

Across the Downs

Church News Sheet for the Downs Parishes of
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell

Rector: Revd Kevin Rogers 01962 880845

Sundays 19th January 2025



Services for Sunday 19th January 2025

Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am (Sp) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion

10.00 am (Cr) Morning Worship

6.00 pm (Li) Benefice Service of Peace and Wholeness



Services for Sunday 26th January 2025

Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship

10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship

Prayer for the Week – *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
 John 2: 1-11 Psalm 36: 5-10

DIARY

Monday 20th January

10.00–11.30am (Li) St Catherine's Toddler Group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

2.15 pm (Li) Flowerdown Holy Communion

Tuesday 21st January

Wednesday 22nd January

Thursday 23rd January

9.30 am (Ch) Chilbolton Home Group *For details please contact Charlotte Nash, tel: 01264 860831*

2.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the Church Room

Friday 24th January

4.00 pm (Li) Julian of Norwich Meditation Meeting – new members always welcome. *Contact Sheila Trussler, 01962 881089*



Bubble Church!



Bubble Church is coming to Chilbolton, **Sunday 23rd February**, at 4.00 pm!
Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-food-fuelled, 30-minute kids and families' adventure.

Here's the deal: you turn up 10 mins before it starts for a snack and a coffee, then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Change of service time

From **Sunday, 16th March**, the 8.00am BCP Holy Communion Service at St. Stephen's, Sparsholt will move to start at 9.00am. The Service will last 30 minutes and this is a 6-month trial. It won't affect the Services in the other Churches in the Benefice as Rev'd. Kevin assures us he will have plenty of time to get to the 10.00am HC Service at Chilbolton on the same Sunday.

Service of Peace and Wholeness – Reminder

The contemplative service of Peace and Wholeness held at St Catherine's, Littleton at 6.00 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month is restarting this month. The first of these services will be on **Sunday 19th January**.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Saturday 18th January – Saturday 25th January

Each year, in January the church sets aside a week for Christians from local churches to come together to pray for Christian Unity. As this year sees 1700 years since the council of Nicaea it seems timely to remember that many of our services have at their heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for the Week of Prayer this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11: 17-27. Each of us is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Church Times Festival of Faith and Literature

28 February – 2 March 2025

Come along to this festival to be encouraged in how a love of literature relates to our faith. This year it takes place entirely at Winchester Cathedral – an inspiring location for a literature festival, especially during the year we're marking the 250th birthday of Jane Austen. Hear from inspiring speakers including Diarmid McCulloch, Stephen Cottrell, Rachel Mann, Edward Stourton, Malcolm Guite, Chine McDonald, Cathy Rentzenbrink and Francis Spufford.

See <https://faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk> to see the programme and book tickets.

Benefice Prayers

Members of the ministry team, PCCs and benefice council will be meeting once again with Revd Kevin on Saturday 8th February to review the results of the working party put together to look at benefice vision and strategy following the previous meeting in September. Please remember those attending in your prayers, praying for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and a clear vision for our future ministry here in the Downs Benefice.

There is an opportunity for us all to gather together in prayer just before the event, on **Saturday 1st February** at 10.00 am in Crawley Church Room. Everyone is welcome and, indeed, encouraged to join us there.

The Vine Trust Bookshop – Volunteers needed

The Vine Trust is an independent Christian charity that runs a bookshop on Bridge Street Andover. We are currently looking for more volunteers to help run the store, we especially need help on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays. We operate two shifts per day (10 am to 1 pm and 1pm to 4pm Tuesday to Friday and 9:30am to 12 noon and 12 noon to 2:30pm on Saturday). We have two volunteers helping in each shift. All our volunteers get full training on working at the shop.

If you are interested in joining us, you can collect an application form from the shop or we can send you one electronically (email: vinetrustandover@gmail.com).

The Hiding Place

St Barnabas Church, Weeke, Winchester

Saturday 25th January, 7 pm

We are pleased to be hosting The Hiding Place by Oddments Theatre Company on Saturday 25th January at 7pm. The Hiding Place is the fascinating and moving true story of Corrie Ten Boom and her family's struggle to save Jews from the Nazis in the Second World War.

Tickets are £10.00 each in advance or £12.00 on the day. 12 – 18 year free but tickets must be booked. Tickets available from office@stb.church or <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/HPWinchester>

St Stephen's, Sparsholt, Churchyard Clean Up

Sparsholt will be holding a Churchyard Clean Up on **Saturday 29th March** from 10.00am to 1.00pm with refreshments and lunch provided. Please come along and help, the more the merrier, bringing garden tools and garden waste bags.

Any questions, please contact Sally Wesley on sally.wesley@btinternet.com

Please send all items for Across the Downs to Carol Ward: email carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk, or telephone 01962 883185, by 12.00 noon Thursday at the latest. **If you would like to receive future editions of the newsletter by email, please contact me on the above address.** Thank you.