



BUBBLE CHURCH
A service for all young families
Dates for January & February

11th January
25th January
8th February
22nd February



Starting at 4pm @ St Mary's the Less, Chilbolton

Emmaus Quiz Night
Thursday 19th 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 27th March at 7.30 pm

The Wayflete 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 or call 01962 857275

Lost property – a waterproof has been left in Littleton Church Room lobby, possibly since the Combined Benefice Service was held in Littleton back last year. If you are missing one, please contact the office, describe it and claim it!

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 8th February 2026



Services for Sunday 8th February

Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am (Ch) Morning Worship (*in place of Morning Prayer at Wherwell*)

10.00 am (Li) Family Communion

4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church



Services for Sunday 15th February

Sunday next before Lent

8.30 am (Sp) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Ch) Morning Worship

10.00 am (Cr) Holy Communion

3.00 pm (Li) Service of Peace and Wholeness

Prayer for the Week – Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Readings: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Matthew 6: 25-end

Romans 8: 18-25

Psalms 136

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. 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). Caroline in the office is putting in a bulk order of these, so contact her, or 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 24th February – contact Carol Coleman for further details (01962 881886). All welcome.

Littleton Lunch Club

The Littleton Lunch Club meets in the Church Room on the first Friday of the month at 12.30 pm. There are currently a few vacant spaces, so if you know of anyone in the parish who might like to be invited to join, please contact Deirdre Wratten on 01962 880462. We would love to reach out to any in the community who would value the friendship offered, as well as a good home-cooked meal!

Transport can be provided for those living within the parish.

Downs Benefice Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is a crisis hot-line for anyone in need in an emergency. Members of the chain contact each other immediately so that confidential prayer support can be offered without delay.

Are you a praying person, believing in the power of prayer? Do you feel you could offer this ministry by joining our prayer chain team? For further details or to join in this very special ministry please contact the Benefice Office 01962 880845.

DIARY

Monday 9th 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)

Tuesday 10th February

Wednesday 11th February

3.00 pm (Cr) Crawley Homegroup, *Contact Felicity Gillibrand*
fgillibrand@btinternet.com

3.30-4.15 pm (Wh) Wherwell Prayer Meeting, at Dancing Ledge, Fullerton Rd, Wherwell

Thursday 12th February

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

Friday 13th February

Saturday 14th February

Please note: Revd Kevin and Lorna will be away on leave next week - 9th to 13th February.

Please contact the Benefice Office (office@downsbenefice.org.uk / 01962 880 845) with any requests, queries or concerns during this period.

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 first one is on **17th February**.

I look forward to seeing you. Kate Fletcher

