

### Winchester Basics Bank

We are experiencing a sharp increase in our services due to Coronavirus. Please help by donating items listed below.

Items can be delivered direct to our centre at Milland Road on Tuesdays and Fridays. In order to minimise social interaction please deliver between 9.30-10.00 am or 3-4 pm. Alternatively, you can donate items at local supermarkets.

#### Our most urgent need is for:

General-purpose cleaning spray, washing-up liquid, UHT milk, tinned veg, tinned fruit, tinned potatoes/packet mash, pasta/curry sauces, rice (in bags and microwaveable pouches).

### Andover Food Bank

To minimise contact and ensure that we can use our resources to best help those in need at this difficult time we are changing our opening days and hours:

Please consult our website <https://andover.foodbank.org.uk/> for opening hours for both dropping off of donations and for collection of boxes, as these might change from week to week according to supply and availability of volunteers.

As you can imagine, demands on the foodbank are increasing dramatically and so we are in need of your donations as much as ever.

This week we are in need of the following items:-

**FOOD ITEMS:** Long life Fruit Juice, Long Life Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes/Instant Mash, Tinned Meat

**NON-FOOD ITEMS:** Deodorant, Razors, Washing-up Liquid, Hand wash, Multi surface cleaner

### May events at St Catherine's Littleton

Sadly but inevitably the two events planned for May, Manet and Music (6th May) and the Salome Quartet concert (22nd May) have had to be postponed because of the Coronavirus epidemic. I will try to re-arrange them for later dates when normality has returned. I will be contacting those who have already bought tickets about refunds.

David Targett (01962-886186 and [dandctargett0@gmail.com](mailto:dandctargett0@gmail.com))

Please send all items for Across the Downs to Carol Ward: email [carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk](mailto: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 Jax Machin 01962 880845

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**



Services for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
*Palm Sunday*

No services



**In view of the current Covid-19 outbreak (coronavirus), Church services have sadly been cancelled in our Benefice and throughout the Diocese.**

Services for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
*Easter Sunday*

No services

### Prayer for the Week – *Palm Sunday*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 50: 4-9a    Philippians 2: 5-11    Matthew 26: 14- 27:end  
Psalm 80

Our Prime Minister has told everyone to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19). It means all churches must close with immediate effect.

Sadly, there will be no Church weddings or baptisms at this time.

Funerals at the graveside or in crematoria can still take place, in line with the Prime Minister's Statement with only next of kin present.

For live streaming of daily prayers and services, please visit:  
[churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

We can still be church beyond our buildings as we pray, love and care for the vulnerable.

**Be assured of my love and prayers for you all, Revd Jax 07761 055228**

### **Karis Kids, Kampala, Uganda**

The nine Karis families linked with the Downs Benefice are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Many of them have carers who are HIV positive or underlying health conditions. Access to water is limited and the health infrastructure is not as robust as in the UK. Not only that but there's also no practical chance of social distancing in the densely populated slums. Please remember them in your prayers.

For more information, contact Carol Ward ([carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk](mailto:carol.ward@daleclose.co.uk))

### **Winchester Churches Nightshelter**

Over recent weeks we have been putting new procedures and strategies in place to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic. This thorough planning enabled the Nightshelter to respond quickly and effectively to the Prime Minister's announcement that we must all stay at home.

The next morning, the Nightshelter became a place for our residents to remain 24 hours a day, allowing them to comply with the government instructions. We swiftly drafted in additional staff, volunteers and arranged catering whilst liaising closely with Winchester City Council and other services to work together to do our best to accommodate people sleeping rough within the city as soon as possible. It is not just about supporting our current residents but also reaching out to former residents who are also likely to be finding the current circumstances difficult.

Expanding our service will have a significant impact on staffing and resources and for that reason we are appealing for donations to help us support our residents through to more stable times.

**Donate via text by messaging the word NIGHTSHELTER and any amount up to £20 to 70085.**

## **DIARY**

**All regular meetings, groups and special events cancelled across the Benefice**

### ***A PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS***

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Readings from the Lectionary will be available on the benefice website and updated daily. [www.downsbenefice.org](http://www.downsbenefice.org)

The Benefice Office is **closed to visitors until further notice** due to the COVID-19 virus. Apologies for any inconvenience.

The work of the **Benefice Office will continue to operate remotely**. Please contact **Caroline McAulay on (01962) 880845** or by email on: [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk) as usual.

In event of an emergency, please call the Rector, Revd Jax Machin, by mobile on: 07761 055228. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Coronavirus Community Support Groups**

In each of our parishes groups have got together to provide support for those in need and to coordinate volunteer response. .

#### **Contact details for more information:**

Chilbolton ring Fiona Barrie (01264 860264) or Jo McMenamy (07919 280702), or email: [chilboltoncoronahelp@gmail.com](mailto:chilboltoncoronahelp@gmail.com)

Crawley contact Jennifer Leech on 07807 363689

Littleton Clive Thompsett 01962 885039; [clive.thompsett@icloud.com](mailto:clive.thompsett@icloud.com)

Sparsholt please contact Alastair Barron 01962 776844

Wherwell please call 01264 860060, or email: [wherwell@scirum.co.uk](mailto:wherwell@scirum.co.uk)