

A printed edition of *The Courier* has come out every two months for many years and has been put through letter boxes by a dedicated band of deliverers in each of the four villages. This is felt to be an important contribution to the Church's pastoral care and will be continued as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

However, with the advent of email and the Internet it is now possible to have a website for our Benefice and to send out updates on church matters every week. A digital copy of *The Courier* is uploaded to this website, the Weekly Update which started in Lockdown is there too as well as the Rector's valued 'Thoughts' or short addresses which he gives as part of each Zoom Service. Please visit this website which has been set up by Rob Eardley and get to know your way around. www.westerdownlandchurches.org. If you have the necessary know-how and would like to volunteer to be the manager of this website please let Rob know, (01425 519423).

An increasing number of parishioners, and indeed erstwhile members of the congregations who have moved away, have asked for *The Courier* to be sent to them by email. The Editor is happy to add names to this list; just send her your email address if you have not done so already.

It has been decided by the PCC members that this edition of *The Courier* will once more not be printed professionally and delivered. It will be sent to all the email addresses the Editor has on her database. If you know of a neighbour or friend who would like a printed copy, we would be very grateful indeed if you are able to print off a copy for them.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings, which were deferred from May, are due to take place in October. For details of the time and venue for your Annual Meeting, please contact your churchwarden, or Rev'd Les Player (you will find contact details below.)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms or Marriages were not able to take place in the months leading up to this edition. Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals have now resumed in church buildings, but with a maximum of 30 people attending. All who attend are asked to respect social distancing guidance, to wear a face-covering, and are encouraged to bring hand sanitiser with them. This is in line with Government and Church of England Guidance.

Funerals	St George, Damerham
9 th July	Owen Thomas (Churchyard Committal)

N.B. For general enquiries please contact, in the first instance, the Benefice Team Administrator for the four parishes of Western Downland, Harriet Roe. Tel (01725) 519220. harriet_tazzi@hotmail.com
For all pastoral enquiries including baptisms, marriages, funerals and other related matters, please contact the Rector, Rev'd Les Player, The Rectory, Mill End, Damerham, SP6 3HU (01725) 518642.
For information concerning individual parishes including matters of a general nature, please contact the Churchwarden: -

Damerham	John Godber (01425 650044)	Cathy Godber (01425) 650044
Martin	Fran Eardley (01725) 519423	
Rockbourne	Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246	
Whitsbury	Chris Harper (01725) 518324	Chris Cobb-Smith (01725) 518313

THE COURIER

Please send contributions for the next *Courier* to the Editor, Midge Connell meconnell53@gmail.com
 The deadline is 7th September 2020. The *Courier*, with the bonus of colour printing, can be delivered by email - please contact the Editor.

THE COURIER

JUNE – JULY 2020

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Have you seen the Repair Shop, on BBC TV?



I wasn't convinced at first, but I must admit you get drawn in. Objects which are damaged, degraded or unserviceable, but with a personal and often affecting story, are brought into the Repair Shop where a team of specialists, each a person of skill in their own discipline, individually and together bring the object back to life. Otherwise the alternative is for the owner to dispose of them, or leave them languishing in the attic or garage, or to do a DIY repair (which often leads back to option one; disposing of it!) When the object has been fully restored, the owner comes back to see and collect the finished work and is amazed, delighted and often moved to tears by the transformation. It has come back to life and the story – and the person connected with it – has come back to life too. It is not a new object. It bares between the paint or veneer evidence of the cracks and damage now repaired. It also bares new marks and flourishes of the craftspeople who have worked on it. In such a way Christ came as the Maker's craftsman, to repair human lives, and the world at large. In doing so he was wounded and broken, and when he was restored to life the marks of those wounds remained present but even more evident was his transformed glory. And he offered and offers just such a transformation to hearts and lives today. **Continued on Page 2....**

A Word from the Rector continued from Page 1.....

As we seek to repair our communities and our society, we need each other; the skills and vision and persistence we can each contribute, to re-knit those parts of life that have become frayed, or torn, or wounded, no less than we need nurses and doctors and other key workers to care for our physical wellbeing. Part of achieving this will be to comprehend that the story of this period of our lives will be forever written into us, and that is no bad thing. It is important to carry and tell our story; even if some parts hurt, or are less creditable, so that we can fully understand, and can better care for one another. As we emerge from this reshaped life, which looks in many ways like the old life, but is subtly and radically different, we have the opportunity to recognise those new elements which will enhance the way we interact; the way we see the world and one another.



FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

Coffee Pot in Damerham. From Wednesday 5th August 'Coffee Pot' will be meeting 'face to face' in Damerham Village Hall at its regular time of 10.30 – 12noon. Welcome Back!

Damerham Cream Teas by the River in August. After much deliberation, it has been decided that this popular event cannot be held safely within the Guidelines this year.

This and many other fundraising events for all four churches will be much missed. Regular collections at Services have also not been possible. The Benefice has a serious shortfall in its income. Please help us to urgently build this up by contacting the Church Treasurers with any contributions you can make.

Fran Eardley writes about Cuebiet - the province in South Sudan supported by Salisbury Diocese.

'The Deanery Appeal for Cuebiet has reached £2200 to date and is still accepting gifts. They have already been able to send Bishop Elijah \$1000 which he asked for to provide hand sanitisers and masks for the basic protection of his people. This is good news and our thanks are sent to those who have made contributions.'

***** SERVICES DURING AUGUST & SEPTEMBER *****

Services on Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am.

2nd August 8.30am 10.30am	7th Sunday after Trinity Damerham Holy Communion (Traditional) Zoom Service Celtic-style Parish Communion Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Rockbourne
9th August 9.30am 10.30am	8th Sunday after Trinity Martin Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom Service Morning Prayer Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Whitsbury
16th August 9.30am 10.30am	9th Sunday after Trinity Rockbourne Said Matins (Traditional Language) Zoom Service Parish Communion Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Damerham
23rd August 8.30am 10.30am	10th Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury Holy Communion (Traditional) Zoom Service All Age Holiday Praise - co-hosted by Martin
30th August 10.30am 5.00pm	11th Sunday after Trinity Zoom Service Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom Service Sung Evensong (Traditional)

Church Openings for Individual Prayer or Quiet Reflection



St George's, Damerham Normal opening times*	Wednesdays & Sundays
All Saints', Martin 10.00am – 4.00pm*	Thursdays & Sundays
St Andrew's Rockbourne Normal opening times*	Wednesdays & Sundays
St Leonard's Whitsbury Normal opening times*	Wednesdays & Sundays

***Please note that on some Sundays a church service will be taking place in the morning.**

6th September 9.30am 10.30am	12th Sunday after Trinity Damerham Morning Prayer & Short Communion Zoom Service Taizé Style Communion Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Rockbourne
13th September 8.30am 10.30am	13th Sunday after Trinity Martin Holy Communion (Traditional Language) Zoom Service Morning Prayer Contemporary Language - co-hosted by Whitsbury
20th September 9.30am 10.30am	14th Sunday after Trinity Rockbourne Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom Service Morning Prayer Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Damerham
27th September 9.30am 10.30am	15th Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury Harvest Thanksgiving & Shortened Communion Zoom Service Parish Communion Contemporary Language – co-hosted by Martin
4th October 9.00am 10.30am	16th Sunday after Trinity Damerham Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom Service Harvest Thanksgiving (Contemporary)