

ACROSS THE DOWNS

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET OF THE DOWNS BENEFICE



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

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

Services for Sunday 2nd March 2025

Sunday Next before Lent

10am	Chilbolton	Morning Worship
10am	Crawley	Holy Communion
4pm	Chilbolton	Bubble Church
4pm	Littleton	Café Church (<i>in the Church Room</i>)

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday 24th February

10.00am - *Littleton*

NO TODDLER GROUP THIS WEEK

Tuesday 25th February

1.00 pm - *Crawley*

Funeral of Doreen Cannings, followed by burial in parish cemetery.

Wednesday 26th February

10.00 am - *Littleton*

Holy Communion

Thursday 27th February

1.00 pm – *Chilbolton*

2.15 pm - *Littleton*

Funeral of Deborah Richardson

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

Friday 28th February

4.00 pm - *Littleton*

Julian of Norwich Meditation Meeting – new members always welcome. *Contact Sheila Trussler, 01962 881089*

Saturday 1st March

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Old Testament

Genesis 2: 4b-9; 15-end

Psalm

65

Epistle

Revelation Ch 4

Gospel

Luke 8: 22-25

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.

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 - Please note that the final date for receipt of enrolment forms for the revised Electoral Roll is **Sunday, 23rd February**. If you wish to remain on the Roll, or if you are not currently on the Roll but would like to be, please let me have your forms as soon as possible. Blank forms are available in a brown envelope at the back of the church, or you can ask me to email forms to you. Many thanks, Bryan Harris, Electoral Roll Officer (019162 807361, email: bryanharris@cantab.net)

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

YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER

COFFEE MORNING

**In aid of Young Lives vs Cancer
(formerly known as CLIC Sargent)**

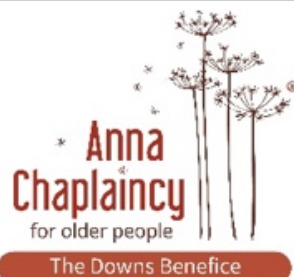
Wednesday 5th March 2025 - 10.30am – 2 pm

At Carole & Chris Phillip's House: Whitethorn Cottage, Crawley, SO21 2PN

Coffee and Cake Raffle

Admission £6

Please come along!



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

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the April and May 2025 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 7th March** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.