

NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

Web Edition

August 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 makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters."
Psalm 23:2 (NIV)

Dear friends,

August has its own rhythm. Schools have broken up, many families are away on holiday, and several of our regular children's and youth groups pause for a few weeks. I hope that, wherever this month finds you, you will know something of God's peace and refreshment.

As things become a little quieter, it also gives us the chance to thank God for all that He is doing among the children and young people of our parish.

Our vision is simple: **Loving Jesus, Loving One Another and Loving Our Community.** Few areas of church life bring those values together more naturally than our ministry with children, young people and families.



Jesus Himself placed children at the heart of His ministry. He said, *"Let the children come to me... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"* (Mark 10:14). Children are not simply the future of the Church—they are an essential part of the Church today. They teach us, inspire us and remind us what it means to trust God with open hearts.

We are incredibly blessed to have a full-time Youth and Children's Worker. Through Sunday groups, our work in local schools, our many weekly activities and our community events, we are seeing children and families discovering that church is a place where they belong and where they can encounter the love of Jesus.

Of course, none of this happens because of one person alone. It is only possible because of the wonderful team of volunteers who give their time so generously. Whether leading groups, praying faithfully, making refreshments, preparing crafts, helping at events or simply offering a warm welcome, every act of service helps build God's kingdom.

It is also wonderful to see our young people increasingly serving within the life of the church. Each month our youth band leads us in worship at the contemporary service, and several of our young people faithfully help with the puppet ministry. They bring enthusiasm, joy and gifts that enrich us all.

They need opportunities to serve, but they also need encouragement from the whole church family.

I often think back to my own days as a choirboy. There was a lovely lady in our congregation called Mrs Dunn. Every week she would quietly bring the choirboys chocolate biscuits and sweets simply to say thank you for singing. It wasn't really about the biscuits — it was about being noticed and appreciated. I've never forgotten her kindness. It reminds me of Paul's words: *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Perhaps we could all be a little more like Mrs Dunn, looking for ways to encourage the younger generation as they grow in faith and service.

Steph shared another lovely story with me recently. Driving home along Horns Drove on one of the hottest days of the year, she noticed an older member of our community struggling with their shopping. Before she could stop to help, one of our own young people walked alongside, carried the shopping and helped them on their way. What a wonderful picture of Christian discipleship. It brought to mind the words of James: *"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"* (James 2:17). Loving Jesus so often begins with loving our neighbour.

Our ministry continues to grow, and we are always looking for new ways to develop it. We already have exciting plans for the autumn, and I would value your prayers as we prepare for another busy term.

This summer we are especially looking forward to our three-day Holiday Club for children aged 4–11. If you have children, grandchildren, neighbours or friends who might enjoy coming, please do invite them. It is a wonderful opportunity for children from across our community to discover the warmth and welcome of our church.

We are also excited about our Avon Tyrrell youth weekend. Time and again we have seen these weekends become pivotal moments in the faith of our young people. Away from the distractions of everyday life, friendships deepen, confidence grows and many encounter God in fresh and life-changing ways. Perhaps you know a young person who would benefit from coming. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

One of my hopes for the coming year is that more of our young people will explore Confirmation through Youth Alpha. It offers a relaxed place to ask questions, discover more about Jesus and explore what it means to follow

him. Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity to make faith your own, and I would love to see many more young people take that next step.

As we continue **Loving Jesus, Loving One Another and Loving Our Community**, let us never underestimate what God can do through the next generation. They are not simply the leaders of tomorrow—they are disciples today, with gifts to offer and lives that can transform both the Church and the world.

Thank you for the many ways you pray, volunteer, encourage and support this ministry. Together, may we continue to nurture young disciples, trusting that God will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

May God bless you with a restful, refreshing and hope-filled August.

With every blessing

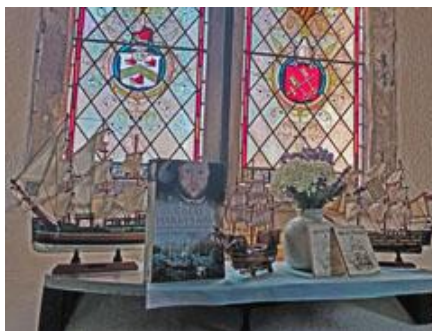
Graeme

St Boniface Church News August 2026

Sea Sunday

Thank you to Lynn Black for leading the service on July 12th.

We were pleased to welcome Hannah Joyce who is the Port Chaplain of Southampton.



Her extremely interesting talk reminded us of the many people whose work is connected to maritime industries, especially in the busy port of Southampton. Her talk also mentioned how support is given to seafarers who are sometimes away from their homes and families for many months.

Avis Wood

Garden Party & Celebratory Songs of Praise – Sing & Share



Join us at the Vicarage on **Sunday 16th August 3-5pm** for a Garden Party. **Contributions of scones & cakes** for a cream tea would be very welcome.

At 5.30pm, we'll gather in **St John's Church** for a **Sing & Share**. Please choose a favourite hymn or worship song & briefly share why it is meaningful to you on the day – perhaps a memory, a moment of faith, or a short testimony. Please let the Church Office know the song you have chosen by **Friday 14th August** so this can be passed onto PPT. Help with setting up & clearing away would be much appreciated.
Please do invite family, friends & neighbours to come along.

My Memories of Dorothy Cross

It was back in the 1980's when I first met Dorothy. I carried the Mothers Union banner for the yearly Winchester diocese service which was usually held in July.



One year I arrived at the vicarage about 9.15 am to be let in by the Reverend Ian Gardener to be told that Amelia was having a bath. I said we needed to be in Winchester by 10 am. Meanwhile Dorothy Cross arrived in her white mini. She reassured me that she would drive us all there by 10 am which she duly did.

The last time I spoke to Dorothy was one Monday morning in July before Covid. I was cleaning the church silver. Dorothy arrived before 9am to open the church to visitors. After putting out the open sign Dorothy made us both a coffee and tidied the church in readiness for Claire Thompson to arrive to work in the vestry and for any visitors.

Dorothy was always a cheerful, positive, friendly person with a good listening ear.

Wendy Bird

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 15th August from 9.30 - 11.00am

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



Tracey Jones

Journey to the Kingdom

**AN EPIC ADVENTURE AWAITS...
FAITH. COURAGE. ADVENTURE.
WHERE EVERY JOURNEY HAS A PURPOSE.**

***"SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD."* MATTHEW 6:33**

3-5TH AUGUST

9AM - 12PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

TO SIGN UP, EMAIL

YOUTH@TWINSPIRES.ORG.UK



The day a solar eclipse will darken the skies of Western Europe

12th August will be the first total solar eclipse in mainland Europe since 1999. And many churches in the UK see it as a big opportunity for outreach.

On 12th August, the Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. Some areas like northern Spain, Greenland and Iceland will experience a total eclipse, but here in the UK there will still be a partial eclipse.

The Methodist Church says: “The eclipse will provide a great opportunity for churches.

“Holding community viewing events for the eclipse will allow churches to meet new people and delight in the beauty of creation while engaging in gentle, relational faith-sharing.

“There are many ways to get involved – whether in a church garden or at the top of a local hill, by hosting a lively family barbecue or a space for quiet reflection, it’s a chance for science and faith dialogue or discussions about wellbeing.

“The key is to take this opportunity, a moment when people's openness to the divine might be elevated, to speak something of the love of Jesus – through actions and words – to the people we meet.

More info at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/practise-evangelism/day-of-outreach/>

Parish Pump

Contributions for Next Month’s Magazine by 6pm, Sunday 9th August

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

We are always pleased to receive news, photos, reports, reflections, memories, notices and details of forthcoming events from across our church and local community. If you are unsure whether something is suitable, please do get in touch — we would much rather hear from you than miss something worth sharing.

Another part of Nursling and Rownhams gets its cleanup

Thankfully, on Saturday 4th July, the weather was rather better than it had been in soggy (early) June, and a few regular pickers were able to turn out to clear up around Tanglewood Lake and Bakers Drove. We ended up with a bin bag of rubbish and one of recyclables, as well as some glass bottles. Although it was a smaller scale result (partly due to only having six pickers), it still felt like a worthwhile effort.

Least favourite item to pick this month – cigarette ends. So fiddly to pick up but dangerous if they get into the water course. Discarded cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals such as nicotine, heavy metals and pesticides into the environment, particularly into water bodies. These chemicals can contaminate aquatic ecosystems, posing risks to fish and other aquatic life. Studies have shown that even a single cigarette butt can contaminate a litre of water, leading to significant harm to marine life and potentially affecting drinking water quality. That's why we take the time and effort to pick them up. Please do your part by not discarding them thoughtlessly.

Cigarettes contain over 4,000 chemicals, including...

- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Arsenic
- Acetone
- Lead
- Formaldehyde
- Toluene
- Butane
- Cadmium
- Ammonia
- Benzene



Next month we will meet at the carpark between the Village Hall and Scout Hut on Joe Bigwood Close Nursling, to check out the Recreation Ground and Playpark areas during the school holidays. Please come on Saturday 1st August at 10am for an hour's picking. All ages welcome, with stout footwear and gardening gloves; children do need to bring along an adult.

Mary Carter and Marion Swinerd

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully all over the world, answering that of God in everyone.

George Fox

Highlights from the PCC Meeting on 7 July 2026

Safeguarding

Following the APCM Lynn Black has been our interim Safeguarding Lead. Andy Wickens has now been approved as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer. Lynn will assist with safeguarding until Andy has completed his necessary checks and training. Alongside Andy a DBS Administrator is required to complete paper-based applications. Please contact Graeme if you are interested in this role. In the meantime, Graeme, Ewan and Katrina will help with this.

We have currently completed 79% of the mandatory requirements on the Parish Dashboard.

All our Risk Assessments are reviewed regularly to ensure a safer environment. Ewan will ensure paper copies of the Risk Assessments are available at each activity for everyone involved to view.

Health and Safety

There had been a significant fall of masonry from the Chancel Arch at St Boniface. The Architect and DAC are being consulted regarding urgent repairs.

Policies

The following Policies were discussed and approved:

Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, Reserves and Investment, N&R Health and Safety, N&R Annual Risk Assessment, N&R Fire Evacuation and Fire Risk Assessment

The **Grievance Policy** is in the process of amendment.

Finance

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report** Tyra Capaccione has been appointed on a 12-month fixed contract to cover maternity leave as Parish Administrator.
HMRC has increased the approved mileage reimbursement rate to 55p.
- ✓ **Ecclesiastical Risk Management Report** We had a visit from our Insurance Company who highlighted a few concerns. The recommended actions have been taken. Thanks to Linda Purkess for all her hard work managing this.

Electoral Roll

Claire Thompson was approved as our new Electoral Roll Officer.

St Boniface

- ✓ **Churchwarden and Services** John Sofrin is no longer Churchwarden. Linda Klein and other members of the congregation

are stepping in to help cover the vacancy. Members of St John's are assisting with leading services and preaching.

- ✓ **Vestry Improvements and Electrics** The kitchen alternations will not be done in view of other vital expenditure to the Chancel Arch and Steeple. The Electrics have been made safe at a cost of £13,000. We will assess what further electrical work is essential.
- ✓ **Key Safe** It was agreed to fit an external key safe.

St John's

- ✓ **Flooring** Graeme will invite the Architect and DAC to St John's to discuss the flooring and cupboards to be made out of the remaining pews.
- ✓ **Holiday Club** Our Holiday Club will be on 3-5 August, 9.00am-12.00pm. Thanks to Izzy Brown for supplying a lot of the resources, free of charge. Please contact Ewan Brown if you can help with any of the sessions.
- ✓ **Parochial Visitation** This will take place on Monday 10 August, 9.30am at St John's and 1.30pm at St Boniface, by the Area Dean, James Pitkin. Examples of what needs to be seen are the Inventory of the things in the Church, Insurance Policy, Employment Contracts and Right to Work, Policies and Minutes of PCC Meetings. Thanks to Ann Laird, Christine Owen and Linda Purkess for all their hard work in preparing for this.
- ✓ **Youth Weekend Away** The Youth Weekend Away, in conjunction with Romsey Abbey, will be on 26 September 2026.

Deanery Synod

A Youth Convention in South Rwenzori, Uganda (Winchester Diocese's link overseas Diocese), is planned for 2027, for 30,000 young people, from Monday-Friday. They are looking for revival! Everyone is encouraged to use the **Oasis Christian Book Shop in Romsey**. They can usually match online prices. If ordering online use **books.org** who support independent Christian book shops out of their profits.

Future Dates

Standing Committee: Tuesday 1 September 2026, 7pm St John's Church.

PCC Meeting: Tuesday 15 September 2026, 7pm at St John's Church.

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

Christine Owen PCC Secretary

An Update From Our Retiring Collection in August:



Street Pastors continue to grow in Southampton, with four new volunteers joining the team. Each of them has felt God's call to serve on the streets, offering practical care and a listening ear to those who need it most.

A commissioning service was held recently, attended by family, friends, local church leaders and Chief Inspector Charlie Ilderton, who reminded everyone that *"not all heroes wear capes, some wear blue hats."* Please keep the new volunteers in your prayers as they begin their ministry.

A brand new Street Pastors video has been released, created by Ian Williamson, one of the team leaders. It gives a brilliant insight into the work happening across the city and the difference these encounters make. It's available on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/csnwNiEdsUo?si=Q2Ttu5h7Z6Gi0FXX>. And has been posted on Facebook if you'd like to watch and share it.

The team continues to support around 30 people each month with donated clothing and sleeping bags. Current needs include: **sleeping bags, men's coats (S-L), joggers (S-L), trainers, socks and pants**. They're only able to accept these specific items at the moment due to limited storage space.

The Community Team recently had a remarkable conversation with three young men in the city centre. One of them, with no Christian background, was eager to talk about Jesus and spoke passionately about his belief in Him. His friends were also curious, asking how the team became Christians and why they serve as Street Pastors. They were encouraged to read the Gospels, a reminder that God is at work in unexpected places.

Monthly Zoom prayer gatherings continue, and supporters are invited to consider regular giving to help sustain the ministry.

Street Pastors also raised over £400 at the Nursling May Fair, thanks to everyone who helped with tea, cake and the prayer tent.

Ride+Stride Saturday 12th September 2026

▲RIDE+STRIDE=



The Ride+Stride is an annual UK event that raises funds for historic churches. Both our churches have benefited from grants from the charity. This year's event takes place on **Saturday 12th September 2026**, and I am proposing that a team of cyclists ride the approx. 20-mile route below, gathering sponsorship from our church family and friends.

The event falls on the same day as the Men's Breakfast, which will be held at Nursling Men's Shed, so we can start the ride "fully fed"! The cycling team is not restricted to men — everyone is welcome to join the ride and come along to breakfast. Please contact me for more information.

You can find our fundraising page here:

<https://www.goodhub.com/go/hampshire-and-the-islands-historic-churches-trust-243673>

List of participating Churches

<https://hihct.org.uk/participating-churches/>

Proposed route (Approximately 20 miles)

- + St Boniface Nursling, then Lee Lane/Hillstreet to**
- + St. Anne's, Calmore**
- + St Matthew's, Netley Marsh**
- + Christ Church, Colbury**
- + St John's, Marchwood**
- + St Mary's, Eling**
- + All Saints Kendal Avenue, Millbrook**
- + Lord's Hill Church**
- + St John's, Rownhams**

Mike Bunce

Church Services in August

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 2nd August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10am All Age Worship – An informal service, suitable for families

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

6.30pm Holy Communion – A quiet service, based on Common Worship

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Andy Ball.

Sunday 9th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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, with John Pennells

Sunday 16th August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon.

3 - 5pm Garden Party in St John's Vicarage (see p6) followed by

5.30pm Celebratory Songs of Praise – Sing & Share

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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 discussion on the readings.

Sunday 30th August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion – A service based on Common Worship

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

6.30pm Healing Service – Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 2nd August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Christine Owen, BCM, BPP with Tony Wingett

Sunday 9th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Linda Klein with Christine Owen, BCM, BPP

Sunday 16th August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson, with David Thompson.

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion

Leader to be confirmed

Sunday 30th August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Linda Klein with Christine Owen, BCM, BPP

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 7th & 21st August 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.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays Bible Study Home Groups (See p2)

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

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

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 7th & 21st August

(see p15)

Sat 1st August 10–11am Litter Pick meeting in the carpark between the Village Hall and Scout Hut on Joe Bigwood Close Nursling (See p9)

Sat 15th August 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together, St John's Church Hall (See p6)

And then in September

Mondays 9.30–11am Tots Café in St John's Church (See p17)

Mondays 6–7pm ROOTS Group (ages 11+) in St John's Church Hall

Wednesdays 7–8.30pm BEACON Group (ages 11-16) in St John's Church

Thursdays 2–4pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See p17)

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

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

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

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

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break in Horns Drove Community Centre **No Coffee Break in August** (See p17)

Saturday 5th September 10-11am Litter Pick (See p9) meeting in Redbridge Lane, by the Walnut Tree, Frogmore Lane junction.

Saturday 12th September Men's Breakfast in the Men's Shed followed by Ride+Stride (See p13) contact Mike Bunce

Saturday 12th September Quiz and Pudding – in St John's Church details to be confirmed

Saturday 19th September 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (See p6)



Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club

The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club usually meets Thursdays, 2–4pm, at Nursling Village Hall, Nursling Street. **The Friendship Club will be closed during the month of August for our summer break.** For more information, please ring Joyce on 02380 735086 or Mike on 02380 733245. **Mike Ward**

Coffee Break

We usually meet twice a month at the Community Centre Horns Drove, but there are **no meetings in August due to our Summer break.** Contact the Church office for more information office@twinspires.org.

The Coffee Break Team

Weekly Tots Café



Usually held Mondays, 9.30-11am at St John's Church in term time. Entry is free, although voluntary contributions are always welcome. **There is no Tots Café in August.**

Come and join us at Friday Friends



The Pastoral team invites you for an
'Afternoon Tea' Friday, 25 September 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

We look forward to seeing you.



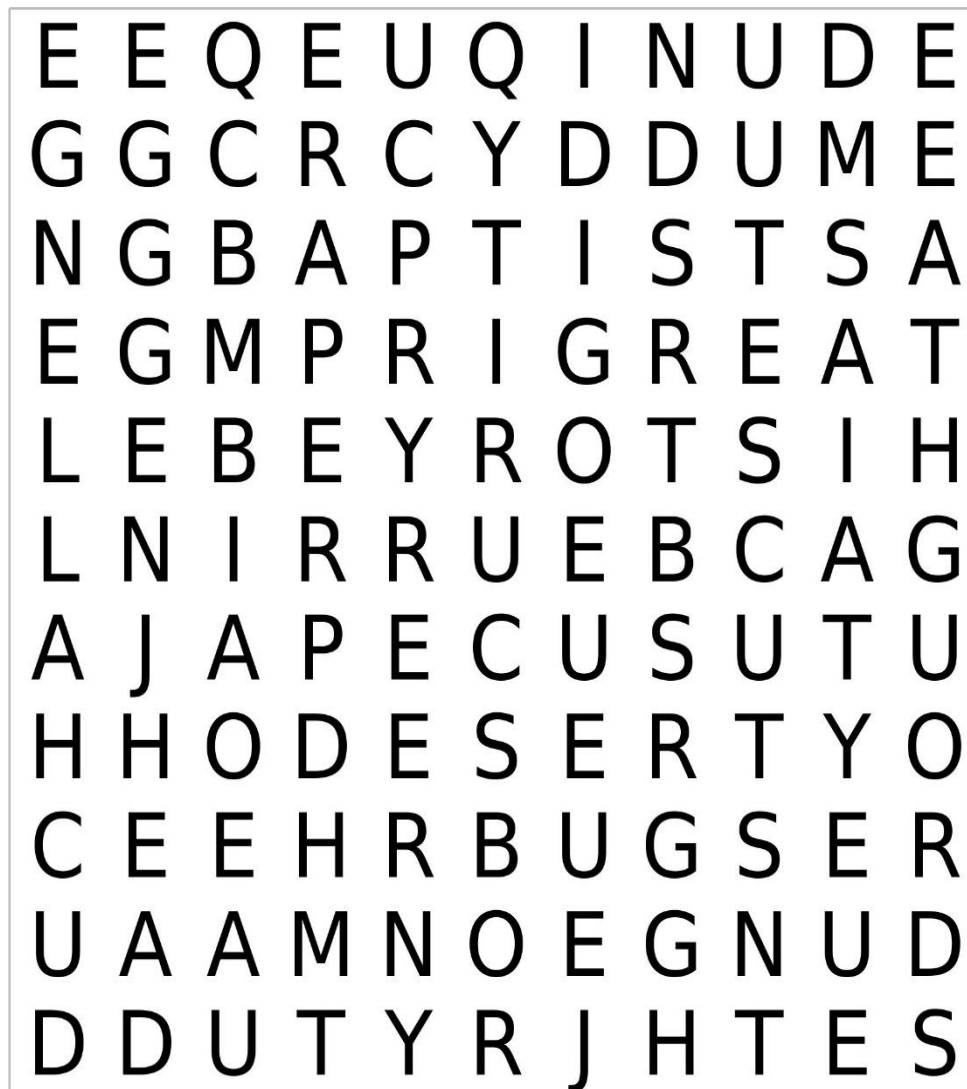
St. Boniface & St. John's
Nursling & Rownhams



Wordsearch - John the Baptist

Find these words:

John, Baptist, Rough, Obscurity, Desert, Bugs, Camel, Heat, Sun, Challenge,
Muddy, Jordan, Arrested, Dungeon, Head, Cut, History, Great, Unique, Prepare



Just Listen!

Techno-dinosaur and curmudgeon that I am, I have clung to my old plug-in satnav for far too long. It has finally given up the ghost, and I have listened to the superior wisdom of Madame-my-wife, and started to use my smartphone, held in place via a holder on the car's dash, to navigate around areas I'm not familiar with.

Except of course, this morning, I thought I knew better than the info on the phone which advised an unusual route as I set off in the direction of my hydrotherapy session. (Techno-dinosaur, curmudgeon AND falling to bits- what a combination!). And ran into a long traffic queue at the new and extensive road works in the next village. Serves me right.

There's value in listening to someone who knows. The data on the phone had already taken into account the fact that the traffic queue would make me late, and had re-routed me away from the bottleneck. But curmudgeonly dinosaurs often think they know better- to their cost.

The art is, of course, in knowing who knows best. There are many false guides in this world, but it is the witness of Christians throughout time and throughout the world that listening to God- in prayer, or through His word- is a trusted way of navigating our way through today's world where many voices clamour for our attention, not all of which are trustworthy.

That great Welsh hymn 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah' is one of many which sings of our trust in God to guide us. It talks of being pilgrims through a land without waymarks, and it asks God to 'hold me with Thy powerful hand'. Here is Someone who knows and who is worth listening to. God Himself has said 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5); we can trust the One who will not leave us to guide us down good paths. It's a life-time's work to learn to trust in God, but we can improve, we can know the One who says 'My sheep know My voice' more clearly.

May God guide us on all our journeys, and be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

Revd Dr Jo White, Parish Pump

Every prayer is an inverted promise...If God teaches us to pray for any good thing, we may gather by implication the assurance that He means to give it.

C H Spurgeon

Deborah: Woman of Faith and Courage

Some people are good working behind the scenes. They don't make a fuss or want to grab your attention. Instead, they quietly do a job which always gets done, and it is only when they are missing for some reason do we realise the important work that they do!

Deborah was a bit like that. Her name may not be familiar to us, but her story is recorded in the Old Testament Book of Judges. She lived many years after Joshua had taken the former Egyptian captives into the Promised Land. After Joshua's death the Israelites disregarded God's laws. They intermarried with the heathen nations around them, practised all kinds of wickedness and worshipped at pagan shrines.

So, God responded by punishing His people. He allowed them to fall into the hands of their enemies which resulted in a period of oppression during which the Israelites pleaded to God for mercy. God answered their cries with a judge to deliver them, and Deborah appeared.

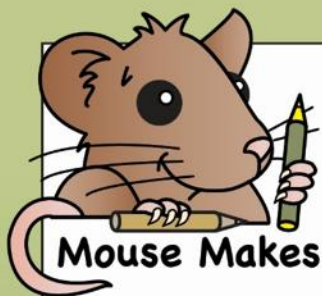
A judge in those days was a compelling figure who rallied the nation at times of defeat and called them back to God's laws and standards. These judges delivered the people from danger and out of sin and rebellion. Into this male dominated society God gave them Deborah, a kind of mother figure. As far as spiritual things were concerned, they were like children and needed mothering!

God revealed to Deborah His plan to save Israel from their enemy. She rallied Barak, to muster the tribes of Israel and lead them into battle against the Canaanites. In an act of great faith, Barak agreed to do this, and Israel entered a period of peace which lasted 40 years.

The Book of Judges demonstrates God's grace in using unlikely people for His work. At a time when women were regarded of low status and expected to be silent, Deborah responded to God's call and became an unlikely hero. Deborah's great achievement was to inspire faith in others. Do we know a Deborah? Someone who encourages and supports us or helps another Christian in some vital way?

Deborah was decisive, determined and dauntless in bringing deliverance to her people. Once God had spoken to Deborah, she knew Israel would be victorious. We need the faith of Deborah. She believed that God was on her side, and He would not fail her. So must we.

Thomas Smith, Parish Pump



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



B I B L E

JERUSALEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

J O U R N E Y S

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

JUDEA



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

Regular giving through one of the available schemes is encouraged, as this helps the PCC fund its mission and ministry. Please consider using the Parish Giving Scheme www.parishgiving.org.uk. This is a direct debit system that reduces the administrative burden locally but still ensures that all of your donation, together with any gift aid recoverable, reaches this parish.



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

Donate

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



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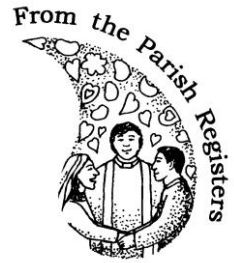
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From the Registers



Weddings

11 July

‘Marriage should be honoured by all’
Maisie Benham and Luke Charlton

(Hebrews 13:4)
St John’s Church

Funerals

10 July

‘Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of
those who have fallen asleep’
Dorothy Cross (91)

(1 Cor 15:20)

Burial of Ashes
at St John’s Church

17 July

Doris Gover (92)

Burial of Ashes
at St Boniface Church

Prayer for August

Dear Father,

In this summer month of August, help us to be aware of Your presence.

If we are away on holiday,

If we can’t have a holiday,

On our journeys,

In our homes,

With our families or friends,

When we’re alone,

When life is sweet,

When it’s like an obstacle course,

At all times and in all circumstances, help us to know that You are in it with
us, sharing our ups and downs, offering Your love and peace and hope
when we connect with You through putting our trust in Your Son, Jesus.

Thank You, Lord,

In His name,

Amen.



Daphne Kitching

Summer Holidays

The story is told of porters who were hired to carry a group's possessions on a jungle safari. The pace increased until the head porter called a halt: *'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'*



How often do we feel like this? August is a month when many of us take time off. Jesus and His disciples often made *'strategic withdrawals'* from the crowds: *'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".'* (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: *'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* (Matthew 11:28).

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, *'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'*. John replied, *'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'*

Parish Pump

Won't go far



The curate went to the building society about his investments, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Suggestions for Your Prayers

SUNDAY Pray for our government as they welcome a new Prime Minister. Pray that they will receive the wisdom, counsel and strength of God in their duties. Pray that the UK will turn back to God, His word, worship and ways, and for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit in our country.



MONDAY Keep praying for those suffering from the worse effects of Climate Change. Pray that governments all over the world will take it seriously and make policies that will help to fulfil their pledges to help poorer countries adapt.

TUESDAY Give thanks for the work of Street Pastors. Pray for them as they patrol the streets aiming to offer reassurance, safety and support; that God will prompt them to be in the right place at the right time for the people who need their help. Pray that He would protect them and give them wisdom in each situation and use them to show His love to those they meet.

WEDNESDAY Give thanks for all those who work at our local schools. Pray that they will have the chance to have a really good break this summer so that they can go back in September properly refreshed. Remember those children who are moving on to a new stage of education. Especially pray for those whose exam results are not what they hoped and now have to rethink their plans.

THURSDAY Pray for our Holiday Bible Club (August 3-5, 9am – 12) and for all the outreach summer clubs and camps running this year (e.g. by Scripture Union, CPAS, local churches etc). Ask that there would be enough volunteers, that they would be well attended, that God would keep everyone safe and that He would bless them so that many would come to know God's love and would commit their lives to Him.

FRIDAY Pray for all those on holiday this month. That they might have a relaxing time and come back refreshed, renewed, strengthened and re-enthused to continue their work. Pray for our vicarage Garden Party (August 16th 3-5pm) followed at 5.30pm by Sing & Share in St John's.

SATURDAY Pray for parents who have children with severe physical, mental or emotional difficulties. Ask that they might have the strength they need and that they would be able to access support, especially this month when there is no school. Pray too for families coping with serious injury or illness; that they might be aware of God's presence with them.

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.



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.

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