

# Across the Downs

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

**Sundays 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

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**Services for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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



**Please see over for services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**



**Services for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

***First Sunday of Christmas, celebrated as Feast of St Stephen***

10.00 am (Sp) Holy Communion Service (sung) with  
St Stephen's Patronal Festival (see  
over)



**Services for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

***Epiphany***

10.00 am (Ch) Morning Prayer

10.00 am (Cr) Holy Communion

4.00 pm (Li) Café Church, in the Church Room



## **Prayer for the Week – *Fourth Sunday of Advent***

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Micah 5: 2-5a                      Hebrews 10: 5-10  
                  Luke 1: 39-45                              *Canticle:* Magnificat



# DIARY

## **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

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

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

3.00 pm (Li) Tea and Cake with Ben and Esther Brown (MAF), Littleton Church Room (see below). All welcome from across the Benefice

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

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

## **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

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

### **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!**

### **Parish Magazine Deadline**

A reminder that copy for the February and March 2025 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by **12 noon, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.



## Christmas Services in the Downs Benefice

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

4.00 pm (Ch)	Crib Service
4.00 pm (Li)	Crib Service
4.00 pm (Sp)	Crib service
11.30 pm (Sp)	Midnight Service



### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

10.00 am (Ch)	Christmas Family Service
10.00 am (Cr)	Christmas Family Service
10.00 am (Li)	Christmas Family Communion
10.00 am (Sp)	Christmas Family Service
10.00 am (Wh)	Christmas Family Service

**Please note – the Benefice Office will be closing for Christmas at 12 noon on Christmas Eve and will be open again at 9.00 am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

### St Stephen's, Sparsholt Patronal Festival

Blow away the Xmas excesses with a special Benefice Service on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00** when we shall enjoy the Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion sung to the traditional setting by John Merbecke (1549). An Introit will be sung along with the Anthem "What Child is This?" Thomas Hewitt-Jones and popular hymns including "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven" and "How shall I sing that Majesty".

The organist will be Anthony Burns-Cox. For further details please contact John Wesley (01962 776476)

## **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*

## **Boaz Wild West Barn Dance**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, Littleton Memorial Hall

Featuring the fabulous 'Fiddler on the Hoof' live band, great hot food, fancy dress with a 'Wild West' theme, free parking on site and bring your own booze. 6.30 pm - Food on arrival; 9.30 pm - Leave happy!

[www.boazproject.co.uk](http://www.boazproject.co.uk)

## **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 making the 250<sup>th</sup> 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 [www.faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk](http://www.faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk) to see the programme and book tickets.

Please send all items for Across the Downs to Carol Ward: email [carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk](mailto: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.