# 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



6.00 pm (Wh) Autumn Reflections Lesslie Newbiggin



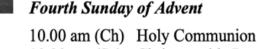
The Service of Peace and Wholeness held in Littleton on the third Sunday has been cancelled for December







## Services for Sunday 22nd December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent



10.00 am (Sp) Christmastide Prayers and Readings

10.00 am (Wh) Carol Service Carol Service 6.00 pm (Li)



## 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 Psalm 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

#### Friday20th 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month will be restarting in the new year. The first of these services will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 18<sup>th</sup> December 9 am – 1 pm, Zoom

Led by <u>ReSource</u> 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**



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

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.