Across the Downs

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

Sunday 25th October 2026

Services for Sunday 25th October

Last Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) in Wherwell
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Littleton
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Sparsholt
4.00 pm	Bubble Church in Chilbolton

Services for Sunday 1st November

All Saints' Day

10.00 am	Holy Communion with REME in Chilbolton
10.00 am	All Saints' Service in Crawley
4.00 pm	All Saints' Service in Littleton
6.00 pm	All Saints' Service in Sparsholt

Prayer for the Week – *Last Sunday after Trinity*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings:	Leviticus 19: 1-2; 15-18	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
	Matthew 22: 34-end	Psalm 1

DIARY

Monday 26th October

10.00–11.30 am **No** St Catherine's Toddler Group – ***half-term***

Tuesday 27th October

11.00 am (Wh) Interment of Ashes – Paul Prince

2.15 pm Westholme Holy Communion

Wednesday 28th October

10.00 am Holy Communion, in Littleton

2.00 pm Wherwell Prayer Meeting – *Dancing Ledge*

Thursday 29th October

2.15 pm Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in Littleton Church Room *(please note change of time)*

Friday30th October

Saturday 31st October

St Catherine's Patronal Festival

Our Patronal Festival is on **Sunday, 22nd November**. The service starts at 11.15 am and is followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch in the Church Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and the community to join us in celebrating all aspects of our church life at St Catherine's and within the benefice. It would help us with catering if you could let us know that you are coming and whether you are bringing a plate of savoury or sweet food to share.

Please email or telephone Carol Ward (carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk; 01962 883185)

This year we are hoping to put together an exhibition of photographs taken in or by St Catherine's church over the decades. Do you have snaps of church or mission events over the years? Please contact Kate, our Anna Chaplain by email to annachaplain@downsbenefice.org.uk or drop them into the benefice office.

Benefice Service of Peace and Wholeness

Please note the change to winter timing from **Sunday November 15th**. The service will move to 3.00 pm, still in St Catherine's Church, Littleton.

All Saints' Services

Next Sunday, 1st November, we will remember, with thanks, those who have left this life in Christ through an 'All Saints' Day Service'.

Do join us at any of our special services across The Downs Benefice:

All Saints' Service – St Mary's, Crawley – 10am
All Saints' Service – St Catherine's, Littleton – 4pm
All Saints' – St Stephen's, Sparsholt – 6pm

You will be warmly welcomed at any of the churches where there will a time of reflection and a candle will be lit in memory of those who have gone before us, and in recognition of our shared faith and hope in Jesus, who is the light of the world.

After each of the services there will be some light refreshments.

Remembrance Day Services

Sunday 8th November

This year there will be no Drumhead Service at Sir John Moore Barracks in Littleton, as the base has now closed. All are invited to attend one of the other services within the Benefice on Remembrance Sunday:

10.50 am in **Chilbolton**
10.55 am at the War Memorial in **Crawley** (or in the village hall if wet)
10.55 am at the War Memorial in **Sparsholt**, moving on into the Church

There will also be a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Littleton churchyard at 11.55am on Wednesday 11th November.

St Catherine's Autumn Sale

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the recent Autumn Sale, raising over £1300 towards maintaining the work and fabric of St Catherine's. Whether it was donating goods, setting up, running tables or clearing away on the day, or coming to buy, so many were involved in making the morning a success. It was a lovely community occasion as well.

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the December and January edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by **12 noon, Friday 6th November** at the latest. Details of where to send your article or information can be found at the back of the current magazine.

Charity Gift Fair,

Sat 21 November, 10.30 - 16.30 hrs, Crawley Village Hall

The ever popular Charity Gift Fair will be back this November and once again the Village Hall will be packed with beautiful handmade artisan crafts, art work and arty gifts, cards, home produce and more. If you've time, you could even stop for a slice of homemade cake with a cup of tea or fresh coffee, or even enjoy a tasty light lunch. Admission £1 (adults).

Funds raised by the Fair are donated to charities nominated by the stallholders which this year include amongst others Prostate Cancer UK, Dementia UK, Coeliac UK, RNIB, Winchester Hospice, Young Lives v Cancer, St Marys Church and Crawley Village Hall. For more information, visit the Fair's Facebook page www.facebook/CrawleyCharityGiftFair

The Orchestra Session - The First Movement

Saturday 21 November 2026 at 7.30pm,Chapel, Hospital of St Cross

The programme includes music by Bach, Pachelbel, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Dvořák. The Orchestra Session brings together professional string musicians to perform together and be properly paid for their work. Supporting music education is also an important part of the project, with a fixed proportion of every ticket sold going to music-education charities.

Tickets £23 (£12 concessions) www.theorchestrasession.com

Trinity Winchester AGM

Tuesday 24th November, 7.00 pm, Hope Church Winchester

As we reach our 40th anniversary supporters, partners and community members are invited to attend an evening of reflection and celebration. Alongside the formal business of the AGM, there will be presentations from staff and clients sharing their experiences and the difference Trinity's services make across the community. We hope you will join us as we continue working together to build a kinder, more inclusive and stronger Winchester together.

Book your place at https://trinitywinchester.org.uk/

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.