Charity Gift Fair,

Sat 21 November, 10.30 - 16.30 hrs, Crawley Village Hall

The ever popular Charity Gift Fair will be back this November and once again the Village Hall will be packed with beautiful handmade artisan crafts, art work and arty gifts, cards, home produce and more. If you've time, you could even stop for a slice of homemade cake with a cup of tea or fresh coffee, or even enjoy a tasty light lunch. Admission £1 (adults).

Funds raised by the Fair are donated to charities nominated by the stallholders

For more information, visit the Fair's Facebook page:

www.facebook/CrawleyCharityGiftFair

COP 31

COP 31 is meeting now in Antalya, Turkey until November 21, looking to face the climate crisis. *We* may not be able to attend but we can pray for all those who will be doing so, as together we face the challenges of climate change.

A prayer by Mary Okeno from the Anglican Church of Kenya:

'Creator God, whose wisdom is revealed in the rich diversity of all that you have made, and who entrusted the earth, its waters, forests, creatures and peoples to our care: forgive our failure to be faithful stewards of your creation, and grant to all who gather at COP wisdom, courage and humility; that the voices of all peoples, especially young people, women and indigenous communities, may be heard and valued, and that lasting partnerships may be formed for the protection of the abundance of life you have given.

Renew in us the knowledge that care for creation is both a moral duty and a sacred calling; strengthen the world's leaders and policymakers to seek the common good, and inspire us all to be agents of hope where there is despair, restoration where there is destruction, and justice where there is indifference, so that the rivers run clean, the forests flourish, endangered species be protected, as we learn to live in harmony with the earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.'

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 15th November 2026











Services for Sunday 15th November
Second Sunday before Advent

8.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) in Sparsholt
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Chilbolton
10.00 am	Holy Communion with Baptism in Crawley
3.00 pm	Peace and Wholeness, in Littleton



Services for Sunday 22nd November
Sunday before Advent – Christ the King

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) in Wherwell
10.00 am	Morning Worship in Sparsholt
11.15 am	St Catherine's Patronal Festival, followed by Bring and Share lunch
4.00 pm	Bubble Church, in Chilbolton

Prayer for the Week – *Second Sunday before Advent*

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings:	Zephaniah 1: 7; 12-end	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
	Matthew 25: 14-30	Psalm 90: 1-8; 12

Karis Kids - Christmas Gifts for Uganda

This year's Christmas party for our link families in Kampala will take place on Tuesday 15th December. This is always a joyous occasion, with hundreds attending from all the member churches – for details of last year's party, visit https://www.kariskids.org/news/2026/1/28/karis-christmas-party-2025.

The cost of hosting the party, with food, music, cake, has already been covered, so all that remains are the gifts for the families, sometimes the only Christmas gift they will receive. The cost is £16 per family, which in the past has provided sugar, soap, tea, moisturiser, and sometimes a live chicken! If you would like to contribute towards this cost for our link families, please visit

https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18848 before Sunday 29th November.

Let's give our amazing families a Christmas to remember!



Christmas Tree Festival, Chilbolton

Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th December



Village organisations and individual families are invited to take part in our 2nd Christmas Tree Festival. The theme this year is "Christmas Carols". Choose a Carol and decorate your tree in any way you wish. As before, please limit the size of your tree to no more than 60cm. Please let me know if you would like to take part and I will send you further details, Jenny Seddon, Pj_seddon@hotmail.co.uk 01264 861164

Help sought - I am looking for volunteers from the church community to help in different ways. I need people to be in the church to welcome visitors etc. There is a rota with hourly slots for both days. I also require cakes (various) to serve to people attending this event. Please contact me on 01264 861164 or 07305 622243 if you can help in any way. Thank you, Jenny Seddon

Diocesan Weekly Online Prayer Gathering

Every Monday termtime, a team of Winchester Diocese staff along with friends across the Diocese meet for an online Diocesan Prayer gathering where we pray for the six Benefices listed in the Diocesan Prayer Cycle that week. We would be delighted to welcome all parishioners to the prayer gathering. Please contact the benefice Office for the Zoom Meeting link.

DIARY

Monday16th November

10.00–11.30 am St Catherine's Toddler Group in the Church Room. *Contact Carol Coleman, 01962 881886*

2.15 pm (Li) Flowerdown Holy Communion

2.30 pm Sparsholt School Welcome Worship, in Sparsholt Church

Tuesday 17th November

10.00 - noon Littleton Lounge, in the Church Room

7.30 pm Littleton PCC Meeting

Wednesday 18th November

2.00 pm Wherwell Prayer Meeting – *Dancing Ledge*

7.00 pm Chilbolton & Wherwell PCC meeting, at Dancing Ledge

Thursday 19th November

9.30 am Chilbolton Morning Home Group. *Contact Charlotte Nash, 01264 860831*

2.15 pm Prayers for those on the Benefice Prayer List, in Littleton Church Room

Friday 20th November

Saturday 21st November

Christmas Posadas – Chilbolton & Wherwell, and in Littleton

1st – 24th December

Mary and Joseph are looking for a place to stay. Could you welcome them (knitted and crochet nativity figures) for a night? Contact Janie Painter (janie.painter@yahoo.com; 07980 002235) for Chilbolton & Wherwell; Carol Coleman (carolcoleman123@hotmail.com; 01962 881886) for Littleton.

5th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service

11.00 am, Sunday 29th November

The Benefice Service will take place at **11 am** at St Mary's, Crawley.

Refreshments, including wine and soft drinks, will be provided after the Service. Please bring a plate of Canapes/Finger Food to share with others who will be there. We look forward to seeing you.