

Across the Downs

Church News Sheet for the Downs Parishes of
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell

Rector: Revd Kevin Rogers 01962 880845

Sunday 26th January 2025



Services for Sunday 26th January 2025

Third Sunday after Epiphany

8.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship

10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship

6.00 pm (Wh) Reflection on the life of Christina
Rosetti (postponed from December)



Services for Sunday 2nd February 2025

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00 am (Ch) Morning Prayer

10.00 am (Cr) Holy Communion

4.00 pm (Li) Café Church, in the Church Room –
‘Waiting . . . ‘

Prayer for the Week – *The Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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: Nehemiah 8: 1-3; 5-6; 8-10 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21 Psalm 19

DIARY

Monday 27th January

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

Tuesday 28th January

Wednesday 29th January

Thursday 30th January

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

Friday 31st January

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

Saturday 1st February

10.00 am (B) Benefice prayers for the upcoming Benefice Vision and Strategy meeting. Crawley Church Room



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.

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. The Service will last 30 minutes, and this is a 6-month trial. This will not affect the Services in the other Churches in the Benefice.

Revision of St Catherine's Electoral Roll

Please note that the Electoral Roll has to be revised this year prior to the APCM on March 23rd.

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.

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

Next Saturday!

Benefice Prayers

Come and join us for a time of prayer and praise on **Saturday 1st February** in Crawley Church Room from 10am to 11am to pray for the PCC Away Day on 8th February. We will be praying for inspiration and a clear vision for our future ministry in the Downs Benefice. Please join us!

'Prayer does not equip us for the greater work. Prayer is the greater work.' Oswald Chambers.

Everyone is welcome and, indeed, encouraged to join us there.

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 marking the 250th 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 <https://faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk> to see the programme and book tickets.

Boaz Wild West Barn Dance

Saturday 8th 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!

Boaz Quiz Night

Friday 11th April

Join quiz master Andy for a fun-filled evening at Littleton Memorial Hall. Gather your friends and form a team of 4-6 players for this brain-teasing night out. Tickets are just £3/person – come along and test your knowledge while having a laugh with friends.

www.boazproject.co.uk

Andover Food Bank

The Andover foodbank would like to thank everyone who has donated to us in recent weeks. We are, as always, incredibly grateful. These donations will help us to continue to support those in need in our local community.

Please find listed below the food and non-food items that are currently needed:-
Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Longlife Milk, Squash/Long Life Fruit Juice
Cleaning Spray, Laundry Pods. Shampoo/Conditioner

All donations can be made at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD and our opening hours are Monday to Friday 0930 to 1230 or can be put in the collection boxes at all the local supermarkets.

St Stephen's, Sparsholt, Churchyard Clean Up

Sparsholt will be holding a Churchyard Clean Up on **Saturday 29th 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

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.