

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 27th April 2025



Services for Sunday 27th April 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

- 09.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship
- 10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship
- 4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church



Services for Sunday 4th May 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

- 10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion
- 10.00 am (Cr) Morning Worship
- 4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church
- 4.00 pm (Li) Café Church, in the Church Room
'The God who sees'

Prayer for the Week – *Second Sunday of Easter*

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 5: 27-32
John 20: 19-end

Revelation 1: 4-8
Psalm 118: 14-end

DIARY

Monday 28th April

10.00–11.30am (Li) St Catherine's Toddler Group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

Tuesday 29th April

7.30 pm Benefice Housegroup, 2 Valley Rd, Littleton

Wednesday 30th April**Thursday 1st May**

4.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the Church Room

Friday 2nd May

4.00 pm (Li) Julian of Norwich Meditation Meeting – new members always welcome. *Contact Sheila Trussler, 01962 881089*

Saturday 3rd May***Please note***

Revd Kevin and Lorna are on holiday from 21st April to 13th May.

Please could you contact the Benefice Office (office@downsbenefice.org.uk / 01962 880 845) with any requests, queries or concerns during this period.

Julian of Norwich Meditation Meetings

These take place at 4pm every Friday. A prayer or reading is followed by up to 30 minutes of silent meditation, with tea and biscuits afterwards. We generally finish by 5.30 pm. Contact Sheila Trussler on 10962 881089.

*****Change to regular service patterns*****

Following the decision to start Sparsholt's HC Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am, it has been agreed that, from 1st May, the following regular service pattern will start:

1st Sunday of the Month, 10.00 am: Chilbolton Holy Communion, Crawley Morning Worship

3rd Sunday, 10.00 am: Chilbolton Morning Prayer, Crawley Family Communion

The purpose is to allow Kevin to spend more time at the churches, and less in the car! The services will still start at 10am, and these changes will be for a 6-month trial period.

Pentecost Sunday 8th June 2025



Do come and join us at **St Stephen's, Sparsholt**
for a special, Benefice-wide **Family Communion Service**
to launch our new

Benefice Vision and Strategy.

All are welcome.

Bishop Philip will be leading the service and Revd Kevin will launch the
Vision and Strategy.

The service starts at **11am** and is followed by a lunch in **Sparsholt
Memorial Hall.**

The Hall can seat 100 people so please could you sign up for the lunch (*by
Monday 2nd June*) on the sheets at the back of each of the Churches.

*We aspire to be a vibrant Christian Community with Jesus at the heart of
our ministry - making a difference. We aim to do this by being a
relevant, welcoming, inclusive worshipping community, embracing all people,
serving others and sharing the message of Jesus through worship, discipleship,
leadership and outreach. And we want to do this with humility, grace, love and
prayer.*

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the June and July 2025 edition of the Crawley, Littleton
and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 9th May** at
the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the
back of the current magazine.

Space in the City

Four Talks Reflecting on Walking the Wessex Way

30 April – 21 May, 12.30 pm, St Lawrence Church, Winchester

‘Space in the City’ are holding weekly talks reflecting on ‘Walking the Wessex Way’, Bishop Philip’s vision for our diocese of Serving, Loving, Learning and Growing:

Wednesday 30th April **Serving**, with **Richard Carter**

Wednesday 7th May Loving, with Angela Tilby

Wednesday 14th May Learning, with William Howard

Wednesday 21st May Growing, with Peter Lippiett

No charge, but donations very welcome

Meditations at Wherwell Church

This Spring and early Summer, we have decided to bring you a selection of the ‘best of’ some of our previous meditations. You may already have attended one of these, but they are definitely worth another go! We have decided to schedule these meditations a little later in the year, in the hope that the warmer weather will make the meditations more enjoyable.

One big difference is that this year, at the kind invitation of Caroline Hervey-Bathurst, we will be holding the June mediation in All Saints, Little Somborne, a beautiful Saxon church on a private estate that is rarely open to the public - a very special opportunity to see this gem. Directions will be available to anyone who wants to attend by emailing anna@stefanlipa.co.uk.

The meditations begin at 6pm and run for just over half an hour, and are followed by refreshments and time to chat.

18 May Julian of Norwich, anchoress and theologian. 1343 – after 1416

15 June (at Little Somborne) George Herbert, poet and priest. 1593 – 1633

20 July Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident. 1906 – 1945

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.