Across the Downs

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

Sunday 23rd August 2026

Services for Sunday 23rd August
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship
10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship

Services for Sunday 30th August
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am (Ch) Benefice Communion, followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Prayer for the Week – *Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-6 Romans 12: 1-8
Matthew 16: 13-20 Psalm 138

DIARY

Monday 24th August

Tuesday 25th August

2.15 pm (Li) Westholme Holy Communion

Wednesday 26th August

10.00 am (Li) Holy Communion

Thursday 27th August

4.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the church room

Friday 28th August

Saturday 29th August

Please note

Revd Kevin and Lorna will be away on their annual leave from **Monday 24th August to Monday 31st August (inclusive).** Please could you contact the Benefice Office (office@downsbenefice.org.uk / 01962 880 845) with any requests, queries or concerns during this period.

5th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service
11.00 am, Sunday 30th August

Next week!

The Benefice Service will take place at **11 am** at St Mary-the -Less, Chilbolton.
Refreshments 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.

Date for your Diaries!

St Catherine's Autumn Sale, Saturday **10th October**, 10 am – 12 noon, Littleton Church Room

Once again, we will be holding our Autumn Sale this October, selling plants, cakes, jams and chutneys, so do come along!! And spread the word! We will also be running a stall selling pre-loved children's toys, games and books.

Home Groups

Home groups are places that help us grow as Christians. The homes in which we meet, and the people who gather in these homes have at least two things in common. We deepen our friendships with one another, and we study the Bible or a topic that grows us as Disciples. Could you find time to join us at a home group near you? For God has equipped you with wonderful gifts to enrich our lives as the mystical body of Christ. Revd Kevin

LOCATION	DAY	TIME	CONTACT
Wherwell	Monday (fortnightly)	2.30pm	**Susan Ansell** - EMAIL
Chilbolton	Monday (fortnightly)	7.30pm	**Lesley Kent** - EMAIL
Sparsholt	Tuesday (fortnightly)	7pm	**Jemma Mack** - EMAIL
Littleton	Tuesday (weekly)	7.30pm	**Carol Coleman** - EMAIL
Crawley	Wednesday (fortnightly)	3pm	**Felicity Gillibrand** - EMAIL
Chilbolton	Thursday (fortnightly)	9.30am	**Charlotte Nash** - 01264 860831

Crawley Home Group starts again on Wed 2nd September, Littleton on Tues 8th, Chilbolton morning group on Thurs 10th and Sparsholt on Tues 29th. Starting dates for Wherwell and Chilbolton evening group tbc.

Littleton and Harestock Show

Saturday 5th September, 12 noon – 5.00 pm

There will be an excellent craft show this year as well as the traditional village fete games, dog gymkhana, tombola and grand raffle, together with food and drink outlets. You can go online to enter the traditional flower show competitions with classes for both adults and children including vegetables, flowers, fruit, craft, art, cookery, poetry, photography and preserves. See www.lhshow.org.uk/flower-show.

Do then join us on the Sunday, 6th September at 10.00 am, for the Show Celebration Service, in the Marquee

St Catherine's Stall at the Littleton and Harestock Show

St Catherine's will be hosting a stall on the theme of 'Memories', inviting visitors to share memories of previous shows, or of Littleton and Harestock in general, and to try out some old-fashioned toys and games. If you would be able to help out for an hour with this valuable form of outreach, please contact Carol Coleman (carolcoleman123@hotmail.com).

Harvest in the Downs Benefice

Chilbolton Harvest Festival will be on **Sunday 20th September**, followed by a Harvest Lunch. Money raised by the Auction of produce and the collection will go to the Andover Crisis and Support Centre

Crawley Harvest Festival Service is at 10am on **Sunday 4th October**. Donations will go to Winchester Beacon.

Littleton Harvest Festival is at 10.00 am on **Sunday 27th September**. Donated goods will be shared between Winchester Beacon and the Basics Bank. Lists of requested items are available on the font. A box will be left at the back of the church for your donations if you are unable to get to the service.

Sparsholt Harvest Festival will be held on **Sunday 11th October** at 10.00am. Donations will go to The Winchester Beacon. A list of goods that they would like/consider necessary will be posted in Church and outside the Village Shop in due course. The Harvest Supper will take place at Sparsholt Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th October at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Wherwell's Harvest Festival is on **Sunday, 11th October** at 10am with a collection in aid of Andover Food Bank.

Water Priority Services Register

Are you aware that our water companies operate a Priority Services Register which is a free, confidential support service for customers who need extra help due to medical needs, disabilities or old age? Of note is that, if signed up, you will be given extra support during any supply interruptions (which may occur as a result of the recent drought), with delivery of water to the home.

For Southern Water, ring 0800 027 0800. You will need your payment reference number which is the 13-digit number at the top righthand corner of your bill. Alternatively, sign up on line:
https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-and-support/priority-service-register/

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.