Across the Downs

Church News Sheet for the Downs Parishes of
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell
Rector: Revd Kevin Rogers 01962 880845

Sunday 22nd November 2026











Services for Sunday 22nd November
Sunday before Advent – Christ the King

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) in Wherwell
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Sparsholt
11.15 am	St Catherine's Patronal Festival, followed by Bring and Share lunch
4.00 pm	Bubble Church, in Chilbolton



Services for Sunday 29th November
Advent Sunday

11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion, in Crawley with Bring and Share lunch
4.00 pm	Advent reflection, in Chilbolton

Prayer for the Week – *Sunday before Advent – Christ the King*

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Ezekiel 34: 11-16; 20-24 — Ephesians 1: 15-end
Matthew 25: 31-end — Psalm 95: 1-7

DIARY

Monday 23rd November

10.00–11.30 am St Catherine's Toddler Group in the Church Room.
Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886

2.30 pm Sparsholt School Welcome Worship, in Sparsholt Church

2.30 pm Wherwell Home Group. *Contact Susan Ansell, 01264 860775*

Tuesday 24th November

2.15 pm Westholme Holy Communion

7.30 pm (Sp) Sparsholt PCC Meeting

7.30 pm Littleton house group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

Wednesday 25th November

10.00 am Holy Communion, in Littleton

2.00 pm Wherwell Prayer Meeting – *Dancing Ledge*

Thursday 26th November

2.15 pm Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in Littleton Church Room

Friday 27th November

Saturday 28th November

Christmas Posadas – Chilbolton & Wherwell, and in Littleton

1st – 24th December

Mary and Joseph are looking for a place to stay. Could you welcome them (knitted and crochet nativity figures) for a night? Contact Janie Painter (janie.painter@yahoo.com; 07980 002235) for Chilbolton & Wherwell; Carol Coleman (carolcoleman123@hotmail.com; 01962 881886) for Littleton.

5th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service

11.00 am, Sunday 29th November

The Benefice Service will take place at **11 am** at St Mary's, Crawley.

Refreshments, including wine and soft drinks, will be provided after the Service. Please bring a plate of Canapes/Finger Food to share with others who will be there.

We look forward to seeing you.

Karis Kids - Christmas Gifts for Uganda

This year's Christmas party for our link families in Kampala will take place on Tuesday 15th December. This is always a joyous occasion, with hundreds attending from all the member churches – for details of last year's party, visit https://www.kariskids.org/news/2026/1/28/karis-christmas-party-2025.

The cost of hosting the party, with food, music, cake, has already been covered, so all that remains are the gifts for the families, sometimes the only Christmas gift they will receive. The cost is £16 per family, which in the past has provided sugar, soap, tea, moisturiser, and sometimes a live chicken! If you would like to contribute towards this cost for our link families, please visit

https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18848 before Sunday 29th November.

Let's give our amazing families a Christmas to remember!



Christmas Tree Festival, Chilbolton

Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th December



Village organisations and individual families are invited to take part in our 2nd Christmas Tree Festival. The theme this year is "Christmas Carols". Choose a Carol and decorate your tree in any way you wish. As before, please limit the size of your tree to no more than 60cm. Please let me know if you would like to take part and I will send you further details, Jenny Seddon, Pj_seddon@hotmail.co.uk 01264 861164

Help sought - I am looking for volunteers from the church community to help in different ways. I need people to be in the church to welcome visitors etc. There is a rota with hourly slots for both days. I also require cakes (various) to serve to people attending this event. Please contact me on 01264 861164 or 07305 622243 if you can help in any way. Thank you, Jenny Seddon

Light up a Life

Winchester Hospice's annual remembrance service will return on **Monday 7th December at 6 pm** at Christ Church, Winchester, where we invite you to join us and remember a loved one in the run up to Christmas.

Light up a Life isn't just for families who have a connection with the Hospice. It's an opportunity for anyone in our community to come together with us and remember a precious life.

Merry Little Christmas Concert

in aid of Winchester Food & Basics Bank and Trinity Winchester

Thursday 17th December, 7.00 pm

It will soon be the second edition of the Merry Little Christmas Concert, again to be held in the Chapel of the Hospital of St Cross, with the Winchester Consort conducted by Andrew Lumsden. Thursday 17th December at 7 pm.

Access to the tickets can be found at the link below and all proceeds will help fund some important work both at the food bank and at Trinity Winchester.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-merry-little-christmas-with-andrew-lumsden-and-the-winchester-consort-tickets-2002130772035

Vine Trust Bookshop, Andover

The Vine Trust Bookshop, 31-33 Bridge Street, has Christmas cards in stock supporting "Tearfund", "Compassion", "The Leprosy Mission" and "Just Cards".

Trinity Christmas Stocking Appeal 2026

With many people receiving little or nothing this Christmas, donating a stocking is a simple yet meaningful way to **bring joy** to someone facing difficult times.

Fill your stocking with a Gift Card, a feel-good item (eg playing cards, a book), snacks (eg protein bar, chocolate, hot chocolate sachet), practical item (eg socks, toiletries). You can use a wrapped shoebox, gift bag or Christmas stocking, either completing it yourself or getting together with others. To help with distribution please use a gift tag as provided by Trinity below, stating whether for female or male, and deliver to Trinity by 11th December.

Stocking Appeal poster

There will be a box at the back of Littleton church until 6th December if you prefer to donate an item which could be included in a stocking and we will put together a few group ones and deliver to Trinity on your behalf.

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.