

Across the Downs

Church News Sheet for the Downs Parishes of
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell
Rector: Revd Kevin Rogers 01962 880845

Sunday 15th December 2024



Services for Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 am (Sp) Holy Communion (BCP)

4.00 pm (Ch) Carol Service

6.00 pm (Cr) Carol Service

6.00 pm (Wh) Autumn Reflections – Lesslie Newbiggin



The Service of Peace and Wholeness held in Littleton on the third Sunday has been **cancelled** for December



Services for Sunday 22nd December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion

10.00 am (Sp) Christmastide Prayers and Readings

10.00 am (Wh) Carol Service

6.00 pm (Li) Carol Service



Prayer for the Week – *Third Sunday of Advent*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18

Psalms 146: 4-end

DIARY

Monday 16th December

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

Tuesday 17th December

Wednesday 18th December

12.30 pm (Cr) Arqiva Carol Service – all welcome

Thursday 19th December

2.15 pm (Li) Flowerdown Christmas Holy Communion

2.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice prayer list, Littleton Church Room

Friday 20th December

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

Saturday 21st December

Service of Peace and Wholeness

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

Arqiva Carol Service

The annual Arqiva Carol Service is planned for **Wednesday 18 December at 12:30** in St. Mary's parish church; all are welcome. The organisers say, "... it would be lovely to see people from Crawley and the wider Benefice community attending."

Online Retreat for Christmas

Wednesday, 18th December 9 am – 1 pm, Zoom

Led by ReSource Minister and 'Alongside' Companion, Revd Matthew Grayshon, all are welcome to join this session. Using music, including Handel's Messiah, and pictures to reflect on the titles of Jesus. The programme will include worship, music, teaching and times of silence, and a welcome to the Holy Spirit to meet us as we draw near to him. The retreat is free of charge with the option to make a donation. <https://www.resourcingrenewal.org/events/online-retreat-christmas>

Downs Benefice Christmas Services



<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sun	15 th	4pm	Ch	Carol Service
Sun	15 th	6pm	Cr	Carol Service
Wed	18 th	12.30pm	Cr	Arqiva Carol Service
Thur	19 th	6pm	Wh	Wherwell School Carol Service
Sun	22 nd	10am	Wh	Carol Service
Sun	22 nd	10am	Sp	Christmastide Prayers and Readings
Sun	22 nd	6pm	Li	Carol Service
Tue	24 th	4pm	Ch	Crib Service (<i>with Wherwell</i>)
Tue	24 th	4pm	Li	Crib Service
Tue	24 th	4pm	Sp	Crib Service
Tue	24 th	11.30pm	Sp	Midnight Service
Wed	25 th	10am	Ch	Family Christmas Service
Wed	25 th	10am	Cr	Family Christmas Service
Wed	25 th	10am	Li	Family Christmas Holy Communion
Wed	25 th	10am	Sp	Family Christmas Service
Wed	25 th	10am	Wh	Family Christmas Service
Sun	29 th	10am	Sp	Patronal Festival (<i>Sung Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer</i>)

Visit from Ben and Esther Brown (MAF)

Ben and Esther Brown, serving with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) in Arnhem Land, northern Australia with their young family, will be visiting us at St Catherine's on **Sunday 29th December**. Ben has recently taken up the role of new MAF Country Director for Arnhem Land.

Do come and join us for tea and cake at 3.00 pm in the Church Room as we chat and hear about life in Arnhem Land for the busy Brown household and more about Ben's work helping to coordinate the flights that serve indigenous communities in the far north of Australia giving access to health care, schooling and building materials. **All welcome!**



Winchester City Festival Choir

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 18 December 8.00 pm



Littleton Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton

Carols spiced with Purcell, Vivaldi, Schubert and Bach. Ticket includes mulled wine and mince pie. Tickets in advance from Deidre Wratten (880462) or on the door £7.50.
www.wcfchoir.org

A BIG THANK YOU

Our Christmas Tree Festival held in St Mary the Less Church Chilbolton went really well despite Storm Darra. There were 27 trees in total and each one was different, but all were so detailed and inventive. So much thought and effort had gone into each tree it was quite overwhelming to see the creativity of our community.

Thanks to all the people who contributed to a successful weekend. The cake makers, the people who served refreshments (and washed up), the people who gave up time to meet and greet visitors and all who put up a poster and 'spread the word'.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that 223 people attended and a grand total of £645 raised for the church funds.

Jenny Seddon

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.