

ACROSS THE DOWNS

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET OF THE DOWNS BENEFICE



Services for Sunday 16th February 2025

Third Sunday before Lent

8am	Sparsholt	Holy Communion (BCP)
10am	Chilbolton	Holy Communion
10am	Crawley	Morning Worship
6pm	Littleton	Benefice Service of Peace and Wholeness

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,

who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found;

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. Amen.

Services for Sunday 23rd February 2025

Second Sunday before Lent

8am	Wherwell	Holy Communion (BCP)
10am	Littleton	Morning Worship
10am	Sparsholt	Morning Worship
4pm	Chilbolton	Bubble Church

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday 17th February

10.00 - Littleton
11.30am

No St Catherine's Toddler Group. **Half term**

Contact Carol Coleman, tel: 01962 881886

2.15 pm Littleton

Flowerdown Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th February

Wednesday 19th February

12 Noon Littleton

Funeral of John Maskill

Thursday 20th February

9.30 am Chilbolton

Chilbolton Home Group

For details please contact Charlotte Nash, tel: 01264 860831

2.15 pm Littleton

Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the Church Room

Friday 21st February

4.00 pm Littleton

Julian of Norwich Meditation Meeting – new members always welcome.

Contact Sheila Trussler, tel: 01962 881089

Saturday 22nd February

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Old Testament

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalm

1

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20

Gospel

Luke 6: 17-26

Lent Groups – The Book of Ruth

Host/ Hostess	Day	Time	Address	Contact details
Michael & Carol Coleman	Tuesday evening	7.30 pm	Littleton	Carolcoleman123@hotmail.com 01962 881886
Susan Ansell	Monday	2.30 pm	Wherwell	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – office@downsbenefice.org.uk
Jemma Mack & Mark Himbury	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Sparsholt	jemmamack@hotmail.com mark@markhimburydesign.co.uk 07956 371433
Charlotte Nash	Thursday	9.30 am	Chilbolton	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – office@downsbenefice.org.uk
Felicity Gillibrand	Monday	4.00 pm	Crawley	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – office@downsbenefice.org.uk

Starting the week commencing **2nd March** for **6 consecutive weeks**.

Meeting every week in 5 different locations across the Benefice to look at the book of Ruth. The groups are following the same material.

Please contact the leader of the group you would like to join for the 6 weeks for catering and planning purposes. *If you are unable to attend your chosen group for a particular week, you are encouraged to attend another group for that week, so you don't miss out.*

See you there!

!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**. This change of time for the Service is a 6-month trial. Similarly, the BCP Holy Communion Service in Wherwell on the 4th Sunday of the month will move to **9.00 am**, starting **Sunday 23rd March**. This will not affect the Services in the other Churches in the Benefice.

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.

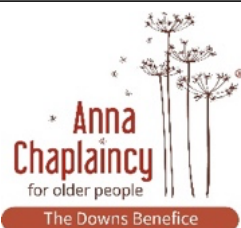
Here's the deal: you turn up 10 mins before it starts for a snack and a coffee, then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Revision of Electoral Rolls

Please note that the Electoral Rolls have to be revised this year prior to the APCMs This means that all names must be removed from the existing roll and new application forms must be submitted by everyone who wishes to remain on the roll.

Littleton - The formal notice of revision is now on the church notice board, and I shall be sending copies of the application form to everyone on the current roll who has provided an email address. If we do not have your email address, or if you have changed your address recently, or if you do not have access to email then please contact me directly. Bryan Harris, Electoral Roll Officer, Phone 01962 807361 - email address: bryanharris@cantab.net

Sparsholt - For further details and application forms please contact Sally Wesley on 01962 776476; sally.wesley@btinternet.com



Vacancy for an Anna Chaplain

St Catherine's Church, Littleton

Seeking to develop our ministry amongst the older members of our community further, we appointed our first Anna Chaplain in 2022. The position is now vacant and we are looking to the appointment of a new part-time (16 hrs/week), paid Anna Chaplain.

The Anna Chaplaincy is a pioneering role offering spiritual support to older people and their relatives and carers. It supports the wellbeing of people of all faiths or none, and encompasses a wider role within the community as an advocate and champion of the contribution older people make to society.

www.annachaplaincy.org.uk

For more details please contact: office@downsbenefice.org.uk.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 10th March**



Sparsholt will be holding a **Churchyard Clean Up** on **Saturday 30th 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 or 01962 776476.

Our Churches' Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Date	Day	Time	Parish	Venue
23 rd March	Sunday	11.15am	Littleton	Church Room
4 th April	Friday	7pm	Sparsholt	Church
9 th April	Wednesday	7pm	Chilbolton	Church
10 th April	Thursday	7.30pm	Wherwell	Church
16 th May	Friday	6pm	Crawley	Church Room



Christian Aid (Littleton) and Ash Wednesday (5th March)

A day out?

Our government is now consulting us on how to reduce our climate-breaking carbon emissions. Christian Aid with Tearfund and other Christian groups are encouraging them to listen to the science, face climate justice and phase out fossil fuels in the UK.

There's a national ecumenical Ash Wednesday **No Faith in Fossil Fuels** service at **11am** at **St John's, Waterloo SE1 8TY** (immediately opposite Waterloo Station) then a prayer vigil outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero in Whitehall.

Might you join us? We'll be on the 09.48 from Winchester Station to Waterloo...

Peter (07376 929615) & Maggie (07972 555212) Lippiett

St Matthew with St Paul's churches, Winchester – Job Vacancy

We seek a creative and enthusiastic Ministry Coordinator to join a small, joyful and committed team in order to support our churches' growth and development.

We would be delighted to answer questions you have about the role. Please contact the Rector, Jonathan Rowe by email (jonathan@stmatthewstpaul.org) to arrange an informal conversation. Deadline for applications **19th February**.