Across the Downs

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

Sunday 24th October 2021

Services for Sunday 24th October 2021
Last Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am (Wh)	Holy Communion
10.00 am (Li)	Morning Prayer
10.00 am (Sp)	Harvest Festival
3.00 pm (Li)	Baptism – Dylan Poltorak

Services for Sunday 31st October 2021
Celebrated as All Souls'

10.00 am (Cr)	All Souls' Service
3.00 pm (Wh)	All Souls' Service (with Chilbolton)
6.00 pm (Sp)	All Souls' Service
6.00 pm (Wh)	Autumn Meditation – Thomas a Becket

****Please note that, during current coronavirus pandemic, all seats must be booked via the Benefice Office: 01962 880845. ****

Prayer for the Week – *Last Sunday after Trinity*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings:	Jeremiah 31: 7-9	Hebrews 7: 23-end
	Mark 10: 46-end	Psalm 126

DIARY

Tuesday 26th October

9.30 am	Benefice Morning Prayer (on Zoom, please contact Charlotte Nash: charlotte@cjnash.com).

Wednesday 27th October

7.30 pm (Li)	Mid-week House Group in the Church Room. *Contact Michael and Carol Coleman 01962 881886*

Friday 29th October

1.00 pm (Li)	Wedding – Callum Weir & Antonette Price
1.00 pm (Sp)	Wedding – Richard Murray & Malaika Haynes

The Benefice Office is closed to visitors until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus but is 'open' for all other business. Please contact Caroline McAulay on **01962 880 845** or on office@downsbenefice.org.uk.

In event of an emergency, please call the Rector, **Revd Jax Machin**, on **07761 055 228**

Please do visit our website: www.downsbenefice.org where you can find streamed services, letters and reflections from Revd Jax, prayers, daily readings, Kids Corner and so much more – all updated daily.

Littleton Peace and Wholeness Service

It is hoped that the third Sunday Peace and Wholeness services will resume in Littleton in the New Year. Further details will follow in due course.

Thank You!

Thank you to all helpers and those who came to buy at the autumn bazaar at Littleton recently. We made a handsome profit of £911, but as important was the opportunity to provide a social event for the village, where people could meet and talk.

Clive Thompsett

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the CHRISTMAS (December/January) edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12.00 noon, FRIDAY 5th November at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine. Failing that, please send them to barbarakingston1@gmail.com Many thanks.

Banns of Marriage

(Sp) Andrew Hards & Amy Barnes 3rd Time of Reading

The Downs Benefice - ALL SOULS' SERVICES

All Souls' Day, on 2nd November**,** is traditionally the time when the Church remembers those who have died and offers prayers of thanksgiving for their lives. Our churches mark this season with special services with an opportunity to light candles to remember those you love who have died.

Everyone is welcome to attend the services but **please note all places need to be booked with the Benefice Office** (01962 880845) as numbers are limited to allow for continuing social distancing. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read out, please email or phone the Benefice Office with the names and the church.

Sunday 31st October -	**St. Mary's Church, Crawley at 10.00 am**
	St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell (with Chilbolton) at 3.00 pm
	St Stephens, Sparsholt at 6.00 pm
Tuesday 2nd November -	**St Catherine's, Littleton at 6.00 pm**

The Leaves of the Trees, Winchester Cathedral

6th October – 2nd November

'The Leaves of the Trees' is a reflective installation, set within the Cathedral nave, made up of 5,000 steel leaves with the word HOPE on each one. Collectively the leaves create the impression of autumn leaves fallen from the trees appearing as though naturally scattered by the wind. The leaves symbolise the past but also hope for the future, as the shape of the sycamore maple leaf has been chosen because it symbolises strength, protection, eternity, and clarity.

As well as viewing the installation you will also be able to write your own thoughts or messages to loved ones on a paper leaf or simply write your reflections and prayers at this time. The installation is included with admission to the Cathedral.

Countess of Brecknock Hospice

Christmas cards and gifts will be available from the hospice from Monday 11th October. Cards and gifts will be on sale on weekdays from 10am - 12pm and 2pm – 4pm. Please don't come to the hospice if you have symptoms of infection or are self-isolating.

All our Christmas cards and gifts will be on our website: www.cobh.org.uk

Autumn Meditations at Wherwell Church

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce a new series of meditations for the Autumn which will take place in Wherwell Church.

These meditations can provide a useful focus for thoughts on the meaning and purpose of our daily lives.

As before each meditation will start at 6.00 pm and last for around 30 minutes, and be followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

For this season we have decided to schedule Meditations on the lives of some important martyrs.

31st October*	**Thomas a Becket – Lord High Chancellor, Archbishop of Canterbury, AD 1118 – 1170**
5 December	Maximilian Kolbe – Polish Franciscan friar, prisoner of the Nazis, AD 1894 - 1941

Please note the date of **31/10, and not 24/10 as listed in the service schedule.*

Andover Food Bank

Thank you so much for all your donations. This week the Andover foodbank is in need of the following non-food items: Cleaning products; Frying pans and saucepans.

Christmas is approaching! Each year we try to help families and individuals with some gifts and treats so they have a chance to celebrate the season rather than survive it. It can be a very difficult time. This year we will be doing our children's gift boxes and providing hampers filled with festive treats. Information on how to make up and donate a children's gift boxes using new and age-appropriate gifts or a hamper is now on our website. https://andover.foodbank.org.uk/. The deadline for donations is **Friday 5th November**.

Christmas hamper collections start with our 12 Days to Christmas campaign on 8th November. Hampers need to be at the foodbank by **Sunday 28th November** when we will be open in the afternoon between 2-4pm. They can be delivered to the foodbank before this date during our usual opening hours, Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30.

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.