

Winchester City Festival Choir

A European Christmas

Thursday 11th December, 7.30 pm, St Paul's Church, Winchester

To include Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio, Mendelssohn Vom Himmel hoch and European Carols. Tickets £20 to include a festive drink.

Email: secretary@wcfchoir.org

Karis Kids - Christmas Gifts for Uganda

This year's Christmas party for our link families in Kampala will take place on Thursday 11th December. This is always a joyous occasion, with hundreds attending from all the member churches – for details of last year's party, visit <https://bit.ly/4qOpLEc>

The cost of hosting the party, with food, music, cake, has already been covered, so all that remains are the gifts for the families, sometimes the only Christmas gift they will receive. The cost is £16 per family, which in the past has provided sugar, soap, tea, moisturiser, and sometimes a live chicken! If you feel you would like to contribute towards this cost for our link families, please visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18848> before the end of November.

Let's give our amazing families a Christmas to remember!

Community Christmas Lunch, Chilbolton

Thursday 18th December, Chilbolton Village Hall

Everyone welcome - **Residents of Wherwell and Chilbolton** - an opportunity to enjoy a festive lunch including some festive entertainment from Wherwell School choir. We kindly ask for a donation towards costs. Transport is available, so do ask if needed.

Please book a place by contacting either Jane Brown- 01264 860726 or Charlotte Nash - 01264 860831; email: charlotte@cjnash.com

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.

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 23rd November 2025



Services for Sunday 23rd November 2025

Christ the King

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9.00 am (Wh) | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 10.00 am (Sp) | Morning Worship |
| 11.15 am (Li) | Patronal Festival service, followed by 'Bring and Share' lunch in the Church Room |
| 4.00 pm (Ch) | Bubble Church |



Services for Sunday 30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

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| 11.00 am (Ch) | Benefice Holy Communion, with Baptism, followed by Bring and Share lunch |
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Prayer for the Week – Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings:	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Colossians 1:11-20
	Luke 23: 33-43	Psalm 46

Banns of Marriage

(Sp & Ch) Jonty Drew & Emma Taylor 2nd Time of Reading
(Wh) Jean-Michel Hurst & Jemima Dunnett 2nd Time of Reading

Boaz - Join Us for an Evening of Christmas Carols

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back for our **Christmas Carols Evening on Friday 5th December** — a simple, heartwarming way to mark the season together.

Join us from **6 pm** for **hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies** before we start at **7 pm sharp**. Please allow a little extra time for parking, as some spaces will be off-site at our *Park and Ride* car park.

We'll be joined once again by the **Salvation Army Brass Band from Andover** and the **Barton Stacey Village Choir**, leading us through traditional carols and festive favourites. Members of **Boaz** will also be retelling the **nativity story** — **with a new twist!**

Please book your parking at <https://www.boazproject.co.uk/>



Christmas Cafe and Crafts
Thursday 11th December 10.00 – 12.00 noon
Littleton Memorial Hall



Our Christmas Café is the perfect place to meet friends and make something Christmassy to take home. Do come and join us .

Any cash donations made will go to the Boaz Project.

Email for more details: annachaplain@downsbenefice.org.uk

We would love to hear from anyone who could help us on the day, or bake us a cake! Please get in touch with Kate, email above.

Christmas Presents for Residents of Westholme Nursing Home

Could you donate a Christmas gift for someone residing in care?



Westholme would like presents for their residents who would not normally receive gifts. Suggested items: slipper socks, confectionery, biscuits, personal care items such as shower sets, shaving sets, nail polish or hair accessories.

Please leave in the box in St Catherine's church or contact Kate Fletcher (Anna Chaplain) on 07784 539151, **by the end of November**.

DIARY

Monday 24th November

10.00–11.30am (Li) St Catherine's Toddler Group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

2.30 pm (Wh) Wherwell House Group. *Contact Susan Ansell for further details (01264 860775)*

Tuesday 25th November

7.00 pm (Sp) Sparsholt House Group. *Contact Jemma Mack for further details (jemmamack@hotmail.com)*

7.30 pm (Li) Littleton House Group. *Contact Carol Coleman for further details (01962 881886)*

Wednesday 26th November

10.00 am (Li) Holy Communion

12 noon (Cr) Funeral – Patricia Harrison

Thursday 27th November

2.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the Church Room.

Friday 28th November

Saturday 29th November

Advent Bible Study

You are invited to join the Littleton House Group as we journey with some of the characters in the Christmas story. There will be 3 sessions (Tuesday 25th November, 9th and 16th December), 7.30pm, 2 Valley Road, Littleton.

Chilbolton and Wherwell Christmas Posada 2025

Mary and Joseph are searching for a place to stay - can you help? Be a part of this heavenly family tradition by offering them refuge for a single night in December and documenting your experience in a scrapbook. Children, grandchildren and adults alike are invited to keep one of the sheep and bring it along to the Chilbolton Crib Service at St. Mary the Less Church at 4pm on Wednesday 24th Dec where they can be reunited with the rest of the flock. Please join us for this wonderful family nativity service, it's simply not to be missed!

To sign up to receive the Posada please contact Janie Painter janie.painter@yahoo.com or 07980 002235.