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 September 2026

Services for Sunday 27th September

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP), at Wherwell
10.00 am	Harvest Festival, in Littleton
10.00 am	Pet service, in Sparsholt, on the Green, in Woodman Close
4.00 pm	Bubble Church, in Chilbolton

Services for Sunday 4th October

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am	Holy Communion at Chilbolton
10.00 am	Harvest Festival, in Crawley
4.00 pm	Café Church, in Littleton Church Room

Prayer for the Week – *Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through 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: Ezekiel 18: 1-4; 25-end — Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32 — Psalm 25: 1-8

DIARY

Monday 28th September

10.00–11.30 am St Catherine's Toddler Group Harvest celebration. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

2.30 pm Sparsholt School Welcome Worship, in Sparsholt Church

Tuesday 29th September

7.00 pm Sparsholt Home Group. *Contact Jemma Mack on 07984 203698*

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

Wednesday 30th September

2.00 pm Wherwell Prayer Meeting – *Dancing Ledge*

3.00 pm Crawley house group. *Contact Felicity Gillibrand, 01962 776293*

Thursday 1st October

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

Friday 2nd October

12.30 pm Littleton Lunch Club, in the Church Room

Saturday 3rd October

Liberty Choir – Autumn 2026 Launch in HMP Winchester

Liberty Choir is a full-circle charity whose work starts and end in the community.

www.libertychoir.org

Each week volunteers go into prison to sing alongside the prisoners, helping bring positive change to their lives through the power of song. When the prisoners are released, they are supported by the same volunteers, wider Liberty Choir team and their network of community partners.

Interested in volunteering? No knowledge of music is required.

Meet the charity founders and learn more

Thursday 1st October – 6.30pm – Deane House, Sparsholt. Talk at 7.00 pm

Please RSVP to janefrazer16@hotmail.com

Driving Ukraine

Presentation of her experience on Convey 58 given by Hazel Still

Wednesday7th October – 6pm – Stockbridge Town Hall

- Tickets £12 on door or

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hazelduncaninukraine/2370326

- *All proceeds to Driving Ukraine*

Andover Food Bank

So far this year the Foodbank has supported 4700 people in our community with over 40,000 meals and other essential items. As we leave summer behind and autumn fast approaches, we're asking you to support Andover Foodbank. Harvest is an important time for us as we build our stock levels ahead of the busy winter period, and your donations make a real difference to the families and individuals in our community who are struggling to afford food and other essentials.

Harvest list: Tinned meat meals, tinned/instant potatoes, tinned spaghetti/soups, tinned fruit/veg, rice, pasta sauce, rice pudding/custard, breakfast cereals, biscuits.

St Catherine's Autumn Sale

Saturday 10th October, from 10 – 12 noon

Littleton Church Room

Once again, we will be holding our Autumn Bazaar 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.

Donations of jams, jellies, marmalade or chutneys together with plants, homemade cakes or biscuits will be much appreciated so that we have a bounteous array of goods to sell on the day.

We will be raffling a 'luxury hamper' during the sale and so, if baking, making preserves or gardening is not your prowess then please consider a donation of a food item for the hamper.

To donate (or promise) items or help on the day, please contact Peggy Ormston: peggy.ormston@gmail.com; 01962 883682, or Clive Thompsett for hamper donations: clive.thompsett@icloud.com; 01962 885039.

Harvest in the Downs Benefice

Littleton Harvest Festival taking place TODAY!

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

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. Tickets are now available to buy at the Village Shop.

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

Christian Aid Harvest Appeal 2026

As we celebrate our harvests with giving to such excellent local causes, may we spare a thought (or more?) for the struggling farmers of South Sudan who are the object of this year's Christian Aid Harvest Appeal?
https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/harvest-appeal

Winchester Beacon Supporters' Evening

Every act of kindness helps to change lives, and we'd love to thank you in person. Whether you have donated, volunteered, fundraised, partnered with us or you would just like to know more about what we do – you are warmly invited to join us for **The Winchester Beacon's Supporters' Evening** on **Thursday 15th October 2026**.

This special evening is an opportunity to come together with our community of supporters to shine a light on what we are achieving together.
https://winchesterbeacon.org.uk/news/join-us-for-our-supporters-evening-thursday-15th-october-2026/

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.