Across the Downs

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

Sunday 30th August 2026

Services for Sunday 30th August

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am **Benefice Communion at Chilbolton, followed by a Finger Food Bring and Share Lunch**

Services for Sunday 6th September

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion, in Chilbolton
10.00 am Morning Worship, in Crawley
10.00 am Littleton and Harestock Show Service in the Marquee, Littleton Recreation ground

Prayer for the Week – *Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jeremiah 15: 15-21 Romans 12: 9-end
Matthew 16: 21-end Psalm 26: 1-8

DIARY

Monday 31st August – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September

7.30 pm (Sp) Sparsholt PCC meeting

Wednesday 2nd September

3.00 pm Crawley home group – see opposite

Thursday 3rd September

4.15 pm Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in Littleton church room

Friday 4th September

Saturday 5th September

12 noon - 5pm Littleton and Harestock Show

Littleton and Harestock Show
Saturday 5th September, 12 noon – 5.00 pm
Littleton Recreation Ground

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. **Last date for entries: Tuesday 1st September.**

See www.lhshow.org.uk/flower-show.

St Catherine's Stall at the Littleton and Harestock Show

We 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).

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH WARMLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Littleton and Harestock Show Celebration Service
10am - Sunday 6th September – main Show Marquee

Join us to celebrate our local community, the fun of the Show, and the creativity and talents displayed there.

An informal service open to all ages and all faiths, or none!

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 15th. Starting dates for Wherwell and Chilbolton evening group tbc.

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

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.

Crawley ; Sparsholt and Wherwell will be holding their Harvest Festivals in October.

Littleton Lunch Club **URGENTLY** needs volunteer drivers to collect the guests and take them home afterwards. If this something you feel you might be able to do on either a regular or occasional (as a reserve driver) basis, **please contact the Benefice Office.**

The lunch club is held at 12.30pm on the 1st Friday of the month (except in September when it is the 2nd) in Littleton Church Room.

HELP WANTED

The daughter of a parishioner is undertaking a research project as part of her MSC in Speech & Language Therapy. She is studying the lived experiences of people recovering from a stroke who have had / are experiencing swallowing difficulties as a result of their stroke and wondered if anyone in the Benefice, who meets these criteria, might be prepared to be interviewed by her (either in person or online) for her research. All interviewees are given a participant number so complete anonymity and confidentiality is guaranteed. If there is anyone who might be prepared to help, please could you contact the **Benefice Office.**

Coffee Morning –in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer

Monday 7th September – 10.30am – 1pm

YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER
CLIC SARGENT

at Whitethorn Cottage, Crawley, SO21 2PN
Coffee & Cake : Raffle – Admission £8

PLEASE DO COME ALONG

Enquires: Carole Phillips – 01962 776 921

Bach Winchester Voices

Jon Newman's Bach Winchester Voices group will be singing three wonderful Bach cantatas in **St Mary's Crawley** all day on **Saturday 5th September**. A performance with their usual professional baroque band and soloists will take place in St Paul's Church in Winchester on **Sunday 6th** at 4pm. Free entry with retiring collection

More information is on their website: www.bwv.org.uk

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.

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the October and November 2026 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 4th September** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.

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.