

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

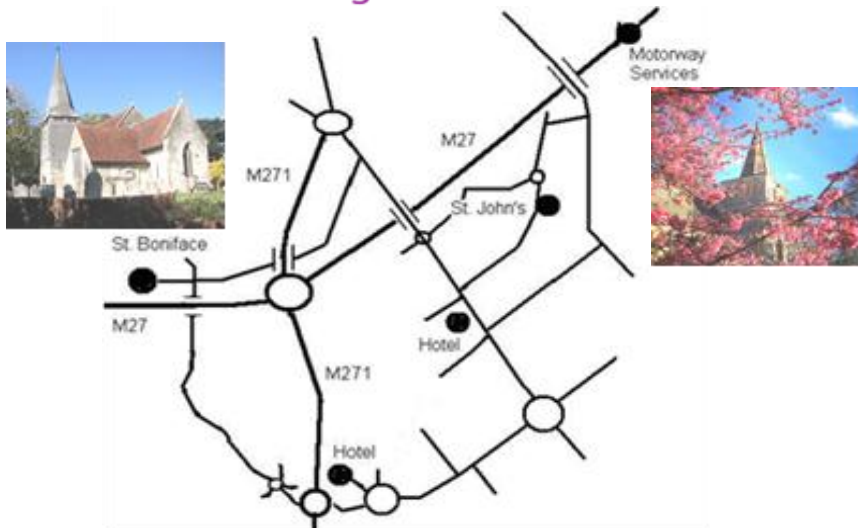
Web Edition

July 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

God called the dry ground “land”, and the gathered waters “seas”. And God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:10 (NIV)

Dear friends,

One of the great joys of parish ministry is that God occasionally gives us moments that remind us exactly what the Church is for. Recently, I had the privilege of baptising a young child in church. It was a wonderful occasion, full of joy, prayer, and celebration as family, friends, and the church family gathered together.



Baptisms are always special, but they are far more than simply a family occasion or a cherished tradition. In baptism we are reminded of God's extraordinary grace and love. We are welcomed into the family of God and begin, or continue, a lifelong journey of faith with Christ.

As I reflected on this baptism, I found myself thinking of Dorothy Cross, who sadly passed recently. At one end of the Christian journey stood a child being welcomed into the family of faith; at the other stood a faithful disciple who had spent many years living out the promises of her baptism.

Dorothy served our churches faithfully and unobtrusively for many years. Many will remember her welcoming people to the 8 o'clock service, lighting candles, preparing the Bible readings and often reciting them too, helping with the sacraments, and quietly ensuring that things were ready for worship. She would often be the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. Her service was never about recognition or praise; it was simply an expression of her love for Christ and His Church.

In many ways, Dorothy reminds us what baptism is really about. Baptism is not simply a moment at the font. It is the beginning of a life lived with and for Jesus Christ. It is about growing in faith, learning to trust God, serving others, and discovering more deeply each day what it means to belong to Him.

As a parish, we often speak about our values of loving Jesus, loving one another, and loving our community. Because Christ has loved us first, we seek to love Him in return. Because Christ welcomes us, we seek to

welcome others. Because Christ serves us, we seek to serve one another and our community.

The wonderful thing about baptism is that it reminds us that our relationship with God begins not with what we do for Him, but with what He has done for us. Before we achieve anything, before we prove ourselves worthy, before we contribute anything at all, God declares His love for us. Everything else flows from that grace.

This year we are hoping to hold a service that will include baptism and confirmation for adults. Perhaps you were never baptised. Perhaps you were baptised as a child and would now like to affirm your faith publicly through confirmation. Perhaps you have been worshipping with us for some time and feel that God may be calling you to take the next step in your Christian journey. If so, please do get in touch. I would be delighted to talk with you about what that might involve.

As we move into the summer months, there is much happening across our parish. We look forward to our Summer Fair on 18th July, a wonderful opportunity to welcome our wider community and enjoy fellowship together. We also have important decisions ahead as we continue to think about our buildings and facilities. There are discussions about the future of the church hall, re-ordering needed to St John's, and important works that will need attention at St Boniface.



These matters are significant, and they require prayer, wisdom, generosity, and careful stewardship. Yet they should never distract us from remembering who we are. Before we are PCC members, volunteers, church officers, clergy, or congregations, we are first and foremost God's people. We are baptised people who belong to Jesus Christ.

That truth gives us confidence as we look to the future. We do not walk alone. The Holy Spirit who was promised to us in baptism continues to guide, strengthen, and encourage us today. The God who has been faithful to this parish through generations past remains faithful now and will remain faithful in the years to come.

Our prayer must be that God goes before us, opening doors where they need to be opened, guiding our decisions, and helping us to discern the path He is calling us to follow. We pray that He would help us to see His face

more clearly, to walk in His ways more faithfully, and to become people whose lives reflect his peace, love, and grace.

The Christian life is not ultimately about buildings, committees, projects, or even programmes. Important though these things are, the heart of our faith is a journey with Jesus Christ. It is about learning to trust Him day by day, through times of celebration and challenge alike, knowing that He is always with us.

As we remember the joy of a child beginning their journey of faith and give thanks for Dorothy's faithful witness over many years, may we each reflect on our own baptismal calling. May we remember that we are loved by Christ, called by Christ, and sent by Christ into the world.

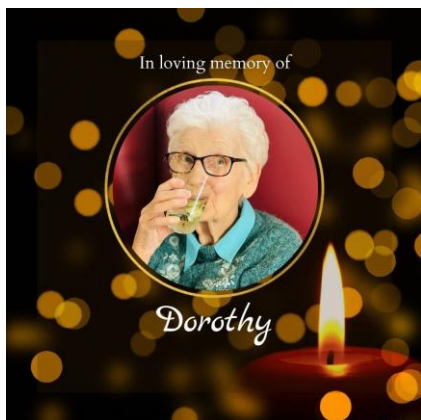
And may we continue that journey together—loving Jesus, loving one another, and loving our community—confident that whatever lies ahead, Christ walks before us, beside us, and behind us. He has loved us first, He loves us still, and He will never let us go.

With every blessing



Graeme

Dorothy Cross (31st May 1934 – 19th May 2026)



Those of us who have been involved with the parish for a number of years will have fond memories of Dorothy, who died in May: she had been living at Woodley Grange care home since the death of her husband, Ron, in January 2025.

Dorothy lived locally all her life and had fond memories of walking around our parish. She and Ron did much of their courting on a stile which was where the cut through from Emmett Road to Rownham Road is now. They were

married in St John's church in the mid 1950's. However, living all her long life in one area did not stop her embarking on several adventurous solo holidays, including to Cuba, in her retirement years

Not only did Dorothy become a faithful member of the 8am Holy Communion congregation until Covid, she was also the author of the painstaking history of St John's church booklet.

Following the retirement of Ian and Amelia Gardner in 1999, Dorothy, who was an experienced office worker with computer skills, was drafted in along with Marion Swinerd, to replace Amelia editing TwinSpires. As Threds, we worked together, with Dorothy doing much of the typing upon each edition, and even after she handed that task on to younger fingers, she remained an eagle-eyed proofreader for a good number of years.

Thank you, Dorothy

Mary Carter

Random thoughts about Dorothy Cross – in no particular order

- ♥ During WWII she was evacuated from central Southampton to somewhere in Rownhams
- ♥ She had a toenail completely, and permanently, removed
- ♥ Incredibly steep stairs in the house in Maybush. How did she manage?!
- ♥ Drove an ancient, white, mini. She was once offered a considerable sum for it but declined
- ♥ Sang in St John's wedding choir
- ♥ Continued to subscribe to Twin Spires News – delivered to her in her care home by Claire
- ♥ Ever wondered why the cover of the May issue of Twin Spires News is always pink? Pink was Dorothy's favourite colour and her birthday was in May.



Marion Swinerd



I first became friends with Dorothy in 2019, when I started working on TwinSpiresNews Magazine with her, along with Mary and Marion. At that time, I was also volunteering in the office, as holiday cover, before Claire Thompson retired as the Administrator. Rhys and I enjoyed seeing Dorothy each week at the 8am services at St John's.

On Monday mornings, Dorothy used to 'man' St John's Church. Things certainly felt so different in those pre-Covid years, when our churches used to be open each day of the week for visitors, who were warmly welcomed in for refreshments. Dorothy was always quick to offer a cuppa!

From day 1, Dorothy was kind and friendly to me, and so easy to chat to. I was new to church admin and the magazine at that time, and she made me feel like part of the team straightaway.

On the Mondays when we held our monthly magazine editorial meetings in St John's Church, Dorothy and I sometimes used to travel back home together afterwards. But Dorothy was very agile and a quick walker, jumping on the number 4 bus if she left before me. Dorothy and Ron – her late husband – were very active socially and seemed to eat lunch out almost every day. She joked that Ron didn't like her cooking!

After Dorothy had stepped away from editing the magazine, she continued to proofread for us, until her eyesight made that difficult. She carried on distributing the magazines until she moved away. I used to drop the bundle off at her house in Maybush (and enjoy a little catch up) and she would deliver the magazines locally. When she lived in Maybush, Dorothy was regularly in Nursling, at the N&R Social Club meetings.

I feel so honoured to have been friends with Dorothy and to have worked with her through church. I will always remember her positive outlook, her smiles, laughter and her kindness to me.

Caroline Moody (former Fred)

For those who remember me (I always did try to keep a low profile!), I thought I would mention that I have now relocated to sunny Hayling Island. That means I don't now often return to Nursling & Rownhams, but I feel blessed to have enjoyed being part of the Twinspires family.

A thanksgiving service for Dorothy's life will be held at St John's, Rownhams, on **Friday 10th July at 11.30am**, followed by the burial of her cremated remains in the churchyard.

Adopted

The teacher's young pupils were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair colour than the other members. One of the children suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, "I know all about adoption; I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means", said the girl, "that you grew in your mummy's heart instead of her tummy."

Parish Pump

Summer News from St Boniface Church

St Boniface Day

June 5th is celebrated as St Boniface Day. The church was decorated to portray the life of St Boniface from his birth in Crediton, Devon to his subsequent travels and ministries in Holland and Germany. In Germany he broke the power of the old pagan gods and brought Christianity to the people. It was at this time that he felled an oak tree sacred to the pagan god Thor. This incident is depicted on a banner in Nursling Church.



Open Day

The Church was open to visitors on June 6th. Historical documents were available to see and John, who was our churchwarden, was there to answer any questions. Thank you to the local folk band, who played a variety of folk songs and sea shanties. They were much appreciated by everyone.



Ken Journeaux

Ken celebrated his 98th birthday on May 30th. He served as Churchwarden for Nursling for many years. A card signed by members of the congregation was given to him, as we thanked him for his long and dedicated service to St Boniface church.

Sea Sunday

This special service will take place on Sunday July 12th, when we will welcome Kate Powell, Southampton Port Chaplain, who will come to talk to us about the Mission to Seafarers.

Avis Wood with many thanks to Mike Hanks for the photos

Churches Count on Nature 2026

This is an annual citizen science project promoted by Caring for God's Church, the C of E, the C of Wales and A Rocha UK.

Burial grounds are great places for wildlife and the records made go to



local and international experts to help them better understand what is happening to wildlife and biodiversity.

St John's Rownhams has been taking part in this for several years now. This year 20 church members took part including one very knowledgeable youngster still at primary school. Some recorded the information using the iNaturalist app which was very useful for those of us who were less good at identifying what we saw, and some on paper. The most interesting find was probably 3 little smooth newts under a stone by the pond.

David Hammond

Sea Sunday - 12th July

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention.

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is 'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarers', inspired by Matthew 25. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity, and justice.



There is a wide range of free downloadable resources on Sea Sunday, which can be found at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org>

Parish Pump

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 July from 9.30–11.00am

For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214.

Hope to see you there!



Tracey Jones

God and the Americans – 250 years on

In July 1776, there were roughly 2.5 million Americans in the Thirteen Colonies.

Those who went to church worshipped in about 3,228 Christian congregations, made up of about 14 various denominations. These included: Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Dutch Reformed, Methodists, Quakers, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

Today, there are about 342.5 million Americans.

Those who go to church worship in about 325,000 Christian congregations, and can choose from a staggering 200 different denominations, as well as thousands of independent congregations.

A recent survey from the Pew Research Centre found that today, about 17 per cent of Americans would like the government to declare Christianity the official religion of the USA. But two-thirds of Americans believe that churches and other places of worship should “keep out of political matters”.



The most popular view (43%) is that the government should “promote Christian moral values without making Christianity the official religion”.

This is followed (38 per cent) by the belief that the government should “neither establish an official religion nor promote Christian values”.

“In God We Trust” first appeared on US coins in 1864. In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law officially making “In God We Trust” the national motto of the United States. It remains in place as the USA’s official motto today.

Parish Pump

Could you help deliver the Twin Spires magazine to Winifrith Way

We have two subscribers and we are looking for someone who lives nearby to deliver their magazines.

These can be collected from St John’s Church or St Boniface Church.

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 bundling of the magazine once ready for distribution.

June's litter pick

Despite a very soggy weather forecast, and early morning rain, no less than eight of our regular pickers turned out to pick litter in the area of the Four Horseshoes. Fortunately, we enjoyed a break in the bad weather for the hour we worked and discovered a serious amount of routine packaging in the June undergrowth.

There was a lot of recyclable material among what we retrieved, including bottles for the bottle bank, so that was despatched to appropriate locations, and only two heavy bags remained to be collected by TVBC.

The obvious joke (only not really such a joke) find was a collection of mini snack wrappers emblazoned Pick up!! If only.....

Thanks to all the hardy souls who turned out. Our next Pick up will take place on Saturday 4th July, location to be arranged and announced on local Facebook pages, or find out by contacting the church office.



It's hard to believe that it is ten years since we started the monthly litter pick sessions around the parish, and it has proved a great way to meet new people, as well as friends, in a new context. I would recommend it to anyone who is willing, able and available on the first Saturday morning of the month. We have yet to have too little for our pickers to do in the time allocated. It is such a great way to support our church efforts to care for creation.

I don't think I want to imagine how much stuff we have removed from our own surroundings in the last ten years, but it must have filled thousands of bin bags, not to mention oversized items.

Mary Carter

Henry Venn of the CMS

Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.

Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St John's, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St John's Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially concerning the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Henry Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

Parish Pump

Church Services in July

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 5th July – Trinity Sunday 5

10am Forest Church on the Glebe – An outside service, suitable for families – followed by a shared lunch
Led by Steve Beak.

6.30pm Holy Communion – A quiet service, based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Rev Jim Stanley-Smith.

Sunday 12th July – Trinity Sunday 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 Marion Swinerd BCM, with Ewan Brown

Sunday 19th July – Trinity Sunday 7

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 26th July – Trinity Sunday 8

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 Lynn Black with John Pennells

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 5th July – Trinity Sunday 5

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson BCM with Tony Wingett



Sunday 12th July – Trinity Sunday 6 - Sea Sunday

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Lynn Black with Kate Powell, Southampton Port Chaplain



Sunday 19th July – Trinity Sunday 7

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Rev Jim Stanley-Smith.

Sunday 26th July – Trinity Sunday 8

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

Other Opportunities for Prayer and Worship:

Each week:

Mondays – Morning Prayer 9am on [Zoom](#)

Tuesdays – Morning Prayer 9.30am on [Zoom](#)

Visit www.twinspires.org.uk for the [Morning Prayer Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 112 879 792 Password: 107871

Wednesdays – Early Prayer Time 7am in St John's Church

Thursdays – Morning Prayer 10am on Facebook Live

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

Fridays – Morning Prayer 8.30am in St Boniface Church

Friday 3rd & 17th July 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 news 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 St John's Church (see p18)

Mondays 6–7pm ROOTS Group (ages 11+) 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 2–4pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p18)

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

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

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

First Wednesdays 8–9pm CONNECT! on [Zoom](#) (for new Christians)

Third Tuesday 7.30pm Art Group – in St John's Church Hall

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break 2nd & 16th July in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p18)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 3rd & 17th July (see p15)

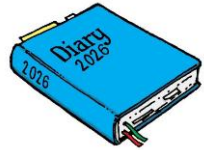
Sat 4th July 10–11am Litter Pick venue to be confirmed (see p12)

Sat 18th July 8.30am Men's Breakfast – contact Chris Bird

Sat 18th July 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (see p10)



Dates for Your Diary:



+ Contributions for Next Month's Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 12th July

Preferably by email to twinspiresnews@live.co.uk

or, alternatively, to: Mary Carter, 12 Horsebridge Way (paper copy). Please check you receive an acknowledgement of your email

- + **Saturday 18th July – Twinspires Summer Fayre** in and around St John's Church (see P19)
- + **Friday 24th July 2pm** Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see below)
- + **Saturday 1st August 10-11am** Litter Pick (See p12) venue tbc
- + **Mon 3rd – Weds 5th August 9am – midday** Holiday Bible Club at St John's Church
- + **Saturday 16th August 9.30-11am** Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p10)
- + **Saturday 12th September** Quiz and Pudding – in St John's Church details to be confirmed

Come and join us at
Friday Friends



The Pastoral team invites you for an

'Afternoon Tea' Friday, 24 July 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.



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



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

We look forward to seeing you.

Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club



The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club meets Thursdays, 2–4pm, at Nursling Village Hall, Nursling Street. £3 weekly plus £20 annual membership; first visit free. Prize draw, tea/coffee and biscuits included. Free parking is available next to the Social Club during Village Hall building works.

New members are very welcome — don't be shy, give us a try!

July's programme: **2nd** Valerie Young on "Bletchley Park"; **9th** Nursling & Rownhams Community Band; **16th** Crescent Singers; **23rd** Marlene, singer; **30th** quiz, afternoon tea and AGM.

Thanks to Test Valley Borough Council for its generous grant, helping keep the club financially secure for the year.

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

Mike Ward

Coffee Break

Join us for a relaxed & welcoming Coffee Morning. Whether you'd like some company, a chat or just a quiet moment with a cup of tea or coffee, you'll find a welcoming space here & the delicious homemade cake goes down well too.



If you're looking for a friendly place to connect with others we'd love to see you. We meet twice a month at the Community Centre Horns Drove;

This month's dates are July on the 2nd and 16th.

No meetings in August due to our Summer break.

This month we're hosting a community **book exchange**, so bring a book, take a book or just enjoy browsing. Whether you're new to the area, a long-time resident, coming on your own, with friends or family, everyone is warmly welcome. If getting there is difficult, we can help with lifts. Just email office@twinspires.org.

The Coffee Break Team

Weekly Tots Café



Mondays, 9.30–11am at St John's Church. A friendly stay-and-play group for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups, with toys, chat, refreshments and a warm welcome. Entry is free, although voluntary contributions are always welcome.



Twinspires **SUMMER FAYRE**

SATURDAY 18TH, JULY 2026
12-3PM | ST JOHN'S ROWNHAMS

Refreshments | Crafts | Tombola | Beat the Goalie | Men's Shed |
Human Fruit Machine | Face Painting | Recycling Exchange | Golf |
Bouncy Castle | Archery | Hook-a-Duck | and so much more...!

Competition Categories For Submission:

1. Greetings cards (can be made on the day – crafts will be available)
2. A garden on a football theme (It's the world cup!)
3. Best Scone
4. Best men's chocolate cake (All prepared against a set recipe!)
5. Jam and Preserves
6. Misshapen vegetable
7. Longest Runner bean
8. Ginger bread man football player (can be done on the day)
9. Decorated bookmark (can be done on the day)
10. Flower arrangement in a teacup or mug
11. World cup themed cake
12. Something made with your own hands.

Keep on keeping on



In the church year, we've now come to that long season - it seems to go on forever - variously called 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time'. Each of those labels tells us something about the approximately six months between Pentecost and Advent Sunday. 'Trinity' reminds us that with Pentecost, God has made Himself known to us in all His fullness (or at least as much as we can bear) as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

'Ordinary time' tells us that this is the season where, now armed with the insights and power of the Holy Spirit, we can revisit the life of Jesus with new eyes, new heart, see new things in the faith, see new opportunities to serve God.

This is the time when those words of Jesus (John 15 v15) 'I have made known to you everything I have learned from the Father' come into play. It may seem a long season, it may feel like the drudgery of 'Keep on keeping on' without the excitement of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost to lift our spirits, but it is ordinary time charged with the knowledge that we have everything we need in the resources of God. The love of the Father, the words and works of the Son, the power of the Spirit will energise us as we 'keep on keeping on' through this long season.

This long season up to the end of November is a reminder that working out our love for God in our community is probably more about perspiration than inspiration. Few are called to be heroes of the faith, but all are called to faithfulness, and somehow or other, with the transforming power of the Spirit, we are all able to keep on keeping on, doing little things with great love.

Here's a lovely prayer I learned from our son's godmother which captures some of the mindset of the Trinity season/Ordinary time; it may help you 'keep on keeping on' through the months ahead;

Let not our souls be busy inns that have not room for thee and thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise where thou mayest find fit company; where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet space is kept for thee.

Amen to that. Ordinary - but challenging!

The Revd Dr Jo White, Parish Pump

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

Since the cost-of-living crisis in 2021/22, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions: from relief, happiness and hope, through to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

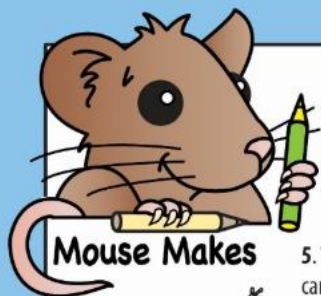
I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of Creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the *potential* for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Parish Pump



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

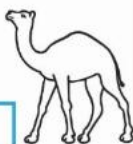
7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



B I B L E

C R E A T U R E S

16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

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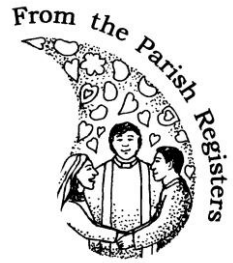
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From the Registers



Funerals

19 June

'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'

Betty Stedman

(1 Cor 15:20)

*Burial of Ashes
at St John's Church*

Prayer for July

Father,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Daphne Kitching

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office@twinspires.org.uk

Suggestions for Your Prayers

SUNDAY Keep on praying for those areas where there is conflict; for those perpetrating violence and that peace will come soon. Pray for wisdom for all world leaders, protection for civilians and for their basic needs to be met and for comfort and healing for all those who have lost loved ones.



MONDAY Pray for the work of the Mission to Seafarers providing a welcome and friendship for seafarers in unfamiliar surroundings, and offering help and counsel to those in need, also as they support Christians who have to live out their faith in isolation. Pray too for the safety and wellbeing of those who spend much of their time at sea.

TUESDAY Pray for blessing and protection for Ewan and Izzy. Pray that all our young people's groups would flourish and that God would pour out His Holy Spirit on all those who attend; that each one would realise God's love for them. Give thanks for the work in schools, particularly for those moving on to senior school in September.

WEDNESDAY Pray for those in our church family who are grieving and for those who are unwell in any way. Pray for peace, relief from pain and God's healing touch. Pray too for those who are looking after those who are suffering. Pray that God will give them the strength, patience and love they need.

THURSDAY Pray for those who come to our churches because they want a Christening or a wedding. Pray that they will be warmly welcomed and will enjoy their visit. Pray too that the seeds planted in the Alpha course would continue to grow in their hearts, and that there will be a follow-on group.

FRIDAY Pray for our city, for peace and safety for everyone. Pray that we will be able to share God's heart of love, and His desire for justice. Pray for our police that they would be able to interact sensitively with everyone they meet. Pray too for our government; for wisdom and compassion as they make difficult decisions that affect all of us.

SATURDAY Pray for our Family Garden Party (Saturday 18 July 12-3pm) that we will provide a warm, welcoming and friendly environment for our neighbours. Pray for volunteers, and donations towards the various activities.

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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