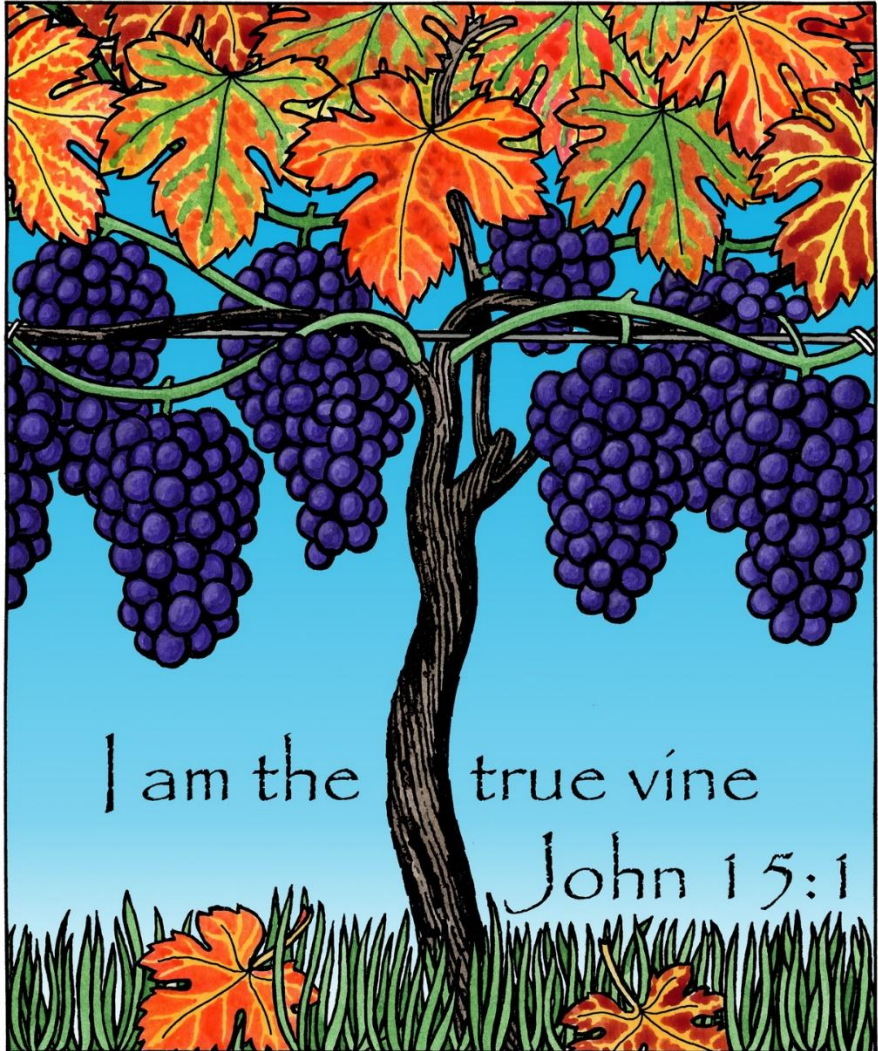


NURSLING & ROWNHAMS
Twin Spires News

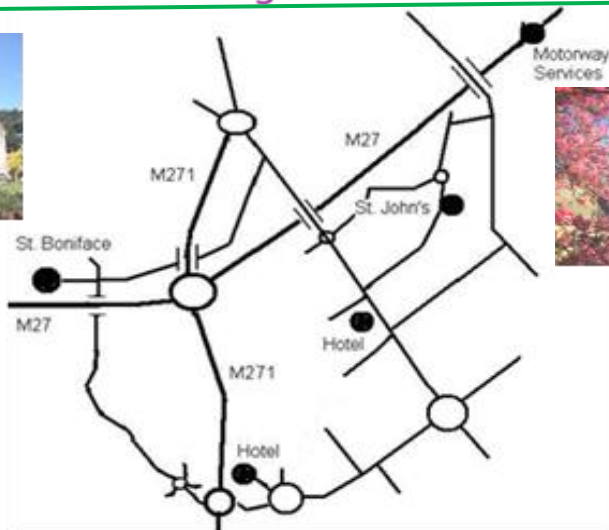
Web Edition

September 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

Verse of the Month

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear friends,

Faithfulness

There have been several people we have lost in our churches in August, and whenever someone passes and is no longer with us, there is a particular sadness that settles over a community. We feel the loss because a familiar face, friend, neighbour or member of our church family is no longer there.

For some families, illness has brought a long and difficult journey, with uncertainty about what the future may hold. Declining health or increasing physical limitations can also mean adjusting to a very different way of life. These can be difficult seasons, and we need to remember that none of us should have to walk through them alone. I remain in awe of the faithfulness I have encountered from those amongst us who are suffering the most.

There is something deeply Christian about simply being there for one another. Sometimes there are no words that can make things better. But we can listen, visit, make a phone call, offer practical help and, above all, pray. When people find themselves in what the Bible describes as a valley, our calling is to walk with them through it.

As I have reflected in recent weeks, one word keeps coming to mind: faithfulness.

St Paul writes, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” I have seen that kind of faithfulness expressed in so many ways across our parish.

We have recently had our Archdeacon’s Visitation, and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to prepare for it. There was much to do: gathering documentation, bringing records up to date, preparing images and information, and making sure that our churches are safe, well cared for and ready to serve our communities.

Much of this work will never be noticed by most people. Yet it matters. Good stewardship, careful administration and attention to safeguarding are all expressions of faithfulness and part of caring for the communities God has entrusted to us.

We have seen the same faithfulness in our Holiday Club and the New Forest show. There was a concern about having enough volunteers, but people stepped forward — some from the heart of our church family and others from those who stand a little further from the centre of church life. They gave their time, energy and enthusiasm, making such a difference to the children and families who came. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

I am also encouraged by those on the edges of church life who keep turning up. They may not yet feel fully part of the church family, but they come to a service, community event, Holiday Club or another activity. Sometimes they are exploring, watching and wondering. We should never underestimate what it means for someone to keep coming back.

Our calling is to remain faithful in our welcome, friendship and witness, allowing people to encounter something of the love of Jesus through the way we live together. We cannot make someone believe, but we can ensure that when they come among us, they encounter a community where they are valued, welcomed and loved.

I also want to recognise those whose health or physical limitations make life more difficult. Our usefulness to God is not measured by how much we can do. Sometimes faithfulness means serving in ways that are possible; sometimes accepting help from others; and sometimes simply remaining part of the worshipping community and praying faithfully.

We are called to be faithful together. There are seasons when we carry others and seasons when others carry us. Both are part of being the body of Christ.

As we look towards September and the beginning of a new school year, there will inevitably be challenges ahead. For our children and young people there will be new classes, teachers and expectations. For families there will be the pressures of routines, work, school and all the demands that come with a new beginning. Our churches too will face new challenges and opportunities as we seek to serve our communities and share the good news of Jesus.

We do not know everything that the coming months will bring. But we do know the One who goes with us into them.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote in the midst of extraordinarily difficult circumstances: “*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*”

That is where our own faithfulness begins. We do not have to face the future simply by relying on our own strength. We can trust in the faithfulness of God.

There will be days when we feel strong and days when we feel weary. There will be things we can do and things we cannot. Through all of them, God remains faithful.

So, as we move into a new season, let us continue to be faithful — faithful in loving Jesus, faithful in loving one another and faithful in loving our community. Let us keep turning up, keep praying, keep welcoming, keep encouraging and keep trusting God.

Whatever the future brings, we can place it in God's hands. When we find ourselves in the valley, may we know that we are not alone: God is with us, and he gives us one another to walk the journey together.

“Great is your faithfulness.”

May that truth give us confidence, courage and peace for all that lies ahead.
Many blessings,

Graeme

House Blessing

Have you ever blessed your house? If not, here is a prayer to help you on your way!

God bless the house from ground to stay,
From beam to wall and all the way,
From head to post, from ridge to clay,
From balk to roof-tree let it lay,
From found to top and every day
God bless both fore and aft, I pray,
Nor from the house God's blessing stray,
From top to toe the blessing go.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

David Wootten

David was born in Devon in 1940. He joined the Army, Royal Signals Regiment, as a Boy Entrant and retired as a Captain. He then gained a degree and taught some of Devon's 'unteachables', before retiring again and moving to Grove Place in 2012.



At Grove Place he became known for his humour, and for penning monthly poems published in the Grove Place Gazette. Over a hundred in all, many commented on aspects of life at Grove Place. My favourite was entitled 'Mrs P at no. 63' – tongue in cheek of course – there is no number. 63!

David had been ill for a long time, with spells in Southampton General Hospital, but his passing came as a shock to us all.

Married to Pat, he was a devoted father of two daughters, grandfather of five grandchildren, and great-grandfather of twelve great grandchildren. He was a long-term attendee at St Boniface Church, always supporting Pat when she started leading services.

He has left a void at Grove Place and at St Boniface Church which will be hard to fill.

With the near coincident passing of neighbours David Wootten and Elaine Gaussen, both Grove Place and St Boniface Church have lost two great supporters. May they Rest in Peace.

Richard Tilley

Elaine Gaussen

Called Home by Our Lord on Monday 27th July

Elaine and Phillip joined the community at Grove Place in 2018 long before we arrived. Elaine was one of the first people to introduce us to the Christian Fellowship here, and to St Boniface Church. (along with Pat Wootten). Throughout the 5 years we have known her, she has been a great supporter of both the Christian Fellowship as well as Pat and myself.



She was instrumental in setting up a weekly prayer letter to all those in the Fellowship. Due to her back problem, she was never able to be as active at St Boniface Church as she would have liked but supported the church, through encouragement and prayer.

One of her great assets was concern for the residents in the Village; always willing to take people for hospital appointments and at times just for a day out. In addition, her door was always open to visitors.

In addition to her Christian Commitment, she also played an active part in the life of the Village and had recently been the Secretary to the Residents Committee.

She will be greatly missed not only by the Christian Community but by the whole community here. Pat (my wife) was able to visit her on the Sunday afternoon and at that time she was feeling so well that she was planning to go on her holiday to Christchurch the next day.

We commit her to Our Lord's safekeeping

Tony Wingett

It was with heavy hearts that we learnt of Elaine's death. Elaine was a faithful, active and committed member of St Boniface church. Despite her physical limitations, she was always keen to do anything she could, and sometimes things she couldn't (for example, she offered to assist with the management of the Community Payback Team once a month at St Boniface!) to support her church and its family. I asked her recently what prompted her to volunteer for three tasks left vacant in the absence of a churchwarden as soon as she had the list in her hand, and she said that, despite already having a very busy life, "I am a member of the church and do not expect everyone else to do everything for my church – my faith says I should play my part, if asked". That sums her up perfectly, always ready to serve God by serving others.



I considered Elaine a good friend. She was so encouraging and supportive of my own ministry, always asking for a copy of my sermons. We were chatting, by email, on the Sunday afternoon before she died later that night. She loved dogs, had owned whippets and was interested in the lives of my greyhounds. This is borne out in the request for donations in lieu of flowers to Waggy Tails Rescue via <https://elainegausson.muchloved.com>

She will leave a huge, unfillable gap at St Boniface and I will miss her enormously. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Linda Klein

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works.

St Augustine of Hippo

He who labours as he prays, lifts up his heart to God with his hands.

St Bernard of Clairvaux



A HUGE thank you to all of our incredible volunteers, for the time you gave, the support you provided and the smiles you brought each day. We couldn't have run this event without you, and we are so grateful for each and every one of you.



Thank you to all of our amazing young people, for coming and engaging in the activities, for the jokes, laughs, and joy you all brought.

Thank you to the parents for your support.

Each day we had just under 30 young people, who engaged in crafts, games and activities all about the Kingdom of God...it was awesome.

Thank you all, here's to next year!

Youth Team

During our 2026 Holiday Club, we had the most amazing time gathering together with the community to learn more about God's Kingdom. We had an absolutely awesome 3 days, packed with games, crafts, teachings and more.

On the first day, we spoke about God's creation and how it is our responsibility to look after it and steward the amazing gift He has given us.

On day two, we spoke about battles, and how we are warriors for God's Kingdom. We learnt about the amazing characters in the Bible who had unfailing courage in times of trouble because they had faith in God.

On the final day we explored the Armour of God, and how we can clothe ourselves in His strength, truth and love.

Each day we had times of prayer, jokes, team-building and even a song and dance! We also 'pied' leaders in the face each morning with ketchup...which the young people found hilarious.

We want to extend a huge thank you to all those who helped us run this event. We couldn't have done it without our amazing volunteers who came and helped in so many different ways.

We had just under 30 young people who came along and brought so much joy and energy. Each day we had amazing feedback and parents asking to book their children on for further days as they enjoyed it so much.

It was an amazing event and God really blessed it in many ways. We are so thankful for everyone's amazing help, and look forward to the next one!

Please continue to pray for our Youth and Children's work, that this Holiday Club would have a lasting affect on those who came along, but also as schools are off, and as we prepare to enter the new school year in September.

Shelley Mabey

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Eve's arrival

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Charles seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Charles, what is the matter?"

Little Charles responded solemnly, "There's a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

God Put the Wiggle in Children

God put the wiggle in children,
the wonder, the questions, the noise;
the fidgeting feet and the laughter,
the bright, unexpected joys.

So let them be little among us;
they needn't sit silent and still.
There's room here for all of their living
their voices, their movement, their will.

Sit close, so they see what is happening;
sing boldly and help them join in.
For children learn faith from our footsteps,
and love is where worship begins.

And if you both need to step outside,
take time, catch your breath, then return.
Your place will be here when you're ready;
there's welcome at every turn.

God put the wiggle in children
a sign that our church is alive.
May every wee one know, growing,
this is a place where they can thrive.

So offer a smile and be patient;
make room in the pew and the day.
For Jesus said, "Let the children
come near and do not send them away."



Eleanor of Dumbarton Parish Church, published by permission

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 19th September from 9.30 - 11.00am

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



Tracey Jones

Thank you

A very big thank you to those who kindly donated cakes for the Summer Fayre.

Marion Cowdrey

More thoughts about the Summer Fayre:

- I enjoyed the “human fruit machine”
- The refreshments were really busy
- The longest bean was won by a bean that was 1.5 inches long
- “I came second!” (out of 2)
- I enjoyed the face-painting – the grandchildren looked superb



Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday 12th September 2026

8.30am to 10.00am

At Nursling Men's Shed

St Boniface Church Hall

Church Lane, Nursling SO16 0BY

This will be followed by Ride + Stride:

 	A team of cyclists from our churches will be taking part in this annual event. Both our churches have benefited from grants from the trust, and 50% of funds raised this year comes back to our churches. We plan on visiting 9 local churches on the 20 mile ride - Nursling, Calmore, Netley Marsh, Colbury, Marchwood, Eling, Millbrook, Lordshill & Rownhams. You can sponsor us via the QR code.
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Have you started to have a bit of spare time?

As your children start or change school or move away at the start of the new academic year, maybe this is the time to review your time. Do you now have a bit of extra spare time? If so then there are many ways in which you could volunteer ranging from a regular weekly commitment to a couple of hours every 2 months. Some that come to our minds are:

- Help with this magazine, editing, proof reading, printing, finishing – talk to us Threds
- Help with the many youth and children's groups – talk to our Youth, families and children's worker Ewan Brown
- Help at the local Basics Bank who are looking to expand the services they offer on a Friday at Lordshill Church – talk with Graham Swinerd
- Enrol for a Bishop's Commission for Mission stream to become more involved in many aspects of our church ministry – talk to Graeme Dixon
- Help run our services in church (eg reading, welcoming etc) – talk to Alison Collins at St John's or Linda Klein at St Boniface Church
- Join the walks on a Friday morning – talk to Marion Swinerd.
- Help with a variety of jobs at St Boniface – talk to Graeme Dixon

There are plenty more opportunities. If you can think of something you would like to help with then do approach someone who can steer you in the right direction. ***Threds*** (see page 2 for many of the contact details)

August's litter pick

It was lovely to gather eleven litter pickers together on a warm sunny morning to wamble around the Recreation areas. It was especially encouraging to welcome a visiting family to our investigations, and to hear that they had enjoyed the experience. We turned up the usual tawdry selection of glass bottles, lots of perfectly recyclable cans and plastic bottles, interspersed with the odd discarded dog poo bag (lovely in the hot weather) At least we ensured that none of this stuff found its way to polluting any streams and waterways, but we have a long way to go before people leave our special places as they would like to find them.

On Saturday 5th September, we will meet at the junction of Frogmore Lane and Redbridge Lane at 10am, All ages welcome, provided children are accompanied by an adult. We would be grateful for donations of any unwanted strong carrier bags, which are suitable for glass bottles etc.

Mary Carter and Marion Swinerd

Noah's Ark on the Mountains of Ararat

On June 6th, 2026 Noah's Ark Scans was thrilled to announce that their Turkish partner has received formal approval and all necessary scientific expedition permits from the Turkish Government to conduct a comprehensive scientific expedition at the Durupinar formation in Eastern Turkey, the site long believed by many to be the resting place of Noah's Ark.

This historic authorisation marks the first time in modern history that a dedicated international team has been officially cleared to perform intensive, non-destructive investigations at the site, using revolutionary new scanning and imaging technologies never before applied to this site.

The Durupinar formation is the authentic resting place of Noah's Ark as described in the Holy Books (the Bible). and ancient texts.



This is the very location where human habitation began anew after the Flood. Pre-flood people lived much longer. Noah started building the Ark when he was 600 years. old. Some skulls on the Turkey plateau have teeth ground down to the gums.

The Great Flood was a real cataclysmic global event that reshaped human history. David Attenborough's article; "The Sahara Apocalypse" says that there was a shift of the world's axis by 17 degrees in 5000 BC so the equator moved south to the Congo. In the Andes Lake Titicaca has salt water and agricultural terraces – at 12,000 feet above sea level.

The Noah's Ark scientific expedition is scheduled to commence before the end of the year.

Rev Jim Stanley-Smith

Nursling & Rownhams Retired Men's Fellowship

We restart Tuesday 6th October 2026 and every **Tuesday at 2pm** 'til the end of March 2027.

Join us for an interesting talk on a wide range of topics, a cup of tea and a chat with friendly people. We meet at the Scout Hall, Joe Bigwood Close, Nursling SO16 0YL

Your first meeting is free to see what it's all about.

**For more information call/text Mike Cooper (Chair) on 077 0958 7520
or Mike Bunce (Speaker Secretary) on 077 4295 7858**

Church Services in September

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** via the office. Delicious tea and coffee are served after the 10am service. There is a crèche area available during services at St John's Church, especially for little ones who get bored (see page 10). We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

Sunday 6th September– Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Ewan Brown

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

Led by Rev Graeme Dixon, with Sharon Wills.

Sunday 13th September – Fifteenth 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 Christine Owen, BCM, BPP, with Ewan Brown

Sunday 20th September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

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 27th September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Immerse – A modern service diving deeper into following Jesus one issue at a time.

Led by Steve Beak, with Claire Thompson

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

Led by Lynn Black, with Sharon Wills.

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 6th September– Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson, with Tony Wingett

Sunday 13th September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Lyn Black

Sunday 20th September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Prayer

Led by Claire Thompson, with David Thompson.

Sunday 27th September – Harvest Festival

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 4th & 18th September 2.15pm (first & third Fridays each month) Prayer Meeting at Dorothy Stratford's home. Please contact the office (see page 2) 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 p19)

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 p19)

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

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

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

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

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

First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break 3rd & 17th September in Horns Drove Community Centre (see p19)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 4th & 18th September (see p15)

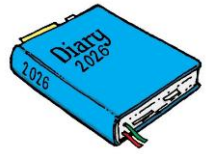
Saturday 5th September 10-11am Litter Pick (See p12) meeting in Redbridge Lane, by the Walnut Tree, Frogmore Lane junction.

Saturday 12th September Men's Breakfast in the Men's Shed followed by Ride+Stride contact Mike Bunce (see p11)

Sat 19th September 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 13th September

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.

- + **Saturday 12th September** Quiz and Pudding – in St John's Church. Details to be confirmed
 - + **Friday 25th September 2pm** Friday Friends Afternoon Tea in St John's Church Hall (see below)
 - + **Saturday 3rd October 10-11am** Litter Pick (See p12) venue tbc
 - + **Saturday 10th October 8.30am** Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact David Hammond.
 - + **Saturday 17th October 9.30-11am** Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see p10)
-

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.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

 **twinspires**

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





The Garden Party and Songs of Praise Celebration

Sunday 16th August

The weather kindly cooled a little for our Sunday afternoon Garden Party in the Vicarage garden. The weather was perfect. When we arrived tables chairs and gazebos had been arranged around the garden. There were also things for children to play on.

It was a wonderful relaxed afternoon of fellowship with scones and cake, followed by more cake!! Thank you to all who had been busy baking. Steph made sure we all had plenty of tea and cold drinks Thank you to Graeme, Steph, and all those who contributed to the refreshments, for a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by all who came.

The Garden Party was followed by Songs of Praise in St John's Church. Favourite songs had been chosen by members of the church beforehand, and these were sung with gusto, stirring many emotions. The choices were so personal and heartfelt it was a joy to listen to them.

Graeme led the service and it was good to sing so many songs, some of which we haven't sung for a long time. We heard how special these songs were to different people which brought a few tears to our eyes. We heard about a special wedding song and also how other songs had helped people through difficult times. Angie's song reminded her of her confirmation at St John's Church many years ago. The service ended with Shine Jesus Shine and then a prayer. We all came away feeling blessed and sure that God will never leave us. It was an inspirational service which uplifted our souls as we praised God. Thank you to Graeme for producing the service, Mike on piano and Katrina leading the singing. Their hard work made the day such a joyous occasion.

***Article produced from those sent in by:
Christine Owen, Marion Cowdrey and Angela Rowbotham***



Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club



The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club meets Thursdays, 2–4pm, at Nursling Village Hall, Nursling Street. £4 weekly with no annual membership fee.

Prize draw, tea/coffee and biscuits included. Free parking is available next to the Social Club during Village Hall building works. 1st visit free.

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

September's programme: **3rd** Walley Cozens, C & W singer & raconteur
10th Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa & a chat; **17th** Paddy Maxwell, raconteur and humour all the way; **24th** Braishfield Ukelele Music Society (BUMS) ukelele band Sing along time folks.

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

Mike Ward

Coffee Break

Join us for a friendly Coffee Morning – enjoy a chat, some company, or simply relax with a tea or coffee. Our delicious homemade cakes are always popular!



We meet twice a month at the Community Centre, Horns Drove. After our summer break, we'll be back on

3rd and 17th September.

This month we're also hosting a **Community Book Exchange** – bring a book, take a book, or just browse. Whether you're new to the area or a long-time resident, everyone is welcome.

Need help getting here? We can arrange a lift: 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.

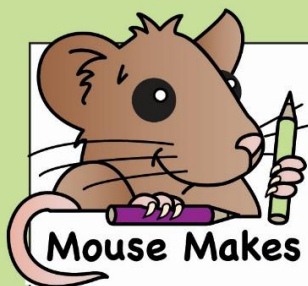
Wordsearch – The Parable of the Weeds

(Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.



Kingdom	Sleeping	Sow	Together
Heaven	Grain	Gather	Harvest
Good	Weeds	Reap	Bundles
Seed	Enemy	Root	Barn
Field	Servants	Let	Burned
	Master	Grow	



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?
To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?
"Go and bear
_____"

John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?
Thrown into the

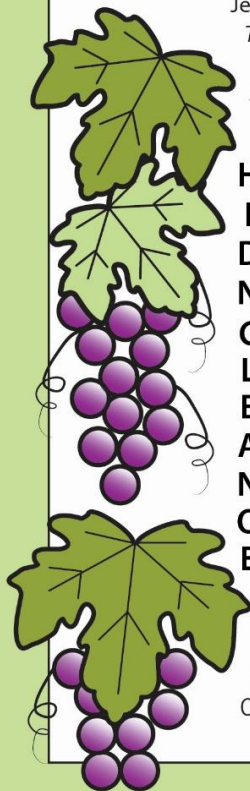
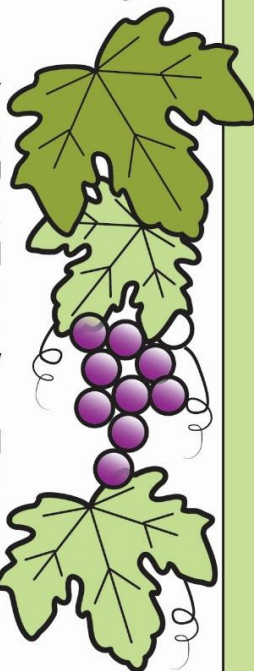
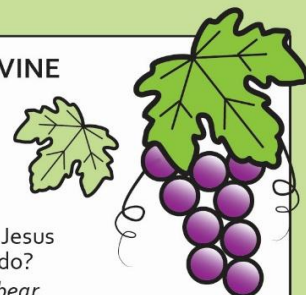
and

John 15:6

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to **LOVE**
one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY



Planes crashing into skyscrapers



Many of us will remember where we were 25 years ago this month, on Tuesday 11th September, when reports began to come in of planes crashing into skyscrapers in New York. For those of us who were at work, the shock was such that little work got done the rest of that day. Instead, we gathered round

the nearest television we could find, watching the news unfold, watching the loop of film as the planes flew into the Twin Towers.

For an earlier generation, it was 'I remember exactly where I was when President Kennedy was shot'. These moments are ones which stay with us. They could be called 'hinge moments' when something changes, a new direction is taken, a moment that has such a profound effect on the world that history sets off in a new direction. Those horrifying scenes on 11th September 2001 led to many of the troubles we see in the Middle East today, and the West's responses to them.

But hinge moments do not *have* to result in wars and loss. As Christians we can say that the life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus was one such pivotal moment. Christians were accused of 'turning the world upside down', such was the effect of their radical and transformative message.



For one thing, we no longer throw unwanted babies out onto a rubbish heap - as Romans did - because the Christian message proclaims all have value before God, and there are better ways to deal with unwanted souls. It took a great deal longer, but slavery was abolished because of the tireless work of Christians. Western society is underpinned in all its fundamentals by the precepts of the Christian faith, and that influence is felt around the world in such proclamations as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are not just economic units, not just parts of a machine; we are individually loved and valued since we stand in the image of God.

So, in spite of all the destructive forces that we may meet, may we be able to say with St Paul, 'I am convincedthat nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' And God bless you as you discover more and more of that infinite love.

Parish Pump

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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This has helped us raise over £800

Prayer for September

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!

New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.

Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory

Almighty God, Creator:

The morning is yours, rising into fullness.

The summer is yours, dipping into autumn.

Eternity is yours, dipping into time.

The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers, the lichen on the rocks, the tang of sea-weed,

All are yours.

Gladly we live in this garden of your creating.

By George MacLeod (1895 – 1991; founder of the Iona Community)

The love of God be the passion in our hearts.

The joy of God our strength when times are hard.

The presence of God a peace that overflows.

The Word of God the seed that we might sow. Amen.

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Suggestions for Your Prayers

SUNDAY Pray for the leaders of nations at war, that they would show compassion. Pray that God would be at work bringing the perpetrators to repentance. Ask that leaders would work together to find just solutions. Ask for God's comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

MONDAY We pray for the Diocese of South Rwenzori, Uganda, (linked to Winchester Diocese), our retiring collection for September, particularly for their Youth Convention next year.

TUESDAY Pray for pupils and staff starting at a new school or college ('Back to school Sunday' is 6th September), ask that they would make friends quickly and settle into the new experiences. Pray for our youth weekend at Avon Tyrrell (26th September) Pray that more of our young people will explore confirmation through Youth Alpha.

WEDNESDAY Pray for Graeme and Steph and their family. For good health and protection, and to stay close to God and know His wisdom and strengthening. Pray too for all those in leadership positions in our churches; that they will know God's enabling and guidance. (Standing Committee. 1st September, PCC 15th September)

THURSDAY Pray for our home groups as they start up again after the summer. Pray that the members will look forward to them as times when they can deepen their relationship with Jesus, grow in fellowship with each other and be supported to live out their lives in faithful witness to Him.

FRIDAY Pray for our government as they tackle the issue of social care. Pray for wise decisions, backed by fair and sustainable resources. Pray for governments across the world to respond to this summer's evidence of climate change, as we suffer from heatwaves, wildfires and drought.

SATURDAY Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 21st September to 4th October. Pray for good harvests for those who grow crops and bless the work of those who craft items to sell. Ask that communities would have wisdom as they decide how to use the Fair-Trade premium. Pray too that when we shop, we would have an understanding of the impact of our choices.

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.

Our new safeguarding officer is Andy Wickens.



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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