 7/Sunday after Ascension**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost**

**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 Marion Swinerd BCM, with Rev Jim Stanley-Smith

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Trinity Sunday**

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

**6.30pm Healing and Anointing Service**  
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Lynn Black



# *St Boniface Church, Nursling*

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Easter 5**

### **11am Morning Prayer**

Led by Linda Klein with Pat Wootten, BCM, BPP

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Easter 6**

### **11am Morning Prayer**

Led by Claire Thompson BCM, with David Thompson

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Easter 7/Sunday after Ascension**

### **11am Morning Prayer**

Led by Pat Wootten BCM, BPP

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost**

### **11am Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Trinity Sunday**

### **11am Morning Prayer**

Led by John Sofrin with Linda Klein



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## **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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Wednesdays 7.30pm NEW Alpha** The Vicarage. For more details 023 8073 8293 or [office@twinspires.org.uk](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

**Thursdays 1–4pm Ladies' Shed Group** (venue: Nursling Men's Shed)

**Thursdays 2.15–3.45pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club** (See p19)

**Fridays 4.30–5.30pm IGNITE Youth Group**  
for school years Reception – 2 in St John's Church Hall

**Fridays 6–7.30pm NET** for school years 3-6 in St John's Church Hall

**First Tuesdays 7.30pm Craft Group** in St John's Church Hall

**First Wednesdays 8–9pm CONNECT!** on [Zoom](https://zoom.us) (for new Christians)

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

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 10am – midday Coffee Break** this month only on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p18)

**First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May** (see p15)

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10–11am Litter Pick** the lower entrance to Nutshalling Avenue (Romsey Road end) (see p9)

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May 8.30am Men's Breakfast** – at The Vicarage contact Rev Graeme Dixon

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together**, St John's Church Hall (see p12)



## Dates for Your Diary:



- + **Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
Preferably by email to [twinspiresnews@live.co.uk](mailto:twinspiresnews@live.co.uk)  
or, alternatively, to: Mary Carter, 12 Horsebridge Way (paper copy).  
Please check you receive an acknowledgement of your email
- + **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 7pm APCM in St John's Church**
- + **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 12pm – 4pm – May Fair Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground.** (See <https://nrweb.org.uk/may-fair> and P7)
- + **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2pm** Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see below)
- + **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10-11am** Litter Pick (See p9) venue tbc
- + **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 2pm** St Boniface open Day (see P8)
- + **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 2pm** Men's Shed Open Day (see P19)
- + **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June Churches Count on Nature 2026** after the St John's 10am Service. More details to follow (See P19)
- + **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 8.30am** Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact John Pennells
- + **Saturday 20<sup>h</sup> June 9.30-11am** Ladies Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p12)



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.



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



**No Coffee Break on 7th May. Next meet: 21st May**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> May or 25<sup>th</sup> May**

## 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 May:

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Dennis Bryant, Humorous Poet, sounds funny!

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Singalong afternoon with Braishfield Ukulele Music Society (BUMS)

**21<sup>st</sup>** – Paddy Maxwell, singer, raconteur and humour all the way.

**28<sup>th</sup>** – Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat.

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

**Mike Ward**

### NURSLING MEN'S SHED

St Boniface Hall, Church Lane, Nursling, SO16 0YB

#### OPEN DAY

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

10am to 1pm

Come and meet our members  
Examples and display of what we have done this year  
A range of items for Sale  
(including some gift ideas for gardens this summer)

Tea, Coffee and Cakes available

Music by Nursling & Rownhams Community Band

### Sat 6<sup>th</sup> - Sun 14<sup>th</sup> June Churches Count on Nature 2026

We hope to run our TwinSpires Count on Nature family event on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** after the St John's 10am Service.

More details to follow



# Kimbilio

## Sanctuaire des Enfants



Kimbilio Prayer news March 2026

Clement hopes we are all well and asks for prayer for the following points:

1. Thank God for the visit of Karen from the UK. She met the group in Kinshasa then spent two weeks with us here in Lubumbashi.
2. Pray that the work of building the technical school will soon be completed. May God move the hearts of donors to support this.
3. Pray too for the plans to get the funds for the building of the multi purpose day centre. It will bring together many projects and help Kimbilio in the future.
4. Pray that the children in the transit homes will be happy to study at the Kimbilio school.
5. Pray for those who are ill including David's daughter and Ian's mother.
6. Pray for peace to return to all parts of our country.



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](mailto:office@twinspires.org.uk)

## Humility

A few years ago, I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So, I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

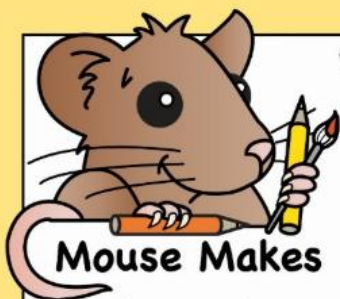
As I walked between the statues, I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.



In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but instead it is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

**Parish Pump**



## Mouse Makes

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 1:2

The

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:15

H \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ John 16:13

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_

\_\_\_ C \_\_\_

\_\_\_ T \_\_\_

\_\_\_ I \_\_\_

\_\_\_ N \_\_\_

\_\_\_ S \_\_\_

\_\_\_ N \_\_\_

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER  
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE  
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

**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](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk). This is a direct debit system that reduces the administrative burden locally but still ensures that all of your donation, together with any gift aid recoverable, reaches this parish.



The dedicated telephone number is **0333 002 1271**. Donors will need their parish's PGS Code which is: **PGS Parish Code 416012141** The Parish of Nursling with Rownhams in the Diocese of Winchester.

**Donate**

More information on 'giving' is available from the Office and our Church website. There is also a [link](#) for one-off donations. Look for the [donate](#) button on our website, or use the QR code here.



Please Support Nursling and Rownhams PCC on #easyfundraising



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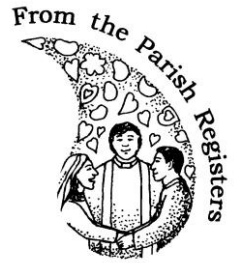
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nurslingandrownhamsdcc/>

You can raise FREE donations for us when you shop online

**This has helped us raise over £800**



## From the Registers



<b>Baptisms</b> 26 April	'One Lord, one faith, one baptism' Aria Mary-Jane Frampton	(Ephesians 4:5) St John's
<b>Weddings</b> 18 April	'Marriage should be honoured by all' Louise Michelle Collier and Perry Laurence Whitmarsh.	(Hebrews 13:4) St John's
<b>Funerals</b> 25 April	'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep' Thomas Brian Turner	(1 Cor 15:20) St John's

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## Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father and giver of all gifts,

This month we thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit which You promise to all who call on Your name, turn away from self-centred living and put their trust in Jesus.

Help us to do that, Lord.

Then, when events in the world and the circumstances of our own lives are difficult to understand, we have Your Holy Spirit who brings life and power.

He is faithful and constant. He will lead us into all truth and give us the words and thoughts we need to experience Your peace in the midst of turmoil.

At this time when we remember the birth of Your church, may we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit afresh and move into each new day confident that we are yours and that in You is our true security

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



**Daphne Kitching**

## Suggestions for Your Prayers



**SUNDAY** Continue to pray for peace where there is war. Pray for the victims and the perpetrators. Remember those who have lost loved ones, homes and possessions; those suffering trauma and those who are refugees.

**MONDAY** Pray for our PCC members, especially those with a special responsibility: Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary. Give thanks for the time they all give. Pray that they will be aware of God's guidance and be supported by the rest of the church. Pray that they will all have wisdom as they make decisions on our behalf and that they will find this period of service rewarding.

**TUESDAY** Remember all those taking exams this month and next. That they will have good health and concentration, and that they would be able to do their best. Pray that they will not feel too stressed. Pray for teachers and parents too supporting them.

**WEDNESDAY** Pray for all the couples who decide to have a wedding or christening in one of our churches. That we will be helpful and friendly towards them and that it would be a good experience. Pray that as they take part in the Alpha course the Holy Spirit would be at work in their lives.

**THURSDAY** Pray for the work of Southampton City Mission as they run the Basics Bank and Marketplace projects. Pray that they would have the resources to help people in need. Pray too for their school's 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.

**FRIDAY** Continue to pray that governments will act on the warnings of climate change and implement the important pledges they have made. Pray for those countries and peoples affected now by what is happening to their environments. Pray for new technical solutions to be discovered or invented that can deliver cleaner energy.

**SATURDAY** Pray that each one of us will be touched afresh with God's Holy Spirit; that he will fill us with love for Jesus; that he will enable and empower us to serve him more; that he will draw us deeper into his Kingdom. (Pentecost 24 May)

## Book review

### The Autobiography of George Müller: ISBN-10 No: 0883681595

Regarding our rebuilding of the Church Hall, this book details Müller's building of three orphan houses in 19<sup>th</sup> century Bristol. He did this entirely by prayer, not telling anyone of his financial needs. He raised what would be millions of pounds in today's money. A great encouragement to our faith as we seek our plans concerning the Church Hall. A must read for us. Available to order from Oasis Book Shop or any other good bookstore.

**Rick Wakeman**



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