

Across the Downs

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

Sunday 15th February 2026

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



Services for Sunday 22nd February

First Sunday of Lent

- 9.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship
10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship
NO Bubble Church this Sunday as it is Half-Term



For those coming to the
Littleton 10 am 'Ashing'

Communion at St Catherine's,
I'll be talking about how we tackle
Lent, and suggesting the
Cof E's highly recommended 2026
booklet of short daily
readings/thoughts/prayers - **DRAW
NEAR.**

**You might like to get it even if
you're not coming to be
ashed! Peter.**

These can be ordered direct from
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/drawnear>

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 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 or call 01962 857275

Navigating Life 'You and Me Both?'

A free exhibition on Friday and Saturday March 20th and 21st from 10 am to 5 pm, featuring pictures, pottery and words from local people. St Paul's Church, Winchester.

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.

Prayer for the Week – Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Exodus 24: 12-end
Matthew 17: 1-9
2 Peter 1: 16-end
Psalm 2

Lent 2026 - begins on Ash Wednesday 18th February.

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). These can be ordered 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 16th February

10.00–11.30am (Li) No St Catherine's Toddler Group. – **Half-term** Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886

2.15 pm (Li) Flowerdown Holy Communion

Tuesday 17th February

6.30 pm (Ch) Chilbolton evening Home Group. Contact Andrew Kent for further details 01264 860584.

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

Wednesday 18th February

10.00 am (Li) Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes * see below

12 noon (Ch) Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes

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

Thursday 19th February

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

9.30 am (Ch) Chilbolton Home Group. Contact Charlotte on 01264 860831 for further details

Friday 20th February

12.30 pm (Sp) Funeral – Leslie Barron

Saturday 21st February

- In view of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday there will be no service in Littleton on Wednesday 25th 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 first one is on **17th February**.

I look forward to seeing you. Kate Fletcher

