

'Saying Goodbye'

On **Saturday 9th May** at 3pm in Chichester Cathedral, we (Mariposa International) will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services.

Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss, is welcome to attend.

www.sayinggoodbye.org

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13th June, 9.30 – 12.30, Littleton Church yard clear up and ploughman's lunch

Saturday 20th June, 12.30 – 3.30 pm – Chilbolton Church Fete

Saturday 20th June, 1.00 – 5.00 pm – Sparsholt Fete

Saturday 18th July – Littleton Safari Supper

Saturday 12th September - Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride

The Upper Room – A Time of Prayer and Worship

Saturday 16th May, 6.30 – 8 pm, Winchester Cathedral

Everyone in the Diocese is invited to Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 16th May to mark the days from Ascension to Pentecost as part of the wider Thy Kingdom Come Prayer initiative.

The service will focus on prayer for the receiving of the Holy Spirit for ourselves and our churches, and for others to come to faith in Christ. There will be a worship band, prayer spaces, Taize worship.

Parish Magazine Deadline

A reminder that copy for the June and July 2026 edition of the Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt Parish Magazine should be submitted by 12 noon, **Friday 8th May** 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, 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 26th April 2026



Services for Sunday 26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am (Wh) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 am (Li) Morning Worship, followed by APCM in the Church Room at 11.15.

10.00 am (Sp) Morning Worship

4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church



Services for Sunday 3rd May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am (Ch) Holy Communion

10.00 am (Cr) Morning Worship

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

Prayer for the Week – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 2: 42-end 1 Peter 2:19-end
John 10: 1-10 Psalm 23

Our Churches' Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

All church members are invited to attend their APCM to hear reports of the year completed, to elect church wardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives and to discuss issues of importance to our church families.

Date	Day	Time	Parish	Venue
26 th April	Sunday	11.15am	Littleton	Church Room
30 th April	Thursday	7.30pm	Wherwell	Church
9 th May	Saturday	12 noon	Sparsholt	Meadowbank

St Stephen's Sparsholt APCM

Saturday 9th May at 12 noon at Meadowbank, Woodman Lane, followed by a fund-raising lunch.

Tickets £15/head available from the Village Shop or Caroline Horrill (01962 776844). Please advise of any dietary requirements.

Ascension Day Service and breakfast, Littleton

Thursday 14th May, 8.00 am

Do join us for our **Ascension Day** Holy Communion Service which will be followed by breakfast in the church room in Littleton. We'd love to welcome all from across the benefice. If you would like to stay for the breakfast it would help our preparations if you could inform Carol Ward (01962 883185; carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk) by Monday 11th May.

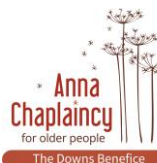


Littleton Lounge 'Anna'versary

Tuesday 19th May, 10 – 12 noon

Littleton Church Room

It's our 'ANNA' versary!



Help us to celebrate one year of Anna Chaplaincy in the Downs Benefice. Drop in between 10 am and noon for tea, coffee, cake, chat and good company!

DIARY

Monday 27th April

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

2.15 pm (Li) Westholme Holy Communion

2.30 pm (Sp) Sparsholt School Welcome Worship, in the Church

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

Tuesday 28th April

Wednesday 29th April

1.30 pm (Wh) Wherwell Prayer Meeting, at Dancing Ledge, Fullerton Rd, Wherwell

Thursday 30th April

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

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

7.30 pm (Wh) Wherwell APCM

Friday 1st May

Saturday 2nd May

St Catherine's *Christian Aid* Week, 10-16 May 2026

It's that time of year again – seven days to make a difference! **Please help...**

1. **Plant Exchange at Littleton Memorial Hall** on voting day – **Thursday 7 May 1.00-3.00 pm**. Bring a plant/take away a plant/leave a donation.
2. Remember the door-to-door red envelopes? Simpler now to **click online link** <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/st-catherines-littleton-christian-aid-week> The first £1K given will be match-funded – effectively what you give will be doubled!
3. **Christian Aid Communion service** - St Catherine's **Sunday 10 May 10.00 am**. Speaker – Jo Crocker, Ecochampion for Churches Together in Winchester, and Executive Director of WinACC (Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis). And old-fashioned red envelopes there for our giving!