

Wherwell Flower Festival and Plant Sale

Sunday 31st May, 1-5.00 pm

This event will be to raise funds for repairs to the chiming mechanism of the church bells.

Please can you help with donations of flowers to decorate the church or cakes to be sold with teas at the village hall.

Please contact Jenny Boileay 07802 434724 or Jo Baughen 07766 881815

Plant sale in aid of Crawley Village Hall

There will be a plant sale at Crawley Village Hall on **Sunday 17th May**, 2 – 5.30 pm, whilst Little Court is open for the National Gardens Scheme.

Teas will also be served in the hall with the usual array of delicious cakes. Do come along!

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 27th June, 7.30 pm – 'Flower songs for a summer evening', Southern Voices, St John's, Alresford

Saturday 18th July – Littleton Safari Supper

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

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 3rd May 2026



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

NB also a 'Getting to Know You' drop in and chat in Littleton Church room at 10.00 am



Services for Sunday 10th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.00 am (Li) Christian Aid Family Communion, with speaker Jo Crocker (see over)

10.00 am (Wh) Pet Service

4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church

Prayer for the Week – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 7: 55-end

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

Psalm 31: 1-5; 15-16

Banns of Marriage

(Cr) Max Cotgrave & Hannah Jolly 1st Time of Reading
(Sp) Elliot Mawhinney & Alice Appleby 1st Time of Reading

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.

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.

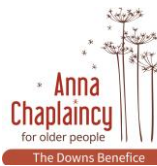


Littleton Lounge 'Anna'versary

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 4th May – Bank Holiday

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

Tuesday 5th May

7.30 pm (Li) Littleton House Group, 2 Valley Road. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

Wednesday 6th May

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

Thursday 7th May

1.00–3.00 pm (Li) Christian Aid Plant Swap, Littleton Memorial Hall (see below)

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

Friday 8th May

Saturday 9th May

12 noon (Sp) Sparsholt APCM followed by fundraising lunch (see opposite)

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!