NURSLING & ROWNHAMS

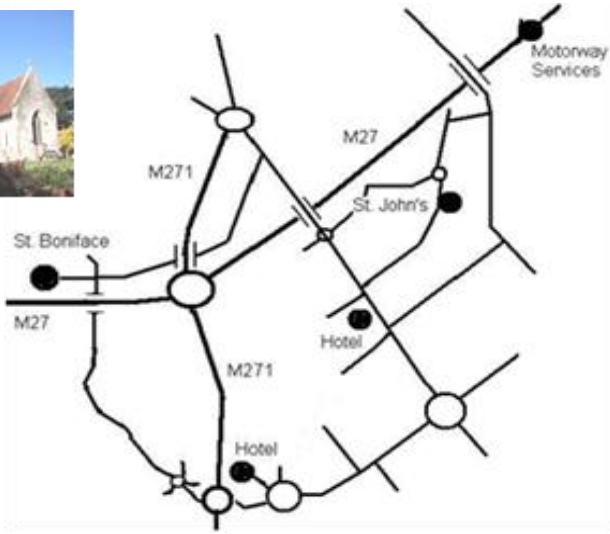
Twin Spires News

Web Edition ***November* 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 picture by Sandi O'Donnell

Verse of the Month

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
(Matthew 5:9 NRSVA)

Dear Friends

As autumn arrives, our familiar surroundings begin to change. The days grow shorter, the evenings draw in, and the leaves gradually fall from the trees. For some, autumn is a beautiful season of colour and harvest; for others, the darker days can bring a sense of sadness, loneliness or the absence of someone who is no longer with us.

Yet there is something important about this season. As the natural world slows down, we are given an opportunity to pause, to reflect and to consider what is important. And as Christians, we are reminded that even when the world around us changes, God's love remains constant.

At the heart of our life together as a church is a simple vision: loving Jesus, one another and our community. These words are an invitation to live differently, noticing the people around us, offering kindness where it is needed, and making room for others to discover the love of God for themselves.

One of the things Jesus makes particularly clear in the Gospels is the importance of community, of gathering, of welcome of hospitality and sharing. In this regard we are very blessed to be able to welcome children and their families into our midst, through the work of Ewan, with our young people's groups as well as through our schools. Jesus welcomed children when others might have considered them a distraction and reminded his disciples that they should not prevent children from coming to him. It follows that our churches should be places where children and families know they are welcome, where young people can ask questions, grow in faith and discover that they belong. Of course, church life involves people of different ages, needs and expectations, and living well together sometimes requires patience and understanding. But our starting point must always be the welcome Jesus offers. We want to be churches where people of every generation can encounter him and find a place among us.

Our Light Party at the end of October is a wonderful opportunity to put that welcome into practice. As families come together to enjoy an evening of fun and activities, we have the chance to build friendships and strengthen our links with the wider community. It is much more than an event in the church calendar. It is a practical expression of our desire to be a parish church for everyone,

sharing light, joy and hope at a time of year when darkness is becoming more noticeable as we reach out to our community.

On Sunday 1st November, we will be holding our All Souls' Service, and warmly invite anyone who has lost someone they love to join us. It is a special opportunity to come together, to remember those who have passed, to give thanks for the lives they shared with us, and to acknowledge the grief we still carry. Whether your loss is recent or many years ago, you will be very welcome. We will make space to remember, to reflect and to find comfort in being together.

Remembrance Sunday soon follows. This is always a significant moment in the life of our nation, our communities and our churches. We will remember those whose lives were lost in conflicts. We remember the service and sacrifice of those who never returned home, the families who grieved for them, and the generations whose lives were shaped by war. Their names and stories are part of our local history, and it is right that we honour them.

But remembrance reaches beyond the names recorded on memorials. Many of us carry the memory of people we have loved and lost, whose presence made a lasting difference to our lives. The approach of winter can make that absence feel particularly sharp. As we gather to remember the fallen, we may also find ourselves remembering those whose loss is still deeply felt in our own families.

Christian hope does not ask us to forget grief, nor does it pretend that suffering can easily be explained away. Instead, we bring our sorrow honestly before God, trusting in the love made known to us in Jesus Christ. The light of Christ shines even in the darkness, reminding us that death and suffering do not have the final word.

As we move through these autumn weeks, may we find time to remember with gratitude, to care for those who are grieving, and to reach out to anyone who might find the darker days difficult. A conversation, a visit or a simple act of kindness can make more difference than we realise.

May our churches continue to be places of welcome, compassion and hope: places where we love Jesus, love one another and serve our community. And as the leaves fall and the evenings draw in, may we hold on to the promise that God's light continues to shine, whatever season of life we find ourselves in.

With every blessing,

Graeme

Christmas Complete 2026

Taking off my “churchwarden hat” and putting on my “Chair of SCRATCH” one, I start by voicing my appreciation for those who support our Christmas project, whether through financial donations, the Amazon wish list https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EY3AZEV1NWS9%3Fref_=wl_dp_view_your_list
or the toy and gift services at our churches. Your help is very much appreciated by people who will never be able to thank you in person, so let me do that on their behalf.

If you're thinking of contributing this year, here are some tips. We – by which I mean the children and young people who receive our packages of toys and gifts – love:

- New toys and gifts
- Age appropriate things (babies to teens)
- Things that are given unwrapped, so that 'Santa's elves' can check them before they go out and make sure they end up with the right child
- If donated goods are second hand, these should only be books or toys/games/puzzles or clean cuddly toys

However, we don't love:

- Dirty cuddly toys
- Books/games that have other children's names on
- Colouring or sticker books that have been partly used
- Games or puzzles that have pieces missing
- Gifts that are more suitable to grannies than children/young people

Do people really donate that sort of thing? Alas, yes. You wouldn't want to be one of them, would you?

Ann Laird

David Thompson BPP


THE BISHOP'S PERMISSION TO PREACH

David Thompson

It was a pleasure for several of our church family to be in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 10th October to see David receive his “Bishop’s Permission to Preach” licence. The service celebrated the contributions made by many lay people to our churches – with BCM, BPP and LLMs all receiving their commissions and licences. David’s licence follows a year of intensive study, and permits David to preach, at any time, in our churches. We look forward to hearing him preach on many occasions in the future.

St Boniface Church News

Harvest Festival





Thank you to Rev Liz Pickett for leading the service in September. Non-perishable foods had been collected and these were taken later to a local food bank. *Photography by Mike Hanks (one of our wonderful Friday gang)*

German visit



On the 7th October we were pleased to welcome 35 visitors from the Bonn area of Germany. Our historian, Ray Hack, gave a short talk about the founding of St Boniface Church, believed to date from 625 AD. He described later additions to the church and geography of the area, including the ancient road to Winchester. The group are choristers, and delighted everyone present with their singing. They were invited to the Nursling Men's Shed for refreshments, which they enjoyed. Thank you to Maria and Mike Bunce for entertaining them. The visitors left for Winchester rather later than their itinerary had planned. We were pleased to hear that more visits are in the planning stage. *Photograph by Mike Bunce*.

Avis Wood



Nursling Men's Shed & St Boniface Church Open Day

Saturday 21st November
10am to 1pm
Tea & Cakes Sales of work

Church Lane, Nursling, SO16 0YB



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.

Church Family Christmas Breakfast

Saturday 12th December 8.30am for 9am breakfast
Adults £14.50, under 12's £7.50
Romsey Golf Club
Names to Mike Bunce (077 4295 7859) by Sunday 6th
Pay on the day – cash or card.

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 21st November from 9.30 - 11.00am

There will be no "Ladies Get Together" in December as we will be meeting on 12th December for the Church Family Christmas Breakfast at the Golf Club. For more information, please call Tracey on 07904 502214. Hope to see you there!

Tracey Jones



The Rev Ian Douglas Gardner

17th April 1934 – 17th September 2026

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ian who was vicar in this parish from 1985 until Ian's retirement to Wales in 1999.

Ian and his wife, Amelia, had been in a care home since late January. At his death Ameila sat beside him, they held hands, and said a prayer, and soon after he was gone. A good and peaceful goodbye. There was no cause of death other than old age.

Many of our church family will have fond memories of Ian and Amelia as they ministered in our parish. Amelia was a joint editor of this magazine with Mary Carter. Since moving to Wales they have kept in touch by receiving this magazine each month, courtesy of Jim Stanley-Smith.

Our sympathies extend to Amelia and their 4 children – Timothy, Alison, Jonathan and Andrew.

Freds

My first memory of Ian (before we got here) was letting us know in good time about 10 Rownhams Way being up for sale. So we took that up, and were able to purchase it 33 years ago! I had visited him in his (CMS) rural Parish some years before he moved here.

I found Ian very friendly, and we were able to work well together.

Jim Stanley-Smith

As we look back on our spiritual journey we can reflect on those that have been a positive influence on that journey.

Ian Gardner was the vicar here when we arrived in the late 80's and I can now reflect on the many positives in my life as our paths met. During his time with us many new initiatives were started like the Net youth club in the 90's. Our thoughts and prayers are for Amelia and the family at this time.

Mike Bunce



Don't forget to bring your "Funny Money"

We are happy to receive foreign currency (notes and coins) and 'out of circulation' UK notes and coins, which we can convert into funds for our churches. Periodically we send off 'our stash' for conversion. Our most recent batch raised £296.52! Thank you! Look out for the 'Funny Money' Box in each church.

Clergy Appreciation Week

15th to 21st November 2026

Dear Church family

November is the month that we celebrate our Clergy Appreciation Week.

It is our opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU" to Graeme and Steph for everything that they do for us all. Such wonderful, pastoral and loving people who lead us in our Church vision to love Jesus, love each other and love our community.

We are blessed in both of our Churches with Ewan, our Children, Youth and Families Worker, Lynn, Steve, and so many who lead, preach, pray, lead and play music, organise technology, welcome and steward, work in the office and serve in so many different ways.

Those who quietly clean, polish, arrange beautiful flower displays, and organise our Twin Spires News magazine … A time to thank our wonderful Church Wardens and those who are working together at St Boniface Church to cover that role, the list is huge.

I am sure that we all thank those who lead our worship and take part in the services throughout the year and make our Churches such special places, but this is just an extra opportunity to show our appreciation in whatever way that you feel led.

With our love and thanks to each one of you.
You are all precious and treasured Children of God.
"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." **John 15:12:**

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing … give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." **1 Thessalonians 5:11 & 18**

Pat and Sharon Wills

Recycling to generate funds

You may know that we offer a mini-recycling centre at St John's Church. In case you're not aware, recycling the items below via the church generates funds for various charities:



- Spectacles (not cases or contact lenses)
- Inkjet cartridges (not laser cartridges)
- Used postage stamps, ideally with a 1cm margin.

Highlights from the PCC Meeting on 15th September 2026

Finance

A new projector had been purchased for St John's Church.

Holy Communion Distribution

Graeme had been instructed by the Bishop to revert to using the Common Cup for the wine, and intinction of the wafer was no longer allowed. If communicants preferred to just receive the host (bread) and not take the wine, this was theologically sufficient. Graeme will administer Holy Communion 'Cathedral' style, with the option to kneel at the Altar Rail.

Parochial Visitation

Graeme stated that this had gone well; we had no red alerts; some amber, but mostly green. Ann Laird, Linda Purkess, Christine Owen, Claire Thompson, Randell McKay, John Pennells and John Sofrin were thanked for their hard work in the preparation of this.

Parish Portal Dashboard

The Diocese will be reviewing this matrix more closely to monitor growth in the Parish. We are doing well on children's attendance, although a slight decline in overall attendance. There are fewer regular givers but we had been praised for being one of the few churches who pay their Common Mission Fund in full. We are doing well with increased ministry by those trained in Bishop's Permission to Preach and Bishop's Commission for Mission.

Policies

The following Policies were reviewed:

- Annual Pay Review for Youth, Children's and Families Worker
- Lone Worker Policy
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy
- St John's Church Hall Letting Policy

St Boniface Church

- The plaster on the Chancel Arch needs to be stripped back, as a matter of urgency, to make it safe. Two plasterers have viewed the Arch, and we have had one quote from a scaffolder of £6,000 + VAT for just the internal scaffolding needed.
- Graeme confirmed that Phase 2 of the electrical work will not proceed at present.

St John's Church

- **Church Hall Update**

  Graeme confirmed we had received some initial drawings from Redside Builders; showing the current Church Hall with an added extension, for

future discussion. The roof timbers of the Hall roof will be inspected to ensure the Hall is currently safe to use.

- **Amplifier**

Graeme confirmed that a new amplifier had been fitted, and with two working speakers, the sound in church should be better.

- **Amend Faculty for re-purpose of pews**

Graeme recommended putting one pew at the back of the church; one pew in the transept; half a pew in the porch, and the other half to cover the AV cupboard next to the pulpit.

- **Storage Shed**

Graeme suggested we erect a storage shed, next to the Vicarage garage, to hold tables, chairs and toys/equipment for Tots Group.

Twinspires News Magazine

It was suggested the Magazine and weekly News Sheet be printed in colour. Graeme will investigate the funding.

Care of the Vicar

The Diocesan document on Clergy Care was discussed, in relation to our care for Graeme. It was agreed:

- It was not Graeme's job to do everything. More volunteers are needed to help with our events and activities.
- We need to support Graeme through prayer.
- We need to protect Graeme's day off (Thursday).
- We need to ask Graeme what five 'pain points' he would like to delegate to others.

Any Other Urgent Business

1. **Cracks in the Chancel Walls of St John's Church**

A Structural Engineer has concluded we have subsidence, which has also caused the stained glass in the window to move. Further investigations and advice are needed.

2. **Burial Ground**

Graeme stated that we are running out of burial ground at St John's, although there is more room at St Boniface. It was confirmed we can re-use old graves over 100 years old.

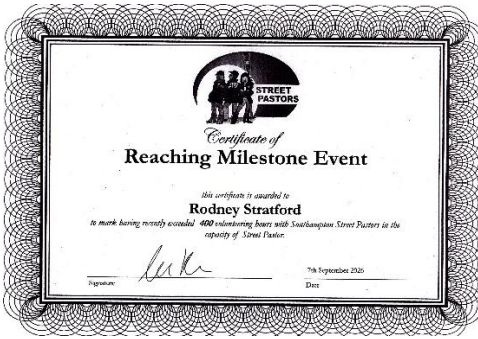
Future Dates

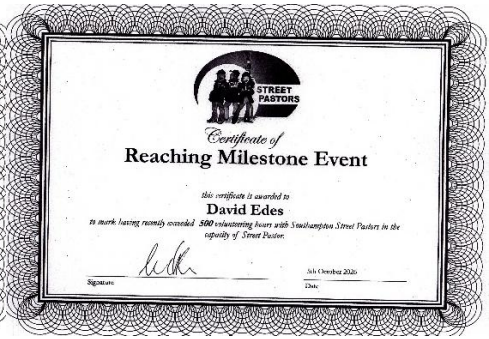
Standing Committee: Monday 2 November 2026, 7pm St John's Church
PCC Meeting: Tuesday 17 November 2026, 7pm at St John's Church

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

Christine Owen, PCC Secretary

Rodney Stratford and David Edes
Street Pastors “extraordinaire”!





Congratulations to Rodney and David. Rodney has recently completed over 400 volunteer hours with Southampton Street Pastors as a Street Pastor on one of our City Centre teams and David has now completed over 500 hours. They have received certificates from Southampton Steet Pastors to mark the achievements. Rodney is the second oldest Street Pastor in Southampton doing street patrols. His first patrol was on 1st November 2019 and he has now completed a total of 62 patrols. David’s first patrol was in October 2020 and he has completed 76 patrols.

They are both very committed, enthusiastic, humble, and ever faithful bringing real compassion and wisdom with them to the streets.

Ride and Stride 2026



Thank you to all those who sponsored us on the ride and stride event in September. A total of £241, including gift aid, was raised.

The team (Jonathan, Jen, Mike, Jacob and Andy) visited 9 local churches. We started our ride at St Boniface Nursling with bacon butties at the men's breakfast and a couple of us topped this up with tea and cake at our second church, St. Anne's Calmore. Luckily a hill followed to shed some of the calories gained!

The picture is at St. John’s Marchwood as we made our way back to conclude the ride at St John’s Rownhams.

Mike Bunce

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 **5th and 19th November 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

BIG QUIZ NIGHT



You are invited to join us for a Big Quiz Night

on Saturday 21st November at 7pm

in St John's Church.

Entry is free but there will be an opportunity to donate to Tearfund, a relief and development charity.

The quiz is designed to be fun for **everyone and anyone** from secondary school age and upwards.

Come on your own or as a team of about 6.

Hot drinks will be available in the break but feel free to bring your own refreshments.

If you can't come but would like to donate to Tearfund you can do so via the justgiving page I've set up for this *www.justgiving.com/page/tfquiz2026*

Hope to see you there. ***Claire Thompson***

Planning on sending e-cards this Christmas?

You may wish to use "dontsendmeacard.com" and choose from one of over 2000 charities to receive a donation from you.

Sandi O'Donnell

Church Services in November

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 1st November – All Saints Day
10am All Age Worship – An informal service, suitable for families. Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

6.30pm Holy Communion – A quiet service, **with a special invitation to the recently bereaved**, based on Common Worship.
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Sharon Wills

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
10am Remembrance Service Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

6.30pm Evening Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Marion Swinerd BCM, with John Pennells

Sunday 15th November – Safeguarding Sunday
10am Holy Communion – A quiet service, based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Andy Wickens (Safeguarding Officer)
4pm LEGO Church (in St John's Church)
6.30pm Prayer Meeting – a short meeting for prayer
In place of 6.30pm service

Sunday 22nd November – 1 before Advent, Christ the King
10am Immerse – A modern service diving deeper into following Jesus one issue at a time. Led by Claire Thompson BCM with Steve Beak PTO
6.30pm Evening Prayer – An informal service of prayer and praise
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Ewan Brown

Sunday 29th November –Advent Sunday
10am Holy Communion A quiet service, based on Common Worship
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon
6.30pm A service of anointing and healing
Led by Rev Graeme Dixon with Sharon Wills

St Boniface Church, Nursling

Services in St Boniface Church use the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 1st November – All Saints Day
11am Morning Prayer Led by Claire Thompson BCM, with Tony Wingett

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
10.45am Remembrance Service Led by Lynn Black (Ordinand) with Pat Wootten BPP

Sunday 15th November – Safeguarding Sunday, 2 before Advent
11am Morning Prayer Led by Claire Tompson BCM with David Thompson BPP

Sunday 22nd November – 1 before Advent, Christ the King
11am Holy Communion Led by Rev Graeme Dixon

Sunday 29th November –Advent Sunday
11am Morning Prayer Led by Christine Owen 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/
Not 19th November. This service is available to view all week.



Fridays – Morning Prayer 8.30am in St Boniface Church

Friday 6th and 20th November 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 7)

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 in Nursling Men's Shed

Thursdays 2–4pm Nursling & Rownhams Friendship Club (See page 19)

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)

Tuesdays 24th Nov and 15th Dec 7.30pm Art Group



First & Third Thursdays 10am – midday Coffee Break 5th and 19th November in Horns Drove Community Centre (see page 13)

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

Saturday 7th November 10-11am Litter Pick. Meet by Enviro works and Lymer Villas in Upton Lane (See page 18)

Saturday 14th November Men's Breakfast, contact Mike Bunce.

Sat 21st November 9.30–11am Ladies' Get Together**,** St John's Church Hall (see page 7)





Dates for Your Diary:

Contributions for December's Magazine please by 6pm Sunday 8th November.

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.

- **Saturday 5th December 10-11am** Litter Pick. Venue tba
- **Saturday 12th December** Church family breakfast (see page 7)

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.

October's litter pick

The October litter pick took on an extra dimension as we arrived to find that someone had mislaid a large fridge or freezer exactly where we met near Grove Place. Unfortunately, they will be unable to reclaim it, as the whole considerable cache has been referred to TVBC for collection (or further action).



It was so encouraging to count at least 14 people prepared to scour the area between Grove Place and St Boniface church and along Lee Lane, with alarming results as usual. It was also lovely to enjoy coffee on the terrace at Grove Place afterwards at the invitation of the residents and management.

Next month, we will turn our attention to the "top end" of Upton Lane, meeting by the Enviro works and Lymer Villas, and hoping for equally benign weather conditions. Hope to see you on Saturday 7th November at 10 am, with gardening gloves and stout shoes: accompanied children very welcome.

Mary Carter

Nursling & Rownhams Retired Men's Fellowship

Programme for November

3/11/26	Operation Torch – 1942 invasion of French North Africa by David Bickerton
10/11/26	Who killed the king? – The death of William Rufus by Jon Sims
17/11/26	Getting a grip on memory by Ruth B Kerr
24/11/26	Violet's Titanic escape by Jane Glennis

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.

Annual subscription £15. Weekly attendance £3

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 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 November 2026.

Nov 5th – Paddy Maxwell, singer, humour, raconteur.
Nov 12th – Alan Pollock, talking about Homeopathic Medicine
Nov 19th – Serendipity, very talented musical duo, a great hit last time!
Nov 26th – Nursling & Rownhams Community Band, a great afternoon.

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





...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment… Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you…? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

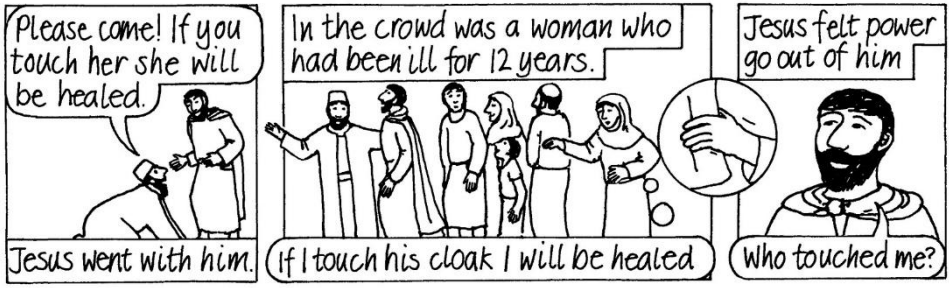
This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge. ***Dr Ruth M Bancewicz***

Bible Bite

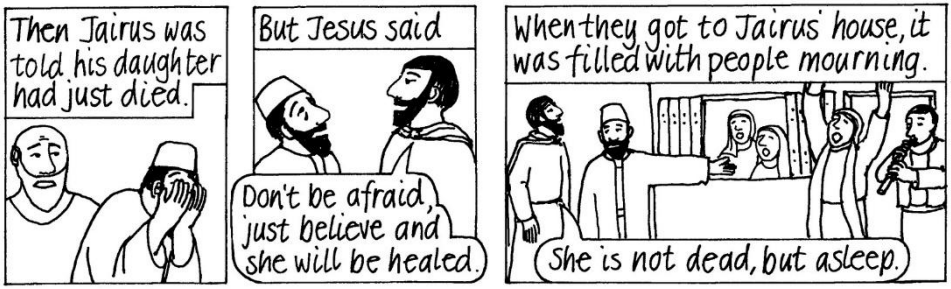
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

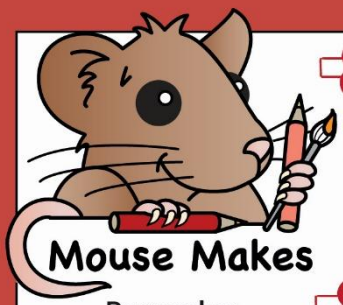
Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...











Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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From the Registers





Baptism	**'**One Lord, one faith, one baptism'	*(Ephesians 4:5)*
4th October	Isabelle Joy Johnson	St John's
Funerals	'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'	(1 Cor 15:20)
9th Oct	Lee Christopher Mabey (50)	St John's
14th Oct	Elaine Gaussen (82) Interment of ashes	St Boniface
16th Oct	Sandra Phillips (83) Thanksgiving service	St Boniface

Prayer for November

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion.

Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always. In your name,

Amen.

Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump

Suggestions for Your Prayers



SUNDAY All Saints' Day (November 1st) Give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. We remember all believers who have worshipped, served, and brought the gospel message to the world. Our All Souls' Service will be held in the evening when we remember our own loved ones. On Remembrance Sunday (November 8th) we pray for all who have experienced wars or suffer as a result of conflict. Pray for peace in our time. Advent Sunday (November 29th) helps us to begin to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season; pray also for our Healing Service in the evening.

MONDAY Pray for the church leadership team and the PCC; for wisdom and guidance as they face difficult issues with our church buildings. May they feel encouraged and supported, and know the power and strength of the Holy Spirit, with God's peace.

TUESDAY Pray for protection for the staff of the Bible Society, especially those working in difficult and oppressive situations. Pray that they will be encouraged and that they will shine as beacon lights to all they minister to. Thank God as they celebrate 500 years since William Tyndale published the first New Testament in English.

WEDNESDAY Pray for pupils, staff and governors in our local schools. Pray for protection for all, and that the pupils will be happy and will form good relationships. Pray that the staff might feel supported by each other and by the governors, and be given the strength to cope with their workload. Ask too for wisdom for them as they relate to the pupils.

THURSDAY Thank God for his provision for us as we move into the new Autumn season. Give thanks for the beauty of the changing colours in the trees, the rustling of the fallen leaves, the different smells when we go out. Bless the litter pickers (November 7th) as they seek to keep our world looking as it should.

FRIDAY Pray for all the initiatives that champion children, for nations to take serious action to guard and provide for all children (World Children's Day November 20th) Pray that our own Safeguarding procedures will be effective.

SATURDAY Pray for our social activities this month, that they will attract people to find out more about what goes on in our churches. The Tear Fund Big Quiz is coming up soon (November 21st), and our Christmas Fair takes place the following week (November 28th)

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 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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