



Hants and the Isle of Wight Ride+Stride 2026

Saturday, 12th September



As a participant your sponsored journey on Saturday 12th September between as many churches as you wish can be on foot, bicycle, scooter, horseback, canoe, classic car or bus, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Sandown to Silchester, Fordingbridge to Farnham. As there are over 400 due to be open, you can have fun choosing which will be part of your itinerary. Many will have refreshments, some will have toilets open, and all should offer your group a warm welcome.

See: <https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

Boaz Fun Run

The annual Boaz fun run takes place on **Saturday 26th September** at Hill Farm with 2km, 5 km, and 10 km routes to suit everyone. Walk, Jog or run – all abilities are welcome and every finisher takes home a medal. There'll also be family games, an obstacle course, hot food, live music and plenty of cakes to refuel on afterwards.

See: <https://www.boazproject.co.uk/sporty-september-fun-run-near-winchester/>

Could you help open a door?

Boaz's Our Hands Together project is all about helping our members step into the world of work – building skills, growing in confidence, and showing local employers just how much they have to offer.

Alongside finding placements, we're also looking for volunteers to support our members one to one. It's a lovely, hands-on way to be part of someone's journey. Volunteers come along to Boaz for a couple of weeks' induction at the farm, getting to know our members and how we work. From there, you might go out on a work placement, one to one, supporting a member as they find their feet. No special experience is needed – just patience and a willingness to get stuck in. Contact georgia@boazproject.co.uk

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 12th July 2026



Services for Sunday 12th July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am (Li) Family Communion

10.00 am (Wh) Morning Prayer

4.00 pm (Ch) Bubble Church

6.00 pm (Ch) Service to Pause, Reflect and Pray for the village of Chilbolton



Services for Sunday 19th July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am (Sp) Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 (Ch) Morning Worship

10.00 am (Cr) Holy Communion

6.00 pm (Li) Benefice Service of Peace and Wholeness



Prayer for the Week – *Sixth Sunday after Trinity*

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: Isaiah 55: 10-13
Matthew 13: 1-9; 18-23

Romans 8: 1-11
Psalm 65

Downs Benefice Summer Bible School 2026

Four Mondays: 7.00 – 9.00 pm

27th July to 17th August

Littleton Church room so22 6QY

The Book of Titus

Developing character and integrity in the midst of a society which has lost respect for God.

- How can a Godless society fail to be impacted when there's a vibrant healthy Church in its midst?
- Surely it's not our responsibility to discern the Godly from the ungodly ... or is it?
- Sound doctrine – What is it and what is the relationship of sound doctrine to good deeds?

Suggested donation £15 (to cover course materials)

Course leaders: Revd Kevin and Mrs Lorna Rogers

RSVP by 20th July: office@downsbenefice.org.uk; 01962 880845

Trinity Winchester Fundraising concert

Winner of Germany's Got Talent, **Nick Ferretti** performs on **Friday 7th August** at The Pumphouse, Winchester.

A firm favourite and always a sell-out, this is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy an evening of live music while supporting a great cause.

[Book tickets here](#)

Andover Food Bank SUMMER SUPPORT 2026

As often happens at this time of year, donations begin to slow down while many local families continue to need support. The list below includes a mixture of our core food items, alongside some of the treats and extras that help families provide lunches and make the summer holidays a little easier for children:

Tinned Meat Meals; Tinned Fruit; Rice Pudding; Pot Noodles; Pasta Sauce; Long Life Milk; Ice Pops (Unfrozen); Crisps; Chocolate; Biscuits

All donations can be made at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD and our opening hours are Monday to Friday 09.30 to 12.30.

DIARY

Monday 13th July

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

2.00 pm (Li) Thanksgiving service for the life of Neil Skinner

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

Tuesday 14th July

8.00 pm (Ch) Extra-ordinary meeting of Chilbolton PCC, Dancing Edge, Fullerton Rd, Wherwell

Wednesday 15th July

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

Thursday 16th July

4.15 pm (Li) Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in the church room

Friday 17th July

Saturday 18th July

St Catherine's Bells – ringers needed!

Would anyone be interested in joining the bell-ringing rota at St Catherine's, ringing before our morning services? It is usually only once every 2 months, and Caroline would be very happy to meet and discuss/teach anyone who is interested. (01962 880845)

Southern Cathedrals Festival

Southern Cathedrals festival offers an opportunity to enjoy music and to take part in worship in three magnificent cathedrals. The Southern Cathedrals festival 2026 will be held in Chichester from **16-19 July**, with the combined choirs of Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester cathedrals. They'll perform in a programme of events, performances and services and everyone is welcome.

www.southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk