

The Benefice of
St Mary the Less, Chilbolton
St Mary's Crawley
St Catherine's Littleton
St Stephen's Sparsholt
St Peter and Holy Cross, Wherwell

PRAYER LIST

April 2024

*Prayer is like opening a door and slipping into
the presence of God.*

There in the stillness to listen to His voice

Perhaps to petition – or only to listen

It matters not;

Just to be there, in His presence, is prayer.

O Christ for whom we search,
our help when help has failed:
give us courage to expose our need,
and ask to be made whole
in your healing love;
That being touched by you,
we may be raised to new life,
in the power of your holy name. Amen.

This leaflet is used for prayers in the church room at Littleton on Thursdays at 4.15 pm each week, to which all are welcome, and can be used for your private prayers.

We hold before God all those for whom prayer has been requested.

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), individual names are not printed, but we believe that God knows who these dear people are, and His Holy Spirit will intercede on our behalf.

We also pray for anyone else on our hearts at this time and all those with temporary or long-term health problems and for the families and carers who support them.

We pray for those in residential care and the housebound.

We give thanks for those who are recovering from illness.

We remember with compassion friends and relatives of the recently departed:

Christopher Appleby

Sheila Read

Doris Benson

Russell Harper

Mary Craig Harvey

Andrew Osmond

Georgina Rose

Sylvia Wilson

We pray for all our ministry team and the work of all five churches in our Benefice

For our Incumbent: Kevin Rogers, and his wife, Lorna

For the Ministry Team: Bruce Kington, Alan Disher, Charlotte Nash, Andrew Kent, Sally Wesley, Alastair Barron and Carol Coleman.

Our Benefice administrator: Caroline.

All Parish Visitors and the support and time they give in the Benefice.

We give thanks for our Benefice and pray for a spirit of unity in the ministry we all share.

As we prepare to review, and celebrate, all that has happened in our church communities and lives over the last year at our APCMs this month, may we also look to the year ahead, with inspiration and enthusiasm for the tasks ahead. We pray for guidance and wisdom as we seek to do God's work, in this place.

We pray for the young in our area.

For nurseries, schools, colleges and the university.

We pray for all teachers and carers and all who have responsibility for education inside and outside our churches.

We pray for new families to become worshipping members of our churches and enliven our fellowship and worship.

We pray for our local community

For establishments with a caring outreach, their users and residents, their families, staff, pastors and administrators.

- For all Nursing and Care Homes in the area.
- The Lookout, Naomi House and jacksplace
- Andover, Basingstoke and Winchester Hospitals, Hospices and GP practices.

For groups which give aid and support to the community

- The Boaz Project, providing work opportunities for adults with learning difficulties.
- The Prison and the Footprints Project, Street Reach
- The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance,
- First Responders, Community Care Groups, Street and School Pastors
- Friends of the Family, Home Start, the Live at Home Scheme

We pray for the poor, homeless and hungry, and the on-going support given through the Trinity Centre, Winchester Beacon, the Basics Bank, Andover Food Bank and the Emmaus centre.

We pray for the Church of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby. Within our diocese of Winchester we pray for Bishop Philip, Bishop David (Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke), and Bishop Geoff (Acting Bishop of Southampton).

This month in our Benefice we pray for the Parish of Sparsholt.

We pray for the nations of the world, remembering especially those areas of conflict, famine and poverty. We continue to pray for an end to hostilities in Ukraine and between Gaza and Israel, and for a widespread and enduring peace to prevail.

Elections are due to take place in India, in a phased way from 19 April until June. With elections looming, India's Christians are facing increasing threats, discrimination and persecution. Pray for the current leadership to put an end to this violence and pray for a peaceful and fair election.

We pray for missionaries: Ben and Esther Brown, serving with MAF in Arnhem Land, Chris and Kesia Pain in Japan with OMF, for Bishop Crisanto in Northern Argentina supported by CMS, for Winston Williams in Guyana and The Brickworks supporting projects in South Sudan; for others known to, and supported by, individuals in our parishes. We pray for the ongoing work of Karis Kids in Kampala, praying for our link church, St Pauls in Okuvu and the nine families supported by the Downs Benefice. We pray for Michael and Carol Coleman as they prepare to join the team running the Karis Summer Camp in Kampala this August.

We give thanks for the work of Tearfund, Christian Aid and organisations supporting the persecuted Church, including Open Doors and Barnabas Fund.

Requests for Prayers may be made through the Benefice Office. (office@downsbenefice.org.uk; 01962 880845)