

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

19th November 2023

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Stewardship Sunday – Thanking God for the Gifts Entrusted to Us

Father Mark writes:

This weekend is our Parish “Stewardship Sunday”. What, though, is ‘stewardship’?

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10)

Everything we have is a gift from God, given out of his boundless love for each one of us. When we recognise this, we can begin to respond to that love with hearts full of gratitude and love and use those gifts to build the kingdom of God.

Many people are burdened with a feeling of guilt that they are not doing enough to deserve God’s love; that God won’t love them if they don’t do more to earn his love. The amazing truth is that God loves us and showers us with blessings even though we are all unworthy. We can never deserve that love and all the gifts He gives us however hard we try; God gives his gifts freely and unconditionally.

“We don’t receive objects from God, we don’t receive lumps of something from God; we receive that life which pushes outwards, which pushes to diffuse itself. To receive is not to have a possession, it’s to be caught up in the stream of God’s action.

When we begin to grasp this tremendous love and generosity that God showers on each one of us, we ask the question: how should I respond? How can I begin to express my awe and wonder and gratitude for all that I have been given, for everything that makes me who I am?

There is no one response. Each one of us is unique and is called to serve God in a particular way, specific to ourselves. This too is a gift for everything is grace. As we ponder our gifts, and perhaps recognise and acknowledge some of them for the first time, God will show us how we are called to respond. Then we can use those gifts more fully in our own particular situation – at home, at work, in our parish, in our local community.

We’ve been reflecting these past few weeks on St. Paul, who spent himself completely out of love for the Christian community he founded in Thessalonika; on the wise bridesmaids, who had soaked their lives in the Word of God and the Love of God in order to burn brightly with charity and good works; on Jesus, who held nothing back but gave Himself completely, offering his very Body and Blood.

This weekend, we meet the three slaves or servants, entrusted with vast sums of money. They were under no illusion that this was their own money. They knew it had been given to them on loan, on trust. Two of the servants recognise the gifts they’ve been given and make the correct use of them; whilst the other doesn’t. One talent might not sound like much but it was equivalent to more than some labourers would earn in a lifetime. The master had trusted all those servants but only the first two servants trusted the master. The last one lived in meanness and fear, in self-centred isolation, avoiding dealing with or caring for others, unable to take the risk of faith. Ultimately, stewardship is an expression of our trust in God who has given us, loaned us, so much on trust.

Stewardship is often considered under four aspects: stewardship of creation (how we care for the Earth which has been entrusted to us); stewardship of time (how we spend the time God has allotted to us – for our own benefit or that of others and/or in developing relationship with God); the stewardship of talents (how we use the natural talents and the spiritual gifts with which God has trusted us); and the stewardship of our treasure (how we use the resources we have for to build up God’s Kingdom and bring blessings to others). The servants in this weekend’s Gospel have been given treasure which is not theirs, and the opportunity to invest wisely in relationships (and bring blessing to others).

It is this last aspect, the Stewardship of Treasure, that I’d like to focus on this weekend. I don’t find it easy talking about money, even though Jesus talks about it lots, especially in his parables. One of the blessings of being a priest is that I don’t need to worry about my own personal finances. I earn much, much less than if I’d used my natural talents to follow many of my friends into industry and yet I know I’ll never be poor – thanks to your generosity, I’ll always have a roof over my head and food on the table. I laid down my life on the sanctuary at Portsmouth Cathedral twenty-three years ago, offering God my everything, and this has left me feeling very free and very blessed.

Our parish, though, does need money. We need it to pay the bills (heating, lighting, cleaning, repairs, maintenance, etc.) and we need it to enable the mission (bringing people closer to Jesus in hope and joy). Most of you know that it now costs more than it did a few years ago to pay the electricity and the gas, and it’s the same for us. The parish isn’t immune to inflation and, although we’re trying to be more economical and efficient, stuff is simply more expensive. We’re doing amazing things in helping each other to experience and grow in faith and relationship with Jesus but if we don’t continue to invest in resources and tools and people, we’ll run out of steam in no time at all.

That’s why I want to say an enormous THANK YOU! My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who give your time so generously in our parish. We have over 200 people serving as volunteer ministers in our parish in various ministries. This is just incredible, as you open-handedly share your time and talents and faith. Thank you to each and every one of you. And thank you to all those of you who pray for our parish family and for our mission together.

Thank you to all of you who give so generously to our parish. Did you know, over 300 different individuals or families contribute to regular planned giving, as well as many of you who give through the offertory collection. This is just incredible and has sustained us through the difficult financial times. Thank you so much, we couldn’t do this without you.

God is already doing amazing things in this place. Time and again I hear of people who are experiencing his love and blessing in a new way as they come to (a deeper) faith. Time and again I hear others outside the parish tell me how much they appreciate what we do to serve the wider community. Time and again I hear of people experiencing comfort and healing and consolation in our community. Thank you for being a part in that.

This weekend, I’d also like to give an opportunity to those of you who’ve moved into the parish recently, or who haven’t previously been able to contribute regularly to the running of the parish and our mission together. I’d like to invite you to play your part by signing up to make your donations regular and planned. This makes a big difference as it enables us to set a more accurate budget and invest wisely.

I’d also like to invite all of you to pledge your offering to the parish as part of our worship this weekend. One of the down sides of planned giving is that there is no physical act of bringing our offering to God and his altar. Once a year, I will be inviting you to make that pledge as your offering to God and the building of His Kingdom here through our parish.

I know that some of you will be able to maintain your giving; some of you will be able to review your giving and increase it to match the increased cost of living; and some of you will not be in a position to commit to giving but will be able to offer your continued prayers and service. I want every single person to feel and know that their contribution, no matter how big or small it may seem, is valued and appreciated and blessed by God. Thank you.

Going forwards, we want to build our relationships with you who give so generously, so that we are better at thanking you, better at engaging with you and better at giving you opportunities to respond to the blessings you’ve received.

Loving and Gracious Father,

Bless us as we build for Your Church a house of prayer for all people. Help us provide for Your children a place where You will reveal Your Presence by sacramental signs, a place where Your Holy Word will be proclaimed and lived, and a place where Your family of faith will be fed and strengthened for service.

By the gift of the Holy Spirit, bless our lives and our work and enable us to be living temples of Your glory, until by Your grace we are gathered into the Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT

In two weeks' time, the season of Advent and our preparations for Christmas will begin. 'Advent' is a word that means 'coming' and we look for Christ to come again and lead us safely home, rejoicing, into his Father's house. As we draw our Year of the Holy Spirit to a close, Advent is an opportunity to be "Filled with the Spirit", just as so many of those people involved in the events surrounding Jesus' life were filled with the same spirit.

To help us prepare well and dispose ourselves to receiving the Holy Spirit, here are a few things we'll be offering as a parish:

Daily Messages

Our daily messages will be back. Those of you who have signed up before will know what to expect – a beautiful image, a short piece of Scripture, a brief reflection and maybe one or two other delights to help you through the day. If you haven't received these messages before, we will be sharing the sign-up link next weekend. Please come and join us so we can travel together on this journey through Advent and Christmas.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

"Do not be afraid of Confession! One who is in line to confess himself feels all these things – even shame – but then, when he finishes confessing, he leaves free, great, beautiful, forgiven...happy. And this is the beauty of Confession...Jesus is there...and He receives you with so much love." (Pope Francis)

There will be many opportunities this Advent to celebrate this beautiful sacrament:

Every Saturday morning (9:30-10:30am)* and every Saturday afternoon (4:30-5pm), St. Peter's.

*Saturday 2nd Dec, 11am - 12 noon; Saturday 9th Dec, extended confessions, 9:30am - 12 noon (extra priests available)

Parish Reconciliation Service – Monday 18th December, 7pm – an opportunity for us to come together as a community and support each other in prayer, beginning with a beautiful and simple service, followed by individual confessions. Extra priests available.

Priests will also be available during the last two weeks of Advent around times of Mass and Morning Prayer. Times to be confirmed.

Wild Goose

Fr Mark will be leading a series of 3 Sunday evenings in the Pastoral Centre on the "Wild Goose" (a Celtic image for the Holy Spirit). Sun 3rd Dec, "God's Love Poured Out"; Sun 10th Dec, "Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire"; Sun 17th Dec, "The Spirit Remembers", all 7-9pm. The sessions will include a video followed by a chance to discuss / reflect and a time of led prayer.

Experience Lectio Divina

In Lent, we will be running small groups on "Lectio Divina", giving people a chance to learn more about this ancient art of prayer. If you would like to experience *Lectio*, please join Dcn Tony Darlison:

Discovering More about the Gospels in Advent, with the ancient art of Lectio Divina.

A series of four prayer meetings led by Dcn Tony Darlison in which we prepare to welcome into our hearts the holy mystery of God coming down to earth at Christmas, by reflecting prayerfully on the Sunday Gospels for Advent.

In St. Peter's Pastoral Centre, 7:00 to 8:00 on Mondays 27 November, 4 December, 11 December, 18 December

No need to book - please just turn up. If possible, please bring a Jerusalem Bible.



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) –

19th November 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Jr 29:11,12,14

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First reading: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5. R.v.1

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Second reading: St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation:

Rv 2:10

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful and I will give you the crown of life.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Communion Antiphon:

Ps 72:28

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Blessing of the Graves at Magdalen Hill (Also known as Morn Hill) - Cemetery Service is at 3pm on Sunday 19th

November. - All are welcome to join the clergy at the Magdalen Hill Cemetery Service on Sunday at 3pm.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.

Mass at St Peter's on Monday 20th November will be at 9.15am.

There will be no Mass at St Peter's on Wednesday 22nd November.

Mass at St Peter's on Thursday 23rd November will be combined with Morning Prayer at 8am.

Ecumenical Choral Evensong in St. Swithun's, Martyr Worthy at 6pm this Sunday (19th November 2023).

Father Mark will be preaching. All are welcome.



Welcome to Luna Augusto and Eleanor McRae, who were baptised at St Peter's Church, and to **Mari Ryder**, who was baptised at St Stephen's last weekend. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.



Congratulations to Cielo Villaluz & Joshua Norris, who were married at St Peter's Church on 4th November. May their lives together bring glory to God and much joy to one another



PRAYER CORNER: Each week, this section will contain an intercession that I hope every parishioner will pray for during the coming week. In this way, we will all pray to the Lord for the parish's mission, because "if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour" (Ps 127:1)
Fr. Mark

This Week's Intention: Let us pray that our Stewardship Sunday celebrations will bring a generous and regular response in repayment for the time, talents and treasure God has given us, so that we may bring people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.



PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:
Denise Howard RIP
Jennifer Cummings RIP
Barbara Harwood RIP
Andrei Saunders RIP
Ada Dalton RIP
Brian Morris RIP

Funeral Notices:

Denise Howard RIP - **Funeral Service at Chesil House, on Friday 1st December at 2.30pm.**
Barbara Harwood RIP – **Funeral Service at Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey, on Friday 15th December at 2pm.**
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



Night Church Returns Friday, 24th November.

Why not start Advent with an evening of adoration, praise, encounter and healing? Night Church returns with a difference. We will begin with Mass at 7.00 pm, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There will be opportunities for worship and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), concluding with prayers for healing.

Night Church is an opportunity to encounter Our Lord, hear His word, spend time with Him, and experience the Father's love. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Youth Sunday

 Next weekend is the feast of **Christ the King** and **national Youth Sunday!**

The weekend is for us to celebrate all of our young people in the Church. Young people are invited to be present and involved at the Masses (specifically the 10:30am), so if you know a young person who might want to come, please let them know!

There will be a brief notice at the end of Mass to celebrate our Youth and to talk about how we can be more youth-focussed as a parish.

If you know a young person who might want to help out on the day, please email youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE - RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE - RECORDINGS AND COPIES OF PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

Deacon Martin's series on *The Holy Spirit in Scripture* is continuing. The recordings of [episode 1](#), [episode 2](#), [episode 3](#), [episode 4](#), and [episode 5](#), plus copies of the presentations with links to Scripture texts, are available via [our parish YouTube site](#), so you can view them in your own time. (You may need to expand the Description in the grey box under the title on YouTube, to get to the link with the PDF presentation documents).

The recordings and presentations can also be found via [our parish website](#) - scroll down the home page until you see the heading "The Holy Spirit in Scripture".



Prayer stations for peace

Come and explore our prayer stations for peace. You'll find them dotted around St Peter's church from now until Advent.

We hope they help everyone, of all ages, to pray creatively for peace in our world at this time when there are many conflicts.

CWL Soup & Pud Lunch at St Peter's.

The next Charity Lunch at St Peter's will be on **Friday 8th December**, and monies raised will be donated to **Winchester Salvation Army**. All are very welcome.



Bookshop.

 Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards (including CAFOD cards) and Christmas Cribbs will be **on sale after 10.30am**

Mass at St Peter's at the back of Church and at the Bookshop on Advent Sunday; cash or cheque is preferred.

We have a good selection of **Advent Calendars, Advent Booklets, Christmas Cards, Diaries and Bible Diaries**, Bibles, Missals, Annual Missals, Alpha books, Prayerbooks, Rosaries, general books, crosses, small statues and gifts, as well as cards for all occasions and copies of the new encyclical "Laudate Deum".

Thank you for your support. Susan Henry.

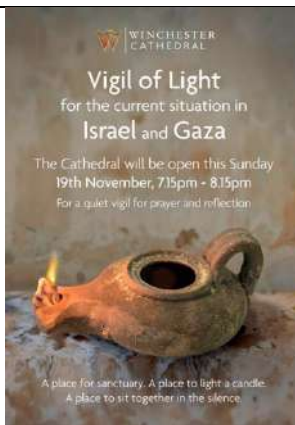
Vigil of Light for the Current Situation in Israel and Gaza

Winchester Cathedral will be holding a vigil of light for the current situation in Israel and Gaza.

It will be open this **Sunday 19th November from 7.15pm to 8.15pm** for a quiet vigil for prayer and reflection.

Attached is a graphic from Tess Kuin Lawton at Winchester Cathedral.

"A place for sanctuary. A place to light a candle. A place to sit together in the silence."



CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities, helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers



Laudato Si Corner



How has the Church in the UK responded to *Laudate Deum*?

Bishop John Arnold of Salford, the Lead Bishop for Environmental Issues, wrote to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on 3 November, enclosing a copy of *Laudate Deum* and urging the government to take on 'a real global leadership role in this area for the sake of future generations'.

Bishop Arnold continued: 'the rich tradition of Catholic social thought recognises that securing the common good is the responsibility of all individuals and institutions in society, and that problems are too complex to be solved by central Government alone. I hope that, in addition to working towards reconfigured multilateralism, you will also consider approaches to the climate crisis which further champion and encourage action at the local and civil society group level, which the Catholic Church in England and Wales stands ready to support.'

With recent agreement over establishing a 'loss and damage' fund to assist developing countries who are struggling with climate change, we pray that the upcoming COP28 will build on this progress and see the world community coming together to tackle the challenges that face all of its citizens.

St Stephen's Travelling Nativity

This Advent, Mary and Joseph are travelling with the little donkey to Bethlehem. On their way they are hoping to find a different inn to stay at every night. Could they come to stay at your house?

The Travelling Nativity will come to you for a night and then you are expected to pass them on to the next family. This is a lovely opportunity to explore the Advent story with your family and even meet other families to have a cup of tea/glass of wine, and pray together during Advent (although we know that people are busy so a get together is not always possible).

Please let me know if you would like any further information or to participate and I will add your family to the rota. If you would like to be added please send your name, email address, home address and a contact number by the 19 November. Your details will be shared with others participating in the travelling nativity, let us know if you have any concerns.

You can contact me on lidiaotero@hickman1@gmail.com. Thank you. Lidia Otero



Message from St Peter's School:



Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day

At St Peter's we kick-started our Anti-bullying week with Odd Socks Day. We celebrated diversity and how our differences make us special. We will continue with many friendship-based activities throughout the week such as: secret friends, Friendship Friday, the kindness tree, e-safety, prayers and stories to reinforce our themes.



"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

We currently have vacancies for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and a Teaching Assistant in EYFS. Please see our website for further details: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

If you have pre-school children and like the sound of St Peter's School, then why not contact us to find out about the application process? Telephone 01962 852820 or email admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Best wishes Louise Buxton (Miss) Headteacher

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 25th November 10.00-1.00

"Rivers of living water – being a channel of Jesus' blessing."

Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Russ Fairman.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADORENOV2023
More information at www.altonrenewal.com

SVP Christmas cards will be on sale at **St Peters church** after Saturday 5.30 pm Mass on **25th November** and after all Sunday Masses on **26th November**.

Cash only would be appreciated'



The Fusion Choir's Charity Christmas concert, led by Marie O'Brien, a parishioner, in aid of **Home-Start** is at **St Paul's Church** on **2nd December 2023 at 7.30pm**. Get into the Christmas spirit by supporting this wonderful local charity! Tickets are £10.70 (includes booking fee) and are available from <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/home-start-winchester-districts>.

Interim Finance Assistant – St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Parish, Winchester

Part time: 21 hours per week [which can be structured on a flexible basis] for an expected period of three to six months.
Salary: £25-£30k FTE. Closing date for applications: **Monday 4th December 2023, 12 Noon**.

The parish is currently in the process of reorganising its staff team, which has created an immediate requirement for an experienced and suitably qualified Finance Assistant on a part-time, interim basis to cover the core, routine accounting and related requirements for an expected period of three to six months. The role covers all those tasks related to accurate and timely completion of the parish's Xero accounts each month to trial-balance stage. For a full job description and person specification, plus details of how to apply, please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Mass Timetable	18th November 2023 – 25th November 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – November 18th – Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & Paul, Rome, optional memorial. 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Our Parish Acorn Groups (that the Lord will continue to draw each member closer to Him)
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Margaret Gardiner RIP
SUNDAY – November 19th - Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dorothy (Bubbles) Tosdevine RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of Ukraine
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Brian Shergold RIP & Hanna and Jerzy Pickarski RIP
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Jan Carlo Nacciou
MONDAY – November 20th – Feria.	9.15 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of the Dead & Founders
TUESDAY – November 21st – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Bernard Smith RIP
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Liyanda (1 st Birthday)
WEDNESDAY – November 22nd – St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr, memorial.		Mass at St Peter's is Cancelled	
THURSDAY – November 23rd – St Clement I, Pope, Martyr.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Fr Lukash Rigas RIP
FRIDAY – November 24th – St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Maureen Marsh
SATURDAY – November 25th – St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr, optional memorial. Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	James Heward RIP)
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of the Burrell & O'Donoghue Families

Confessions every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church – booking not required.

Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public), every weekday 8.00am at St Peter's followed by Adoration till 9.00am.

To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our [YouTube channel](#)

ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest) (mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Benedict Ndikum (Assistant Priest) (bndikum@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Martin McElroy (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Tony Darlison (tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda (allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Parish Music Team Leader: - Alastair Ross (aross@stpeterswinchester.org.uk).

Housekeeper: Sarah Harfield (sharfield@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Finance and Property Manager: Annette Parr (annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy (sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Parish Administration Manager: Michaela Waterfield (michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Sacristan: Laurie Howe Caretaker: Richard Phiri

Pastoral team – Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker (baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), (FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Pastoral team – Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson (youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks (mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Volunteer Director of Communications: Lisa Justice (ljustice@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk .

PeterCares: petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **Prayerline:** prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Wedding information – weddings@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Newsletter (deadline for items Wednesday evening): newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **Newsletter list:** hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

St. Peter's School Office: 01962 852820 admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk

St. Thomas More's Stockbridge: please email stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk