Across the Downs

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

Sunday 25th October 2020

Services for Sunday 25th October 2020
The Last Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion
10.00 am (Cr) Morning Prayer

Services for Sunday 1st November 2020
All Saints' Day

10.00 am (Ch) All Souls' service
10.00 am (Cr) All Souls' service
10.00 am (Li) All Souls' Holy Communion service
6.00 pm (Sp) All Souls' service
6.00 pm (Wh) All Souls' service

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

Prayer for the Week – *The 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: Leviticus 19: 1-2; 15-18 — 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Matthew 22: 34-end — Psalm 119: 89-104

All Souls' Services 2020

All Souls' services will be held in all our Churches on **Sunday 1st November**. As these services will not be able to take their usual format owing to Coronavirus restrictions we will be holding short services during which the names of all the recently departed of each parish and the names of those loved ones for whom cards are returned year on year will be read out and remembered and a candle will be lit in memory of them all. We will also be including a special prayer to remember all our loved ones who we have not been able to mention individually by name.

Again, owing to Coronavirus restrictions, it will be necessary to book seats at these services - please do this by contacting the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 or office@downsbenefice.org.uk before 4.30pm on Friday 30th October.

The services will be held in Chilbolton, Crawley and Littleton at 10am and at Sparsholt and at Wherwell at 6pm.

Message from Rev Jax - Urgent Appeal - Karis Kids

Dear Friends, as new Coronavirus restrictions are put in place across our country, as Christians we must also focus our attention **on** the plight of many across the world who are in desperate need. Our Benefice supports the work of Karis Kids, a Winchester-based charity, which works to support the poor and destitute in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. The Downs Benefice is linked with St Paul's church, Okuvu, led by Rev John Atiku. Many families and individuals within our benefice make regular donations to linked families to help pay for schooling, medical care and basic necessities and others have responded generously to recent appeals to help feed families in the wider slum communities who are in desperate need during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We are now making a fresh appeal to raise £1,500 to help St Paul's church's ministry in Okuvu. Rev John and church staff have not been paid since March, as this only happens when congregations bring cash offerings to services to help pay for community outreach, church running costs and staff salaries. Currently this isn't possible and there is great suffering within the church and the communities served.

Any donation, however small, would be gratefully received, either by cheque made payable to Karis Kids, and posted to The Downs Benefice Office, Church Lane, Littleton, Wincheste,r SO22 6QY, or by direct transfer to:

Karis Kids Churches Account

Account No: 00020159 Sort Code: 40-52-40 Ref: DB Appeal

Gift Aid forms are available from the Benefice Office.

Rev Jax and Carol Ward, Downs Benefice Karis Kids coordinator

DIARY

All regular meetings, groups and special events remain cancelled across the Benefice

Tuesday 27th October

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

Wednesday 28th October

11.00 am (Li) Interment of Ashes – Kitty Greenland

Thursday 29th October

7.30 pm (Wh) Wherwell APCM, in St Peter & Holy Cross Church (see below)

Friday 30th October

12.30 pm (Li) Interment of Ashes – David Astley

7.00 pm (Sp) Sparsholt APCM, in St Stephen's Church (see below)

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**.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Assuming pandemic regulations do not change, the remaining two postponed APCMs will take place as follows:

Sparsholt - the Sparsholt APCM is to be held on **Friday 30th October** at 7pm, in St Stephen's Church. Places to be booked with Sally Wesley (sally.wesley@btinternet.com or 01962 776476).

Wherwell – Thursday 29th October in St Peter & Holy Cross church. Subject to any changes in government restrictions the Election of Churchwardens will start at 7.30 pm immediately followed by the APCM. If you wish to attend, places must be booked with Nigel Waters on 01264 861326 or by email nigel.waters@sky.com

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the December/January edition of the Benefice Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12.00 noon, FRIDAY 6th November at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine. Many thanks.

Winchester Churches Nightshelter

"A Year of Change – Tackling Homelessness in a Pandemic"

We would like to invite you to '**A Year of Change – Tackling Homelessness in a Pandemic'** on **Monday 9th November** beginning at **6.45pm** with our AGM. The main event will follow shortly afterwards at **7pm**. We will reflect on the challenges of recent months including how we have coped and our plans for the future.

Carly Eck, Brand Curator at Burberry, will be joining us on the evening to talk about the link between the Nightshelter and the iconic British fashion brand.

We also delighted to be welcoming **Matt Downie MBE, Director of Policy and External Affairs** at the national homeless charity, **Crisis.**

The event is free to attend and will be hosted as a webinar. This means that participants will **not** need to join with video or audio but will be able to ask questions by typing them on the Q&A function.

Please follow the link here to register or email admin@wcns.org.uk

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

There are no house-to-house collections for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year, and fewer street poppy sellers. However, there will be a manned table from 10 - 6 with trays of poppies on **Saturday 24th October** at the War Memorial in Crawley. Any enquiries phone Amanda Bayford on 776861.

A further opportunity to obtain your poppy and make a donation will be on **Saturday 31st October** when there will be a gazebo outside the Millennium Hall in Littleton from 10 – 4pm.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

This year MAF celebrates 75 years of our life-changing mission to bring help, hope and healing to some of the most isolated people in the world. We had planned a series of events to mark the occasion with you and, together, give thanks for God's magnificent provision over the decades, but this is no longer possible.

As part of our Week of Prayer (**1 – 8 November**) we plan to include some thanksgiving and celebration events online and we hope you will be able to join us. Please visit www.maf-uk.org/75 for updates and more information on how you can take part.

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.