

# Across the Downs

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

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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**Services for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

***Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity***

8.00 am (Sp) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion

11.00 am (Cr) Harvest Festival



**Services for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

***Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity***

8.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Li) Harvest Festival

10.00 am (Sp) Pet Service



## **Prayer for the Week – *Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity***

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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:** Genesis 50: 15-21  
Matthew 18: 21-35

Romans 14: 1-12  
Psalm 103: 1-13

# DIARY

## **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

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

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

2.15 am (Li) Flowerdown Holy Communion service

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

## **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

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

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

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

## **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

1-5.00 pm (Sp) Sparsholt Fete



## **Sparsholt Fete**



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1 – 5 pm**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September sees the return of the Sparsholt Fete. The fete will be opened by the bell ringers at St Stephens and the Mayor of Winchester at 1pm.

Do come and join us for the usual favourites of tea and cakes, plant stall, bottle tombola, Pimms tent, and BBQ burgers and sausages. This year sees the return of the ever-popular coconut shy, classic car display, pony rides and children's entertainer.

The event will be held in the middle of the village near the school, church and shop. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **St Catherine's Harvest Festival Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 10.00 am**

The church is decorated with a harvest theme and you are invited to bring groceries which are pooled and then blessed during the service; everything donated will then be delivered to the Basics Bank and Winchester Beacon (previously Night Shelter) to help needy families and homeless people living in Winchester. If you cannot be with us but want to donate some groceries, there are boxes near the church font where they can be left (emptied regularly).

Lists of requested items can be found on the font at the back of the church. Please note the PCC is not able to handle fresh or frozen meat, but donations to pay for these items would be greatly appreciated by The Beacon.



### **DO YOU HAVE A PET?**

The annual **Pet Service**, led by Mrs Wesley and Sparsholt School, will be held on the **Green in Woodman Close, Sparsholt** on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> **September** at **10am**.

Bring your pets (and a chair to sit on)!

If you don't have a pet, still come to see the animals, bring a cuddly animal toy, join in the Service and enjoy the refreshments afterwards.

### **Prayer for our Benefice, the interregnum and a new incumbent**

The next gathering to pray for the interregnum will be  
on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September - 9.30-10.30am**  
in **Crawley Church Room**.

In the meantime, you are invited to form small prayer groups in each parish, even two or three people, who will commit to pray together. In addition, there are some prayer resources at the back of each of the churches should you wish to pray individually in the peace and quiet of our holy places.

### **Chilbolton Harvest Festival**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 10.00 am**

We are thrilled that Bishop David is coming to lead our Harvest Festival. Families, friends, everyone is very welcome to join this joyful celebration.

We will be supporting the Andover Crisis Centre. Gifts of fresh produce and non-perishable food, tinned food, pasta etc. are welcome. Please bring donations to the church on Sunday 1st October or drop off at church on Saturday 30th September. Fresh produce will be auctioned following the service and proceeds will be given to the Crisis Centre.

**Chilbolton Harvest Lunch** will be held following the service, at 12.30 pm in Chilbolton Village Hall. Everyone welcome. To reserve a place please phone Lesley on 01264 860584 by 24<sup>th</sup> September. There is no charge for the lunch, voluntary donations welcome.

**St Catherine's Autumn Bazaar**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00 - 11.30 am**

Do come to our sale of plants, preserves and cakes in Littleton Church Room. We are hoping for a fantastic array of goods to purchase.

Should you wish to donate any jams, chutneys, plants, bric-a-brac or cakes they would be most welcome. Early October is the right time of the year to divide your perennials, so please label them up with their name and colour if possible.

Please deliver donations to:

**Jams and Chutneys: Shirley and Michael Lupton, 83 Main Rd**

**Plants and Bric-a-Brac: Eryl Thompsett, Windsmere, New Rd**

**Cakes: direct to the Church Room from 9.00 on the day, or pre-deliver to Carol Ward, 7 Dale Close.**

**The Winchester Beacon Supporters' Evening**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September - 7 pm - at the Arc, Jewry St, Winchester**

The evening will be an opportunity to share our progress over the last year and talk about our plans going forward. We are also excited to be welcoming Rick Henderson, the CEO of Homeless Link, to speak at the event. Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working to end homelessness in England. It has over 900 members and works tirelessly to improve both practice and policymaking in the homelessness space.

**It is free to attend but booking is essential:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporters-evening-tickets-684255876747>

**Winchester Cathedral, 'Justice for All' Week**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

A week of events (talks, workshops) where law meets life in partnership with the University of Winchester, ending on Sunday (Law Sunday) with a service at 11.00 am of celebration of all those who work in Law and Order to which everyone is welcome.

See: [www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/justice-for-all](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/justice-for-all)

Please send all items for Across the Downs to the Benefice Office email [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk) or telephone 01962 880845 by 12.00 noon Thursday at the latest. **If you would like to receive future editions of the newsletter by email, please contact the above address.** Thank you.