

Winchester Basics Bank - A big thank you!

The Winchester Basics Bank would like to thank residents of Winchester for their generous donations at this difficult time. So many families are finding themselves in need of help. Following on from the wonderfully successful Round Table collections last month, we are now in a position to sort and store further donations from the public.

Items can be delivered direct to **our sorting centre at Winchester Vineyard Church** on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10.00 am and 3.00pm. Alternatively, you can donate items at local supermarkets. **In addition, three drop-off points have been set up in Littleton: the church porch, inside the bus-shelter on Main Rd by the Hallway and inside the bus-shelter at the top of the village, and collections will resume from these sites from next Tuesday 19th May.**

Our most urgent need is for: General-purpose cleaning spray, washing-up liquid, UHT milk, tinned veg, tinned fruit, tinned potatoes/packet mash, pasta/curry sauces, rice (in bags and microwaveable pouches).

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, demand on the foodbank is incredibly high and likely to remain so for many months, 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.

We are still hoping to be able to run our **annual Lake Run** starting at Charlton Sports Centre on **Sunday 13th September**. Our first priority is the health, safety and well being of our runners, volunteers, officials and spectators. We are closely following the guidance from the UK government and UK running bodies and will adhere to such direction as it changes. To help support us you can sign up for the 10k individual and team event, the 5k individual and fun run Find out more information and sign up at <https://www.andoverlakerun.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 17th May 2020



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

No services



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 24th May 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

No services



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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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: Acts 17: 22-31 1 Peter 3: 13-end John 14: 15-21
Psalm 87

Winchester Churches Nightshelter

Winchester Churches Nightshelter would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. We remain open 24 hours a day so that all our current residents can stay on site and be at 'home'. This has only been possible thanks to our loyal and dedicated staff and volunteers who have chosen not to stay at home so that our residents can.

Our vital support services have continued thanks to all our staff who are still coming on site. Our counselling and psychotherapy have been carried out via video call and we continue to make contact via telephone with former residents to check that they are safe and well and offer them support.

Our additional opening hours have meant increased staff and resource costs. A big thank you to everyone who participated on our Hop for the Homeless event over the Easter weekend which raised over £2,000 to help cover some of these costs. How we tackle the future remains uncertain but our residents will continue to be at the centre of our chosen approach and it is likely that we will continue to be a 24 hour home for many weeks to come.

At a time when our homes have become so important we are asking people to donate a good night's sleep if they are able to. A donation of £10 will cover the cost of a bed for the night along with a home-cooked dinner, breakfast and toiletries. You can donate by texting NIGHTSHELTER and £10 to 70085 or visit www.wcns.org.uk to discover how to donate online or via cheque.

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

Contact details for Coronavirus Community Support Groups:

Chilbolton ring Fiona Barrie (01264 860264) or Jo McMenemy (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

DIARY

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

Tuesday 19th May

9.30 am Morning Prayer (on Zoom, please see opposite)

Friday 22nd May

11.00 am (Li) Funeral followed by Cremation - Neville Semple, Chesil Suite, Chesil House. Close family only.

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.

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>

There is also now a children's version, also very moving:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>

Both are also available on the Benefice website in the right-hand column of the home page. www.downsbenefice.org

Sad news

It is with sadness that we report the death of Hilda Van de Lagemaat, who died in her care home in Chichester, aged 91, of coronavirus. Hilda will be remembered with fondness by so many of the church family at St Catherine's, of which she was a member for more than 50 years, prior to her move to be nearer her daughter Claudia. Claudia hopes to be able to hold a memorial service at St Catherine's later in the year.