

Winchester Basics Bank - A big thank you!

The Winchester Basics Bank would like to thank residents of Winchester and of Littleton for their generous donations at this difficult time. Collections over the last week by the Round Table's 'Santa's Sleigh' have provided more than enough items for sharing with those families currently in need!

As a result, the Bank has sufficient supplies for the next few weeks and so would like to **suspend donations** so as to not completely overwhelm storage facilities. Collections and donations will resume mid-May. Watch this space!

Andover Food Bank

Three drop-off points have been established within the Benefice: **Outside Chilbolton Village Hall, outside Chilbolton Shop and inside Wherwell Bus Shelter.**

As you can imagine, demands on the foodbank are increasing dramatically and so we are in need of your donations as much as ever. This week we are in need of the following items:-

Food items: Long life Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes/Instant Mash, Tinned Meat; **Non-Food items:** Deodorant, Razors, Washing-up Liquid, Hand wash, Multi surface cleaner

Winchester Churches Nightshelter – hopping to help!

We want to thank all our supporters who took part in Hop for the Homeless on Easter Monday. People across the country hopped, bounced and jumped in their homes in support of the Nightshelter and raised an impressive £2000! These vital funds will help towards our increased costs now we are open 24 hours a day for all residents during the pandemic.

Contact details for Coronavirus Community Support Groups:

Chilbolton	ring Fiona Barrie (01264 860264) or Jo McMenamy (07919 280702), or email: chilboltoncoronahelp@gmail.com
Crawley	contact Jennifer Leech on 07807 363689
Littleton	Clive Thompsett 01962 885039; clive.thompsett@icloud.com
Sparsholt	please contact Alastair Barron 01962 776844
Wherwell	please call 01264 860060, or email: wherwell@scirum.co.uk

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.

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 10th May 2020



Services for Sunday 10th May 2020 *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

No services in our churches but do join in prayer at 10.30 am, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day (see over)



In view of the current Covid-19 outbreak (coronavirus), Church services have sadly been cancelled in our Benefice and throughout the Diocese.

Services for Sunday 17th May 2020 *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

No services

Prayer for the Week – *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 7: 55-end 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14
Psalm 147: 1-12

Christian Aid Week (10th -16th May 2020) – still on but different!

Everything is different of course, this year, but the needs of the developing world – facing coronavirus on top of all their other problems – have only grown. Christian Aid's work has never been more important. Christian Aid Week forms an essential part of the charity's funding and Winchester and District and its churches have a fine tradition in supporting this, raising over £22,700 in last year's Week. But much of this was raised from house to house and church collections, from services, from Big Brekkies and similar events.

David and Ann Naylor who organise the **Littleton** Parish CAW write: "We have recently been informed by our CA local coordinator that the distribution and collection of paper envelopes has to be suspended this year because of the pandemic. This is most unfortunate especially for the millions of people in need of aid in the world. However, **donations can be made directly to Christian Aid either on line (caweek.org) or by telephone (0207 6204444)**. Unfortunately there is no way of indicating that your contribution is from Littleton parish".

Linda Hodgson (**Sparsholt**) apologises for the cancellation of her planned coffee morning and would like to encourage everyone to make a donation as above.

The following can be accessed on www.christianaid.org.uk :- **CAW Service 1pm Sun 10th May** Sermon by Dr. Rowan Williams. Daily prayer and reflection from Mon 11th to Sat 16th May.

Winchester Cathedral - 75th Anniversary of VE Day, Friday 8th May

On Friday 8 May the nation celebrates the 75th anniversary of VE Day when Nazi Germany formally surrendered to the Allied Forces bringing an end to the war in Europe. The war continued in the Far East for a further three months. After the terrors and privations of war, the street parties and celebrations of the victory in Europe were heartfelt and joyful. In peace-time people could gather again without fear, in their homes, in churches and on the streets. VE Day ushered in a time of national rebuilding and of hope.

Normally we would be marking this significant anniversary with celebratory anniversary gatherings of our own. As we inch forward through this current crisis, with the hope of a *gradual* end to lock-down, we know that large public gatherings are still some way off.

So the cathedral will be offering a **special VE Day act of worship** for you on **Friday through the cathedral web-site**. Although we are not able to gather together in person, I do hope that this worship will unite us spiritually and give each one of us a sense of being with others on this significant anniversary.

DIARY

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

Tuesday 12th May

9.30 am Morning Prayer (on Zoom, please 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**.

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.

If you would like to receive Revd Jax' letters and reflections directly, please ensure the Benefice Office has your email address.

Benefice Morning Prayer

Benefice Morning Prayer, on Tuesdays at 9:30am on Zoom. Morning Prayer comes into your home. If you would like to join us for this short service please send an email to charlotte@cjnash.com. Once I have your email address I will get in touch with you and send you a copy of the service and the link to Zoom.

Charlotte Nash

The UK Blessing

Last Sunday The UK Blessing was released on YouTube where over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. It is very moving, do take a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl13mNj5U>

Prayer to commemorate 75th Anniversary of VE Day

Sunday 10th May, 10.30 am

This Sunday morning, the plan is to link up with Christians all over the country in prayer. Revd Jax has written a simple service we can all read, and is encouraging people to perhaps light a candle as they do so or put on some evocative music. Of course, you can use this at any time, but how powerful if we can join together, in our separate homes at 10.30 am. To access the short prayer service, visit the Downs Benefice website: www.downsbenefice.org.