

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 21st June 2020



Services for Sunday 21st June 2020

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Café Church (online, 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 28th June 2020

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Café Church (online, see over)

Prayer for the Week – *The Second Sunday after Trinity*

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Readings: Jeremiah 20: 7-13 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39
Psalm 47

National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday 30th June, 8.30 – 9.00 am

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is to be livestreamed this year, so you are able to take part. The theme is 'Hope and peace in a time of fear and suffering' and the event will include prayers led by parliamentarians, hymns led by special guest singers and a keynote address by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin.

The event is free, but you must [register via Eventbrite](#) in order to receive access. For more information [visit the website here](#).

Opening of Churches for Private Prayer

With great joy, we are happy to confirm that the Prime Minister and the Church of England have announced that our Church buildings may be re-opened after many weeks of being closed.

At the moment this is purely for **Individual Private Prayer** and strict protocols must be observed regarding social distancing and hygiene measures.

The Churches in The Downs Benefice, *taking into consideration the health of both visitors and Church Wardens and others assisting in the opening, cleaning and supervising of our Churches*, will be open at the following times:

- St Mary the Less Chilbolton tbc
- St Mary's, Crawley 10am – 4pm, Wed and Sunday
- St Catherine's, Littleton 10am – 4pm, daily
- St Stephen's Sparsholt tbc
- St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell tbc

Please see the benefice website www.downsbenefice.org for up-to-date information.

Please could we request that when visiting the Churches, you abide by the regulations, as mandated by the Government and Church of England.

Sadly, there can still be no Church weddings or baptisms at this time.

Funerals at the graveside or in crematoria can still take place, in line with the Prime Minister's Statement with only next of kin present.

We can still be church beyond our buildings as we pray, love and care for the vulnerable.

DIARY

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

Tuesday 23rd June

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

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.

Café Church

Please join us for our short on-line 'service' this Sunday, 21st June; no longer just the first Sundays in the month but weekly until we are able to meet in person for corporate worship!

This week we will be considering 'Jesus and the Rich Ruler (Luke 18)', linking in with 'Generous June' resources from the Dioceses of Sheffield and Winchester, it can be accessed, at whatever time suits you, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/littletoncafechurch/videos/668016570718725> (you do not need to have a facebook account) or the Downs Benefice website: www.downsbenefice.org.

The Vine Trust – Covid-19 update

We are pleased to announce that we will be re-opening the Bookshop on Wednesday 24th June 2020. We plan to open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week and will let everyone know when we can open for more days.

If you're planning to visit our store you can find information about the safety measures we've put in place, and other useful information to help plan your visit, on our website www.vinetrustbookshop.co.uk.

Generous June

Generous June is a collaborative initiative between the Diocese of Sheffield and the Diocese of Winchester. We know that this year, June is going to look very different. We want to take this opportunity to reflect on what generosity can mean in the most challenging of times, but also look forward to what our generosity might look like in the future, as our communities come back together.

Join us by listening to the daily reflections throughout June. There will be voices from across the UK; contemplations and reflections to get involved with, plus other resources that we have been developing. This is your chance to delve deeper and explore generosity. <https://www.generousjune.co.uk/>

Subscribe to the Generous June podcast to get reflections exploring generosity delivered to your phone every day. You can find the podcast by searching 'Generous June' on your podcast app or by clicking on the following links: [Apple](#) , [Google](#) , [Spotify](#) .

Winchester Churches Nightshelter Volunteers

We want to take the opportunity to thank each of our 300+ volunteers, without them the Nightshelter simply couldn't operate.

Every week, we need 38 volunteers just to open. At the moment this number is even greater whilst we remain open all day, every day for all our residents during the pandemic.

We are currently looking for additional volunteers to help during the daytime on Saturdays and Sundays, so whether you have volunteered before or are new to it and might be able to help, please email admin@wcns.org.uk to find out more.

Furloughed with expertise to share?

If you are one of the millions of people currently furloughed from their job, perhaps you are looking for a positive way to make a contribution and maybe even develop your skills. We are eager to hear from anyone able to lend their expertise to the Nightshelter over coming weeks. We are looking particularly for anyone with experience in event management, PR or IT.

Again, please email admin@wcns.org.uk to find out more.

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.