

# ACROSS THE DOWNS

## WEEKLY NEWSHEET OF THE DOWNS BENEFICE



### Services for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

#### *Sunday Next before Lent*

10am	Chilbolton	Morning Worship
10am	Crawley	Holy Communion
4pm	Chilbolton	Bubble Church
4pm	Littleton	Café Church ( <i>in the Church Room</i> )

### ASH WEDNESDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

10am	Littleton	Holy Communion & Distribution of Ashes
12 Noon	Wherwell	Holy Communion & Distribution of Ashes

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Services for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

#### *First Sunday of Lent*

10am	Littleton	Family Communion
10am	Wherwell	Morning Prayer
4pm	Chilbolton	Bubble Church

## THIS WEEK'S DIARY

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

10.00am - **Littleton**  
11.30am

St Catherine's Toddler Group. *Contact Carol Coleman:  
01962 881 886*

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday

10.00 am - **Littleton**  
12 noon – **Wherwell**

Holy Communion & Distribution of Ashes  
Holy Communion & Distribution of Ashes

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

2.15 pm - **Littleton**

Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the Church Room.

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

12.30pm – **Littleton**  
4.00 pm - **Littleton**

Littleton Lunch Club (*in the Church Room*)  
Julian of Norwich Meditation Meeting – new members always welcome. *Contact Sheila Trussler: 01962 881 089*

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March

## THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Old Testament	Exodus 34: 29-end
Psalm	99
Epistle	2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
Gospel	Luke 9: 28-36

### Lent Groups – The Book of Ruth

Starting the week commencing **2<sup>nd</sup> March** for 6 consecutive weeks.

Meeting every week in 5 different locations across the Benefice to look at the book of Ruth. The groups are following the same material.

Host/ Hostess	Day	Time	Address	Contact details
Michael & Carol Coleman	Tuesday evening	7.30 pm	Littleton	<a href="mailto:Carolcoleman123@hotmail.com">Carolcoleman123@hotmail.com</a> 01962 881886
Susan Ansell	Monday	2.30 pm	Wherwell	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – <a href="mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk">office@downsbenefice.org.uk</a>
Jemma Mack & Mark Himbury	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Sparsholt	<a href="mailto:jemmamack@hotmail.com">jemmamack@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mark@markhimburydesign.co.uk">mark@markhimburydesign.co.uk</a> 07956 371433
Charlotte Nash	Thursday	9.30 am	Chilbolton	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – <a href="mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk">office@downsbenefice.org.uk</a>
Felicity Gillibrand	Monday	4.00 pm	Crawley	Via the Benefice Office – 01962 880 845 – <a href="mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk">office@downsbenefice.org.uk</a>

**Please contact the leader of the group you would like to join for the 6 weeks for catering and planning purposes.** *If you are unable to attend your chosen group for a particular week, you are encouraged to attend another group for that week, so you don't miss out.*

**See you there!**



## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Sparsholt

Craig Tyrrell & Holly Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> time of Reading

### **!Change of service time!**

From **Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March**, the 8.00am **BCP Holy Communion Service at St. Stephen's, Sparsholt** will move to start at **9.00am**. This change of time for the Service is a 6-month trial.

Similarly, the **BCP Holy Communion Service in Wherwell** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month will move to **9.00 am**, starting **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. This will not affect the Services in the other Churches in the Benefice.

### **Revision of Electoral Rolls**

Please note that the Electoral Rolls have to be revised this year prior to the APCMs. This means that all names must be removed from the existing roll and new application forms must be submitted by everyone who wishes to remain on the roll.

**Sparsholt** - For further details and application forms please contact Sally Wesley on 01962 776476; [sally.wesley@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.wesley@btinternet.com)



### **COFFEE MORNING**

**In aid of Young Lives vs Cancer  
(formerly known as CLIC Sargent)**

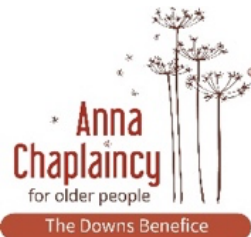
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - 10.30am – 2 pm**

**At Carole & Chris Phillip's House: Whitethorn Cottage, Crawley, SO21 2PN**

**Coffee and Cake Raffle**

**Admission £6**

**Please come along!**



### **Vacancy for an Anna Chaplain**

**St Catherine's Church, Littleton**

Seeking to develop our ministry amongst the older members of our community further, we appointed our first Anna Chaplain in 2022. The position is now vacant and we are looking to the appointment of a new part-time (16 hrs/week), paid Anna Chaplain.

The Anna Chaplaincy is a pioneering role offering spiritual support to older people and their relatives and carers. It supports the wellbeing of people of all faiths or none, and encompasses a wider role within the community as an advocate and champion of the contribution older people make to society.

[www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)

For more details please contact: [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk).

Closing date for applications: **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March**



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

The Downs Benefice will be holding special Mothering Sunday services in all the churches at 10.00 am on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March.**

Everyone is most welcome to come. Perhaps you could invite a neighbour?



Sparsholt will be holding a **Churchyard Clean Up** on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March** from **10.00am to 1.00pm** with refreshments and lunch provided.

Please come along and help, the more the merrier, bringing garden tools and garden waste bags.

Any questions, please contact Sally Wesley on [sally.wesley@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.wesley@btinternet.com) or 01962 776476.

## Our Churches' Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Date	Day	Time	Parish	Venue
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Sunday	11.15am	Littleton	Church Room
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday	7pm	Sparsholt	Church
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday	7pm	Chilbolton	Church
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday	7.30pm	Wherwell	Church
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday	6pm	Crawley	Church Room



## Christian Aid (Littleton) and Ash Wednesday (5<sup>th</sup> March)

### **A day out?**

Our government is now consulting us on how to reduce our climate-breaking carbon emissions. Christian Aid with Tearfund and other Christian groups are encouraging them to listen to the science, face climate justice and phase out fossil fuels in the UK.

There's a national ecumenical Ash Wednesday **No Faith in Fossil Fuels** service at **11am** at **St John's, Waterloo SE1 8TY** (immediately opposite Waterloo Station) then a prayer vigil outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero in Whitehall.

**Might you join us?** We'll be on the 09.48 from Winchester Station to Waterloo...

*Peter (07376 929615) & Maggie (07972 555212) Lippiett*

## **Parish Magazine Deadline**

A reminder that copy for the April and May 2025 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.