



### Mothering Sunday

The Downs Benefice will be holding special Mothering Sunday services in all the churches at 10.00 am on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. All the services will offer small posies and be followed by coffee.

In Littleton, the service will be preceded by a children's craft activity in the church room from 9.00 am.

Everyone is most welcome to come.

### Emmaus Quiz Night

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30 pm**

Test your knowledge, enjoy great company and support a fantastic cause.

Tickets are £15/person, with all proceeds helping to support Emmaus Hampshire. Book your tickets at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quiz-night-for-emmaus-tickets-1975288175105>

### Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

**Winchester Cathedral**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**

The Waynflete Singers, Winchester Cathedral Chamber Choir and the English Chamber Orchestra join together to bring you this production of The Dream of Gerontius, featuring Mezzo-soprano Dame Sarah Connolly, Tenor Andrew Kennedy, Bass Andrew Foster-William and Conductor Andrew Lumsden.

Tickets: £15.00 - £50.00 from:

[www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on) or call 01962 857275

### Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the April and May 2026 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** 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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

### Services for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### First Sunday of Lent

9.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship

10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship



### Services for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

#### Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion with Baptism –  
Tabitha White

10.00 am (Cr) Morning Worship

4.00 pm (Li) Café Church, in the Church Room

### Prayer for the Week – *First Sunday of Lent*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7                      Romans 5: 12-19  
Matthew 4: 1-11    Psalm 32

## Lent 2026

As a Benefice, we are joining in with this year's C of E Lent course, "Draw Near: life-giving habits for Lent". Through the course, we hope to develop habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day.

More information about Draw Near can be found at [cofe.io/DrawNear](https://cofe.io/DrawNear). There are short daily readings and reflections, divided into six themes: worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

There are various ways to access the daily reflections:

- Using the printed booklet (£3 each). You can order direct from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/drawnear>
- Via daily email (you need to register for these)
- On the [Everyday Faith](#) app

Or join the Littleton Home group which will be meeting each Tuesday in Lent at 7.30 pm, starting 24<sup>th</sup> February – contact Carol Coleman for further details (01962 881886). All welcome.



### Spring Cafe and Crafts

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am – 12 noon  
Littleton Memorial Hall



Our Spring Café is the perfect place to come and have a coffee and cake, meet friends and even exercise your artistic skills to make a little something to take home if you wish. Cash donations welcome.

Email for more details: [annachaplain@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:annachaplain@downsbenefice.org.uk)

**Do come and join us! Everyone, all ages, welcome!**

### Navigating Life 'You and Me Both?'

A free exhibition on **Friday and Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** from 10 am to 5 pm, featuring pictures, pottery and words from local people. St Paul's Church, Winchester. On the Saturday afternoon over tea there will be a presentation about the inspiration and context for the exhibition together with music led by Tom Jesty. To book for the talk and tea (for catering purposes) please use this link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/helenjesty-beckyshaylor/navigating-life-you-and-me-both-exhibition-tea/e-mjpojy>

# DIARY

## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

- 10.00–11.30am (Li) St Catherine's Toddler Group. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*
- 2.30 pm (Sp) Sparsholt School Welcome Worship, in the Church *(private, school only)*
- 2.30 pm (Wh) Wherwell House Group - *Contact Susan Ansell for further details (01264 860775)*

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

- 11.30 am (Li) Funeral – Shirley Lupton
- 2.15 pm (Li) Westholme Holy Communion
- 6.30 pm (Ch) Chilbolton evening Home Group. *Contact Andrew Kent for further details 01264 860584.*
- 7.30 pm (Li) Littleton Lenten House Group, 2 Valley Road. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

- 3.00 pm (Cr) Crawley Homegroup, *Contact Felicity Gillibrand [fgillibrand@btinternet.com](mailto:fgillibrand@btinternet.com)*
- 3.30-4.15 pm (Wh) Wherwell Prayer Meeting, at Dancing Ledge, Fullerton Rd, Wherwell

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

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

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

*\*In view of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday there will be no service in Littleton on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February*

## NEW! For 2026

**Littleton Lounge** will be held in the church room at St Catherine's on the third Tuesday of the month. A drop-in session for chat, a warm drink and companionship. No need to book. Join me at some point between 10am and 12 noon. The next one is on **17<sup>th</sup> March**. I look forward to seeing you. Kate Fletcher

