Across the Downs

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

Sunday 29th November 2026











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



Services for Sunday 6th December
Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am	Holy Communion, in Chilbolton
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Crawley
10.00 am	Posada, in Littleton

Prayer for the Week – *Advent Sunday*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings:	Isaiah 64: 1-9	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
	Mark 13: 24-end	Psalm 80: 1-8; 18-20

DIARY

Monday 30thd 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

Tuesday 1st December

7.30 pm Littleton House Group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

Wednesday 2nd December

2.00 pm Wherwell Prayer Meeting – *Dancing Ledge*

Thursday 3rd December

9.30 am Chilbolton Morning Home Group. *Contact Charlotte Nash, 01264 860831*

11.00 am (Wh) Trefoil Guild Carol Service, in Wherwell church

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

2.30 pm (Sp) Sparsholt School Christingle Service, in Sparsholt Church (school only)

Friday 4th December

12.30 pm Littleton Lunch Club Christmas Lunch, in the Church Room

Saturday 5th December

10.30 – 3.30 Christmas Tree Festival, Chilbolton Church – see over

3.00 pm Winchester District Bell Ringers' Service, in Sparsholt church, preceded by one hour of bell-ringing – see below

Winchester District Bell Ringers' Carol Service

Saturday 5th December, service from 3.00 – 4.00

St Stephen's, Sparsholt

The Winchester District Bell Ringers will be holding their annual Carol Service in Sparsholt church on Saturday 5th December. There will be general ringing from 2.00 – 3.00, with the Carol Service starting at 3.00pm. This will be followed by seasonal refreshments. Our congregations have been invited to join them. It would be helpful for organising the refreshments if you could indicate if you wish to attend.

Please contact Sally Wesley 01962 776476; sally.wesley@btinternet.com

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

As you consider your Christmas giving, please spare a thought farmers of Ethiopia? Thanks so much!

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal

Advent and Christmas Services in the Downs Benefice				
Day	*Date*	*Time*	*Place*	*Service*
First Week of Advent				
Saturday	*5th*	*3pm*	*Sparsholt*	*Bell Ringers Carol Service*
Second Week of Advent				
Sunday	6th	10am	Littleton	Posada
Friday	*11th*	*2.30pm*	*Sparsholt*	*School Carol Service*
Third Week of Advent				
Sunday	13th	10am	Wherwell	Morning Prayer, with Carols
Sunday	13th	6pm	Crawley	Carol Service
Monday	*14th*	*10am*	*Littleton*	*Toddler Christmas Service*
Thursday	*17th*	*6pm*	*Wherwell*	*School Carol Service*
Fourth Week of Advent				
Sunday	20th	4pm	Chilbolton	Carol Service *(with Wherwell)*
Sunday	20th	6pm	Littleton	Carol Service
Sunday	20th	6pm	Sparsholt	Carol Service
CHRISTMAS EVE				
Thursday	24th	4pm	Chilbolton	Crib Service *(with Wherwell)*
Thursday	24th	4pm	Littleton	Crib Service
Thursday	24th	4pm	Sparsholt	Crib Service
Thursday	24th	11.30pm	Sparsholt	Midnight Service
CHRISTMAS DAY				
Friday	25th	10am	Chilbolton	Family Christmas Service
Friday	25th	10am	Crawley	Family Christmas Service
Friday	25th	10am	Littleton	Family Christmas Communion Service
Friday	25th	10am	Sparsholt	Family Christmas Service
Friday	25th	10am	Wherwell	Family Christmas Service



Christmas Tree Festival, Chilbolton
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th December



St. Mary the Less church in Chilbolton will be full of Christmas Trees on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December. It opens at 10-30am to 3.30pm on Saturday and 12 midday to 3pm on Sunday. The Communion service takes place at 10am on the Sunday morning. The church is open to all, and tea/coffee and home-made cakes will be available. There is no charge, but donations will be appreciated. Please come and give your support as many of the church organisations are providing trees.



Christmas Cafe
Thursday 10th December 10.00 – 12.00 noon

Littleton Memorial Hall



Our Christmas Café is the perfect place to meet friends, share a coffee and cake, and make something Christmassy to take home. Do come and join us.

We would love to hear from anyone who could help us by baking us a cake!
Please get in touch with Kate, email annachaplain@downsbenefice.org.uk.

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.