

Across the Downs

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

Sundays 5th January 2025



Services for Sunday 5th 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:
'Home by Another Way'



Services for Sunday 12th January 2025

Baptism of Christ

10.00 am (Li) Family Communion

10.00 am (Wh) Morning Prayer



Prayer for the Week – *Epiphany*

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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:

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Psalm 72



DIARY

Monday 6th January

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

Tuesday 7th January

Wednesday 8th January

7.00 pm (Ch & Wh) Chilbolton and Wherwell joint PCC Meeting, (Dancing Ledge)

Thursday 9th January

2.15 pm (Li) Westholme Holy Communion service

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

5.30 pm (Cr) Crawley PCC meeting

7.30 pm (Li) Littleton PCC meeting (extra meeting)

Friday 10th January

12.30 pm (Li) Littleton Lunch Club, in the Church Room

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

Saturday 11th January

Soup Lunches will start again on Monday 6th January 12 noon in Chilbolton Village Hall.

Throughout the winter months soup lunches are offered with the opportunity to meet with neighbours and friends. Last summer we offered, on a fortnightly basis, afternoon tea – with the same opportunity to indulge and share good gossip. It must be said that the volunteers also share the same camaraderie in the kitchen – the hub of the house!

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 10th January** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.

Service of Peace and Wholeness – Reminder

The contemplative service of Peace and Wholeness held at St Catherine's, Littleton at 6.00 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month is restarting this month. The first of these services will be on **Sunday 19th January**.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Saturday 18th January – Saturday 25th January

Each year, in January the church sets aside a week for Christians from local churches to come together to pray for Christian Unity. As this year sees 1700 years since the council of Nicaea it seems timely to remember that many of our services have at their heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for the Week of Prayer this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11: 17-27. Each of us is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Matha: "Do you believe this?"

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

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 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 www.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!

www.boazproject.co.uk

A Poem for the New Year

*Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.*

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.