NURSLING & ROWNHAMS

Twin Spires News

Web Edition *October* 2026

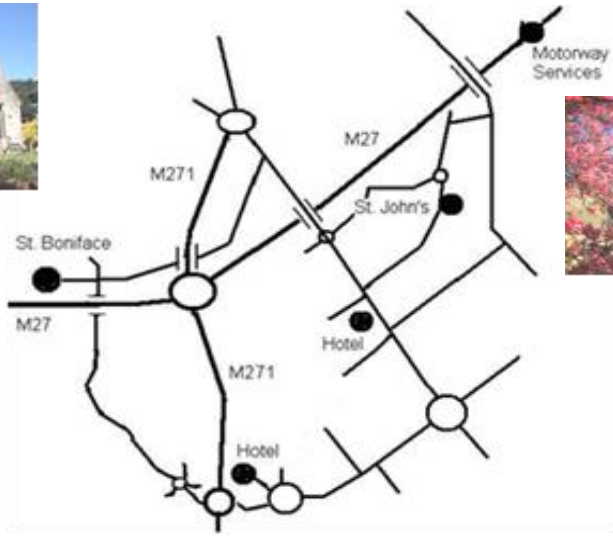
Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’



And it was so. … And God saw that it was good. Gen 1:11-12

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 – "Blackberry and Apple Crumble Time"

Verse of the Month

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' **Matthew 19:14**

A letter from our Children's, Youth and Families Worker, Ewan Brown

Hi all,

I am excited about this term! There is so much going on, both new and continuing from the previous term. After such a high of the holiday club, where we had so many young people, both regulars to our youth groups as well as new young people, I am really keen to continue that momentum into this year.

This term we have our Avon Tyrell weekend away, as well as the light party (31st October) coming up, and that's before all the craziness of Christmas begins! We have 7 of our young people coming along to the weekend away this year, which will be a great opportunity to bond, take part in activities, and study the book of Ruth through sessions and worship. Please do pray over this event as well, and that God would speak through this weekend to our young people.

Throughout the week we have plenty going on for our young people as well. Our Roots group on a Monday evening has now been extended by half an hour to allow us to better engage and build relationships with our young people. For this and all of our outreach groups including Ignite and Net on a Friday, we are looking at different Old Testament characters as well as how they relate to Jesus and the impact that has on our lives. Pray that these characters and their stories would help the young people to learn more about God and help them to grow in their love for him.

Our Wednesday night group is our discipleship group, carrying on from a Sunday night. This term we are using Rebecca McLaughlin's resource '10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity'. These include topics such as: How can I live my best life now? As well as how can we believe the Bible is true? These are questions that every young person struggles with, and so it is good to be able to explore this in an open way to help them to build their faith in God. This is together with regular worship band practices to help engage our young people in getting involved with Sunday morning services. This is key for us as we want our young people to feel part of our worshipping church community and feel like they

belong and want to get involved in these different aspects. Please do support and encourage our young people as they do this.

We are doing all these groups alongside other activities such as Christian unions and collective worships in both of our primary schools, as well as a Christian union in Mountbatten School, Lego church every third Sunday of the month, and so much more. Please pray over all these activities and that God would be in them.

When I recently went to a Diocese training day for youth workers, we started off the day looking at 1 Corinthians 3, and specifically verse 3 stood out for me this term. 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.' I have been doing this job for four years now, and we are now set up at a point where we are running a group or activity for all ages from 0 to 18 and so the planting has made amazing progress. It is up to us now to continue to water it and grow those seeds and those relationships that we have built with the young people, and rely on God to make them grow. We do so much and meet with so many people throughout the week, but we need to rely on God to grow those seeds.

My view of youth work has always been relationally based. Throughout all the stories of Jesus throughout the Gospels, he is constantly relating to people. One of the most famous lines from Jesus' ministry is 'Let the children come to me' from Matthew 19:14. This is how I want our children's, youth and families ministry to be set up so that it is accessible to all and all of that is through the relationships we have with our community.

There is always so much going on for all of our children's, youth, and families work, and plenty for people to get involved in as well, whether practically or through prayer. If you do feel like you are able to help in any sort of way, please do contact me or the office, as we would love to have you involved in building relationships and the faith of our young people.

Please pray for all we do…
Every blessing,

Ewan Brown

Sincere condolences to Shelley Mabey (one of your magazine editors) on the sad loss of her husband, Lee, on Saturday 5th September. Lee's funeral will be in St John's Church at 11.30am on Friday 9th October. With love and prayer. 🙏❤️


TWINSPIRES CHURCHES
LIGHT PARTY
FREE ENTRY
31ST OCTOBER
5PM - 7PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
SHINING BRIGHT ON THE DARKEST NIGHT
GAMES | CRAFTS | FOOD |
HOT CHOCOLATES & MARSHMALLOW TOASTING

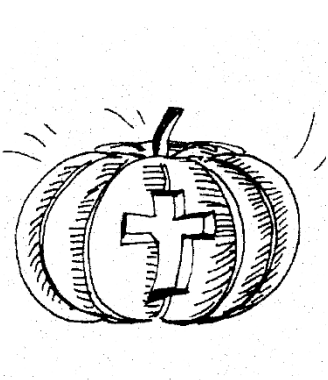
31st October is All Hallows Eve or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.



For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Parish Pump

Men's shed helps to restore fire-damaged loom



The fire at King John's House and Museum in the early hours of 23rd February 2025 was a huge shock for the museum staff, trustees and the local community. Luckily no one was injured, but there was extensive damage to one of Romsey's most historic buildings, including the Grade I listed medieval hall, and its contents.



Among the artefacts caught in the fire was a weaving loom, dating from the 1960's, which had been donated by a fellow weaver. I had done some work to tune it up the previous year. I was saddened to think that this lovely little loom would have been lost in the fire. But in August 2025 a couple of us were invited to have a look at some items potentially destined for the skip. Although the loom had suffered damage from smoke, water and scorching, I thought maybe it could be restored, so it was saved. The door had to be taken off its hinges to get the loom out into the courtyard so that it could be dismantled.



I started trying to clean the loom up, but the prospect was daunting. I was beginning to think I had taken on more than I could handle, but a chance meeting took me to the Nursling Men's Shed, where it turns out they have a ladies'

afternoon every Thursday – supported by some very handy men. I took a bundle a burnt bits along and asked for their advice.



I have to say that without the help and encouragement I received from the Men's Shed I would probably have given up. Bits of loom were taken along to the shed each week, where I could take advantage of the workshop equipment, and its dust extraction system. Bit by bit the loom was cleaned up and polished. Parts which were beyond rescue were remade for me by members of the Men's Shed, including the set of 24 pulleys from which the weaving shafts are suspended. I also had help with fitting wheels, making it much easier to manoeuvre. And after a few days of "tuning" – adjusting and readjusting all of the cords – it is now weaving sweetly.

The loom still shows the scars of the fire. The heddles, which lift and lower the warp threads, are still a brownish colour despite soaking, bleaching and machine washing, and there are a few bits of the original loom left over...

I am hoping that the loom will go back to King John's House, although the museum is unlikely to fully re-open until late 2027 at the earliest. It has been a challenge and a pleasure to restore it and get it weaving again, but it is currently taking up room in my weaving studio – which my husband refers to as the "dining room" – taking up space needed for other projects!

Coral Newton

St Boniface Church news



On Wednesday 7th October, we will be pleased to welcome another group of German visitors to St Boniface Church. Ray Hack will give a talk outlining the long history of the church, and John Sofrin will display old photographs of the village of Nursling. Thank you to Nursling Men's Shed members who will host refreshments for our visitors.

Avis Wood

Wendy Feltham

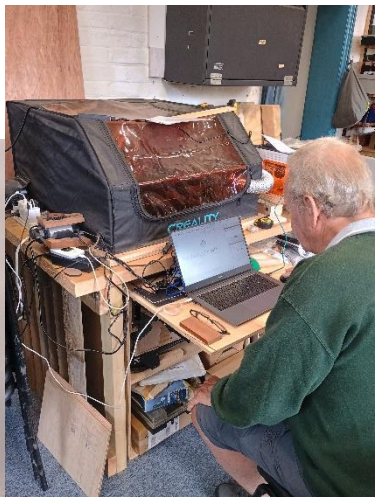
A service for the life of Wendy Feltham took place at St Boniface Church on Monday 7th September at 11am followed by refreshments at Romsey Golf Club.

Organ pipes to crosses

A recent request at Nursling men's shed was to make 50 hand sized crosses for the Southampton hospital Chaplain. They are given to those in end of life care.

After some thought we decided to use wood from the St John's organ pipes and Tim set to work on the laser cutter. With a finishing sand and varnish they will be soon be in the hospital helping people to 'hold on to Jesus' in their hour of need.





Mike Bunce



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.

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 17th October from 9.30 - 11.00am

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

Tracey Jones

Come and join us at Friday Friends

Twinspires

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

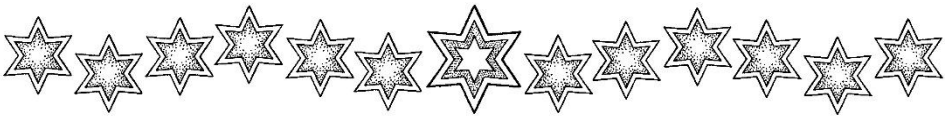
The Pastoral team invites you for an
'Afternoon Tea' Friday, 27 November 2026
St. John's Church Hall starting at 2.00 pm.
A time for space, quiet reflection and prayer and for an opportunity to meet people and share memories of a loved one.





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

We look forward to seeing you.



Church Family Christmas Breakfast

Saturday 12th December adults £14.50 under 12's £7.50
Names to Mike Bunce by Sunday 6th. Pay on the day – cash or card.



Nursling & Rownhams Retired Men's Fellowship

Programme for October

Date	Title of talk	Speaker
6/10/26	The social history of Bletchley Park	Valerie Young
13/10/26	The P&O story – fun and facts	Steve Herra
20/10/26	'I know what I like' – how to look at art	David Brindley
27/10/26	The Fermi Paradox – where is everybody	Dr Graham Swinerd

We meet at 2pm on Tuesdays in 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 or text Mike Cooper (Chair) on 077 0958 7520
or Mike Bunce (Speaker Secretary) on 077 4295 7858



Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club

The Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club meets on Thursdays between 2.00 and 4.00pm in the Nursling Village Hall in Nursling Street.

The cost is £4.00 per week, no annual membership fee. First visit free.

All meetings have a prize draw and include free tea and biscuits. Ample parking next to Social Club during building works at Village Hall.

We have a mixture of visiting entertainers and quizzes.

We would love to welcome some new members at these events.

Don`t be shy – Give us a try!

The following is our proposed programme for October 2026.

1st October – Dennis Bryant, the humorous poet, talking and singing.
8th October – John Richards, talking about the life of Lawrence Olivier.
15th October – Romsey Ukelele Group (RUG) rocking along all afternoon.
22nd October – John Pitman, Radio Broadcasts 1940`s to 1960`s.
Thursday 29th October – Quiz afternoon, time for a cuppa and a chat.

For further information please – Ring Joyce on 02380 735086 or
Mike on 02380 733245

Coffee Break



Join us for a relaxed and welcoming Coffee Morning. Whether you'd like some company, a chat or just a quiet moment with a cup of tea or coffee and delicious home-made cake, you'll find a warm welcome – so if you're looking for a friendly place to connect with others we'd love to see you.

We meet twice a month in the **Community Centre, Horns Drove.** We meet again on the **1st and 15th October between 10.00am and 12.00pm.**

Whether you're new to the area, a long-time resident, coming on your own or with friends and family **everyone is warmly welcomed.**

If getting here is difficult we can help with lifts – just e mail office@twinspires.org

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September's litter pick

Ten of us made our way to the junction of Frogmore Lane and Redbridge Lane to gather up a considerable amount of waste in a relatively small area. Nearly all of it was food packaging (so much of it readily recyclable), so that only two large blue bags were left for TVBC to dispose of. The recyclables were taken away to recycle appropriately.



In October and November we hope to check the entire length of Upton Lane, which has been reported as needing attention. On Saturday 3rd October at 10am, we will tackle the far (lower) end of the lane, meeting at the lay-by just beyond Grove Place: as ever, all ages welcome (children accompanied) with stout footwear and gardening gloves. On November 7th we will tackle the top end, meeting near Enviro and the cottages (Lymer Villas).

Some reflections on Black History
(October is Black History Month)

“I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up.” – **Rosa Parks,** who became mother of the American civil rights movement in 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery Alabama just because she was a Black.



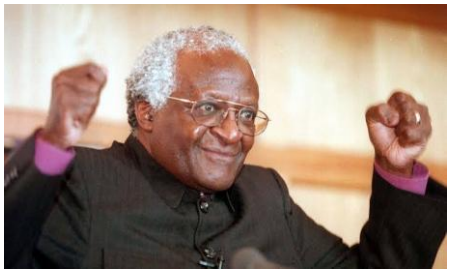
“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for” – **Barack Obama,** former US President.

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer” – **Harriet Tubman** – Black American abolitionist and Union spy.

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” – **Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Black church leader and US civil rights activist.

"I never think about being Black until it is said – I just get on with life." **Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin**, the Church of England's first Black female bishop.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” **James Baldwin,** American writer & civil rights activist.



“I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights." – **Archbishop Desmond Tutu,** global icon for his fierce, non-violent opposition to apartheid, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and first Black African Bishop of Johannesburg and Archbishop of Cape Town.

“Black British history is everyone's history and is all the stronger for it." – **David Adetayo Olusoga OBE**, British Nigerian historian, writer, broadcaster, and BAFTA winning film-maker. Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester.

“You have to do your job so well that nobody can dismiss you because of your race or background." – **Sir Trevor Lawson McDonald**, Trinidadian British newsreader and journalist, best known as a News presenter on ITN (Independent Television News).

Church Services in October
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. We hope to provide Prayer Ministry at 10am services.

Sunday 4th October – Harvest Festival
10am All Age Worship and baptism – 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 Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth 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 Marion Swinerd BCM, with Andy Ball

Sunday 18th October – Twentieth 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 25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity
Clocks go back one hour to GMT
10am Immerse – A modern service diving deeper into following Jesus one issue at a time. Led by Steve Beak, with David Thompson BPP
6.30pm Evening Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Christine Owen BCM, with Rev Graeme Dixon

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 4th October– Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
11am Morning Prayer Led by Claire Thompson BCM,
with Christine Owen BPP

Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
11am Morning Prayer Led by Lynn Black

Sunday 18th October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
11am Morning Prayer Led by Linda Klein, with Pat Wootten BPP

Sunday 25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity
Clocks go back one hour to GMT
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/
This service is available to view all week.



Fridays – Morning Prayer 8.30am in St Boniface Church

Friday 2nd and 16th October 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 page 9)

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays Bible Study Home Groups (See page 2)

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 page 11)

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 5th and 19th November in Horns Drove Community Centre (see page 12)

First & Third Fridays 2.15pm Prayer meeting 6th and 20th October

Saturday 3rd October 10-11am Litter Pick (See page 12). To pick the lower part of Upton Lane. Park just beyond Grove Place.

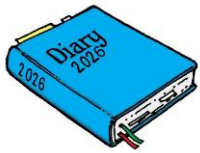
Saturday 10th October Men's Breakfast, contact Mike Bunce.

Sat 17th October 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together**,** St John's Church Hall (see page 10)

Dates for Your Diary:

Contributions for November's Magazine by 6pm Sunday 11th October.
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 7th November 10-11am** Litter Pick. See page 12 for venue.
- **Saturday 14th November** 8.30am Men's Breakfast. To join in, please contact Mike Bunce
- **Saturday 21st November** 9.30-11am Ladies' Get Together in St John's Church Hall (see page 10)
- **Saturday 28th November** 11am-2pm Christmas Fair, in St John's Church. (See page 18)

23rd Psalm for the Workplace

The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors, and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I will not stop -- for He is with me!

His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.
He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His faithfulness and love are better than any bonus cheque.
His retirement plan beats every 401K there is.
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that, I bless His Name.

Parish Pump

TWINSPIRES CHURCHES

CHRISTMAS FAIR





AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

SO16 8AH

28TH NOVEMBER

11AM-2PM

Refreshments | Stalls | Crafts
Wreath-Making
AND MORE...!

FREE ENTRY

www.twinspires.org.uk

St Francis and the Life of Simplicity



Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Churchgoers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (4th October) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix he renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart, St Claire, longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires this meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.



Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that He came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

Parish Pump

I really don't think I could consent to go to Heaven if I thought there were to be no animals there – ***George Bernard Shaw***

As far as the Bible is concerned, God only threw the humans out of Paradise – ***Bruce Foyle***

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,
Church Engagement Director at
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

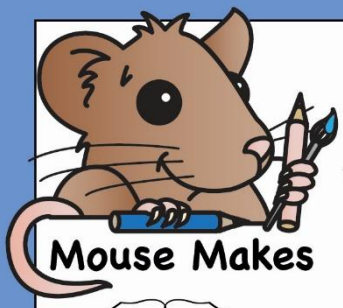
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.





1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged _ _ _ _ _
Hebrews 4:12



		2			3						1	
	4	B	I	B	L	E	S	U	N	D	A	Y



6. God's word is like? A _ _ _ _ and a _ _ _ _ _
Psalm 119:105

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.



5. The first book of the Bible.

8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.





11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the _ _ _ _ of God.
Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman





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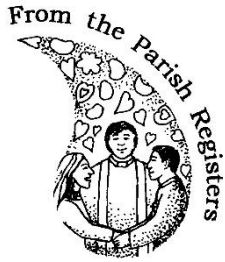
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From the Registers





Wedding	**'**Marriage should be honoured by all'	*(Hebrews 13:4)*
4 September	Lauren Kelly and Jack Mitchell	*St John's Church*
Funeral	'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'	(1 Cor 15:20)
7 September	Wendy Feltham (84)	*St Boniface Church*

Prayer for October

A Prayer for harvest

Dear Lord,

As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory.

In Jesus' name,

Amen. ***Daphne Kitching***

Suggestions for Your Prayers



SUNDAY Praise God that He is the Lord of all things; He is in ultimate control of the world. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that the desire for more power and more money that fuels wars and climate change will decrease, and the desire to serve God will increase. After a summer of heat and drought, pray for our food supplies to be sufficient for our needs (World Food Day, October 16).

MONDAY Pray for those who come to our Monday Tots' group. That the children will enjoy coming and that the parents will find it a place where they can find encouragement and support. Pray too that God will use it to help them come to know Him and His love and care for them.

TUESDAY Pray for Ewan and Izzy. Pray for good health, and thank God for them and all they both do for our church: Ewan with the young people and Izzy with the website. Pray that Ewan will be encouraged in his work, that God will give him fresh ways to communicate the gospel with the young people and that there will be enough helpers to run all the youth groups. Pray that each young person who attends will grow closer to Jesus.

WEDNESDAY Pray for new students starting at University this month: that they will settle well and make new friends. Pray too that God would protect them and help them to resist unhelpful peer pressure. Ask that those who are Christians will link up to a fellowship where they can be supported and grow in their faith.

THURSDAY Pray for wisdom and insight for the Leprosy Mission who are seeking the prevention and cure of leprosy; for skill and sympathy for those who minister to the patients, and that those who have been separated from their families because of the disease might be healed and reunited with them.

FRIDAY Pray that the National Week of Prayer (October 10-18) which brings together followers of Jesus from every denomination will lead us to humble ourselves before God, pray for our nation, and believe for spiritual awakening. Pray for strength for our Christian leaders as they promote God's love in a hostile world.

SATURDAY Give thanks for Scripture Union as they provide materials to help churches run Light Parties as an alternative to Halloween parties. Pray particularly for the one at St John's (October 31st) to be well attended and much enjoyed.

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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