

Winchester Basics Bank

The collection of items for the Basics Bank has now resumed.

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.**

Our most urgent need is for: tinned carrots and mixed veg, tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding, custard.

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.

Coronavirus Community Support Groups

For contact details of Coronavirus Community Support groups please see the benefice website: www.downsbenefice.org.

Rydal Hall Benefice Holiday



Finally, commiserations to those of you who should have been heading off for the Benefice holiday at **Rydal** this weekend. However, we have rearranged the Rydal holiday to now take place from **16th to 23rd April 2021**; our first Spring visit. There will be a few vacancies, though most of this year's attendees have rolled their booking forward. Contact Clive Thompsett 01962 885039

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 31st May 2020



Services for Sunday 31st May 2020
Pentecost

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 7th June 2020
Trinity Sunday

No services (but please see over page)



Prayer for the Week – Pentecost

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Numbers 11: 24-30 Acts 2: 1-21 John 20: 19-23
Psalm 67



Trinity Sunday

Sunday 7th June

Following the guidance of the Prime Minister on 10th May, Revd Jax has decided, very sadly, to formally cancel the Trinity Sunday open-air service and Benefice picnic due to have taken place at Northwood Park on 7th June.

Revd Jax writes, “We are all very disappointed as this is a much-loved opportunity for our benefice to join together at the Lord’s Table and to share a delicious fellowship meal in spectacular surroundings.”

Revd Jax continues, “I am exploring the idea of creating a pre-recorded video service, incorporating all the guests we had invited to take part in the service and aim to be able to post this on our website.” www.downsbenefice.org

Thy Kingdom Come, 21st May to 31st May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that calls all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. It has been heartening to see how people have shown love and kindness, serving and loving the most vulnerable, during this unprecedented time when we are constrained by the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, a new strand has been introduced to this year’s Thy Kingdom Come. As we pray for those we know and love to become followers of Jesus, how could we demonstrate this also in deed (in keeping with social distancing guidelines?)

Prayer and care resources are available on: www.thykingdomcome.global

In previous years, *Thy Kingdom Come* has culminated in a massive service from parishes all across our diocese in Winchester Cathedral. Since we are not able to gather together in worship for the special *Thy Kingdom Come* service in Winchester Cathedral, Jax has prepared a service for Ascension and TKC which we can use in our homes and share with our family and friends by email. This resource and many more are also available on The Downs Benefice website, www.downsbenefice.org. There you will find sermons from Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu along with bright ideas to help families and young people pray together – including a brilliant Family Prayer Adventure Map!

DIARY

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

Tuesday 2nd 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.

Today!

Pentecost Service Churches Together in Winchester



Winchester churches go online to bless the city at Pentecost.

Receive the blessing. Hear the voices of Winchester's Christian community. Share the Love of God. 'For the city, from the churches'. Today, **Sunday 31st May, 6pm**, on our YouTube Channel.

Read more at:

<https://ctwin.org.uk/2020/05/26/winchester-churches-go-online-to-bless-the-city-at-pentecost/>

Downs Parish Magazine for June and July

Please note that the summer edition of the magazine will not be delivered as widely as usual, but an extended, *Lockdown* version can be viewed on and downloaded from the COMMUNICATION section of the benefice website: www.downsbenefice.org