

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

December 2023

*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:

Joan Osborne

Richard Cocksedge

Victor Moore

Jolyon Pope

Rosalind Irving

Janet Jukes

Noel Blatchford

We pray for all our ministry team and the work of all five churches in our Benefice, during this time of inter-regnum.

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

For curate Lisa Rodrigues, from the Salisbury Diocese, who is assisting us in the Benefice during the interregnum

For the future of St Catherine's Anna Chaplaincy ministry

Our Benefice administrator: Caroline.

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

Let us pray for the ongoing recruitment process for our new incumbent, praying for the one chosen and called by God to serve us in the Benefice.

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

The time of Advent, leading up to Christmas, brings many parishioners to our churches. During these special services may they meet with the one who is called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'

We pray for the young in our area.

For nurseries, schools, colleges and the university and for those who seek to work with young families in our churches.

We pray for all Nativity services and festivities held in our schools, toddler and pre-school groups that, amongst the excitement, children will understand the true meaning of Christmas.

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, the Park Club, Street Reach
- The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance,
- First Responders, Community Care Groups, Street 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 David (Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke) and for Rt Reverend Philip Mounstephen as he comes to lead our Diocese as Bishop. This month in our Benefice we pray for the Parish of Wherwell.

Let us continue to pray for peace to prevail in Gaza and Israel, not forgetting the ongoing war in Ukraine as well. We pray for an end to suffering, and for comfort for all those who have lost loved ones or who do not know what has happened to friends and family.

We pray for missionaries: Ben and Esther Brown, with MAF in Arnhem Land, Chris and Kesia Pain in Japan with OMF, 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. We give thanks for the work of Tearfund, Christian Aid and organisations supporting the persecuted Church, including Open Doors and Barnabas Fund.

An Advent prayer:

Jesus, light of the world, we think back to when you first came – the centuries of waiting, silence and darkness and the hope you brought. Where there is conflict, oppression and injustice, shine your light, Lord.

Where we feel alone, tired or weary, shine your light, Lord.

Renew and refresh us, so that we feel alive in you again.

This Advent season, may you shine as brightly as the star did for the magi, may you guide us to be a light for all – near and far.

Show us how to pray, give and act in a way that glorifies you, always.

In your name, Amen

(Tearfund)

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