

Across the Downs

Church News Sheet for the Downs Parishes of
Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell

Sunday 3rd December 2023



Services for Sunday 3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent

- 10.00 am (Ch) Morning Prayer
- 10.00 am (Cr) Holy Communion
- 10.00 am (Li) Posada Service
- 5.30 pm (Wh) Advent Carol Service, following Christmas Fayre



Services for Sunday 10th December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

- 10.00 am (Li) Family Communion
- 10.00 am (Wh) Carol Service
- 6.00 pm (Sp) Carol Service
- 6.00 pm (Wh) Meditation on the life of Leonard Cheshire (see over)

Prayer for the Week – *First Sunday in Advent*

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 4th December

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

Tuesday 5th December

Wednesday 6th December

Thursday 7th December

4.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice prayer list, Littleton Church Room

Friday 8th December

12.30 pm (Li) Littleton Lunch Club, in the Church Room

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

Saturday 9th December

1.30 pm (Li) Baptism – Patrick Steele

Wherwell Christmas Fayre and Advent Carol Service

Sunday 3rd December, 3-5pm, Wherwell Village Hall

Today!

There will be Father Christmas, mulled wine, waffles, cakes, tombola, gifts and children's Lantern making, with Christmas lights in Church St. Please bring cash – no card payments.

The Christmas Fayre is followed by the children's lantern procession to the church for the 5.30 pm Advent Carol Service by Candlelight. Children are encouraged to dress up in Nativity costumes for the Procession and Service

Ben and Esther Brown

A St Catherine's Mission-link family working with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) in Arnhem Land, Northern Australia, Ben and Esther and their two young sons Barney and Reuben have now been in Arnhem land for over six months. Many of our Church family will remember meeting them at a Morning Worship service at St Catherine's a year ago.

Recently Ben sent a video link to update supporters and link churches on their progress. You can access this video here [Video Link](#) Do take a look!

Karis Kids Christmas Party

This year's Christmas party for our link families in Kampala will take place on Saturday 16th December. This is always a joyous occasion, with hundreds attending from the six member churches – for details of last year's party, visit <https://bit.ly/3u6VVSd>

The cost of hosting the party, with food, music, cake and a gift for each family, sometimes the only Christmas gift they will receive, is £37.50 (or £30 plus Gift Aid). If you feel you would like to contribute towards this cost for our link families, please visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18848> before the end of November.

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

For more details about Karis Kids, please visit <https://www.kariskids.org/downs>, or speak to Carol Coleman (Littleton), Downs Benefice Co-ordinator

Autumn Meditations at Wherwell Church

Do come along to our final meditation of this year and hear about the life of Leonard Cheshire. The meditation will be held at 6 pm in the church, lasting for around thirty minutes, and will be followed by refreshments.

10 December Leonard Cheshire: decorated RAF pilot, philanthropist, 1917 - 1992

Winchester Beacon – Donate Dinner

This Christmas, across our four sites, we will provide accommodation and support to twenty-two people experiencing homelessness. We need your help to provide festive home-cooked meals. Could you contribute to our 12 Days of Christmas shopping list to get meals on plates? We are asking people to pledge their support through donation of an item of food needed for our residents' Christmas meals.

To see the list of items and how to donate, please see: <https://winchesterbeacon.org.uk/news/feed-people-experiencing-homelessness-this-christmas/>.

Winchester Beacon – new CEO

Winchester Beacon is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Wakeling as their new CEO, taking over from Michele Price in January. Mark has over twenty-five years' experience of leadership roles within the charity sector and is passionate about social change and creating opportunities for people to thrive.

Waynflete Singers St Nicholas Concert

Winchester Cathedral, **Saturday 9th December** at 7.30 pm

The Waynflete Singers return to the cathedral for their ever-popular Christmas concert. They are joined by the English Chamber Orchestra, on this occasion with a timely double billing of St Nicholas. The concert will open with Haydn's Symphony No 30, nicknamed the 'Alleluia' Symphony, followed by Haydn's St Nicholas Mass. The second half features Benjamin Britten's St Nicolas Cantata <https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/waynflete-singers/>

A Merry Little Christmas

Friday 15th December at 7.00 pm

The beautiful Winchester College is the setting for a festive programme of close harmony carols, performed by Cantores Episcopi in the candlelit chapel, in aid of the Trinity Centre. www.trinitywinchester.org.uk. Tickets from £20.

Enjoy your favourite Christmas carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine in College Hall. An evening that guarantees to get you into the Christmas spirit!

Christmas with Southern Voices

Saturday 16th December, 7.30 pm

Annual Christmas Concert in the Chapel of St Cross

Tickets £18. Online at www.southernvoices.co.uk or telephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply). Or at the door

Andover Food Bank

The Andover foodbank would like to thank everyone who has donated in the past few weeks. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.

This week, the Andover foodbank is in need of the following food and non-food items:-

Biscuits, Tinned Meat, Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Chocolate Bars, Jam, Coffee, Dishcloths, Deodorant, Cleaning Spray, Washing Up Liquid. Toilet Rolls

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.