

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 28th June 2020



Services for Sunday 28th June 2020

The Third 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 5th July 2020

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Café Church (online, see over)

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

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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: Jeremiah 28: 5-9 Romans 6: 12-end Matthew 10: 40-end
Psalm 50

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 9 am – 4pm, Sundays
- St Mary's, Crawley 10am – 4pm, Wed and Sunday
- St Catherine's, Littleton 10am – 4pm, daily
- St Stephen's Sparsholt 10am – 4pm, Wed and Sunday
- 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.

Basics Bank Winchester

The Basics Bank, Winchester send a huge thank you for all the generous donations over the recent months. They are well stocked with food at the moment thanks to these so we will be ceasing collection from the three Littleton sites.

There are still donations trolleys in supermarkets so please do keep giving to these.

Pam Whitehead, on behalf of the Basics Bank

Cancellation of the Andover Food Bank Lake Run

We are sorry to announce that the Andover Food Bank Lake Run will not take place on Sunday 13th September. After carefully considering government advice on coronavirus and safety of the runners, volunteers and their families, it was felt not possible to proceed. The organisers intend to proceed with the event in 2021.

DIARY

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

Tuesday 30th June

9.30 am Benefice Morning Prayer (on Zoom, please contact Charlotte Nash: charlotte@cinash.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, 28th 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 looking at the story of Zacchaeus, 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/325835545094240/> (you do not need to have a facebook account) or the Downs Benefice website: www.downsbenefice.org

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the August/September edition of the Benefice Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12.00 noon, FRIDAY 10th July 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.

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.**