

## THE CHURCH FROM HARVEST TO ADVENT IN 2022

You can always find a digital copy of our latest Courier, as well as contact details, resources and information on our benefice website [westerndownlandchurches.org](http://westerndownlandchurches.org). We now also circulate the Courier digitally; if you would like a digital copy, please contact the Editor. Arron has solved the technical issues with the Courier mailing list so subscribers should now be receiving digital copies. Our parish churches are slowly returning to normal after COVID – infection rates are falling, and people are again experiencing the key events such as weddings and baptisms which have been limited in the last two years of the pandemic. We continue to offer the choice of common cup and dipped wafers during parish communion. Although COVID is lessening, the church is attended by the elderly and vulnerable so one should still try to minimise risk. One can still wear an optional face covering in gatherings and maintain a social distance from others at services. We would also urge you not to attend if you feel unwell. We will continue to offer opportunities to join services via livestream (for the vulnerable) for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

**CREAM TEAS** – A big thank you to everybody who supported the cream teas by baking the scones and all of you who ate them. The weather cooled from a high of 30 degrees C to a more pleasant 22 degrees C with no rain over the 4 weeks this was held. Your generosity enabled us to raise over £1400 towards the up keep of St George's in Damerham.

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Baptisms

St Georges, Damerham	4 <sup>th</sup> September	Atticus Mullens
	25 <sup>th</sup> September	Ivy Docherty

#### Marriages

St Georges, Damerham	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Alex Pardy & Emily Caley
	9 <sup>th</sup> September	Oliver England & Nancy Soloman

#### Funerals

St Georges, Damerham	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Jim (Thomas James) Nix (Interment of Ashes)
	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Freda Nix (Interment of Ashes)
	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Sandra West (Interment of Ashes)
All Saints, Martin	18 <sup>th</sup> August	Susan Kerley (Interment of Ashes)
	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Phyllis Felton (Committal at Test Valley Crematorium)
	12 <sup>th</sup> September	Phyllis Felton (Service of Thanksgiving)
St Leonards, Whitsbury	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Joan Christine Ainsworth (Interment of Ashes)

**NB. 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. Email: [harriet\\_tazzi@hotmail.com](mailto: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 and Cathy Godber (01425) 650044)
Martin	Alistair Groom (01725) 519204 and Lizzie Fernie 01725 519542
Rockbourne	Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246
Whitsbury	Chris Harper (01725) 518324 and Chris Cobb-Smith (01725) 518313

**Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor Arron Shutt ([arron@ashutt.myzen.co.uk](mailto:arron@ashutt.myzen.co.uk)). The deadline is 12th November 2022.**

News and Views from the Church of England  
in Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury

# THE COURIER

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2022

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

### A Word from the Rector



Apples in Damerham

Photo: Arron Shutt

I was struck, at a recent thanksgiving service I attended, by the narrative of a life remembered and celebrated. The very ordinary and approachable mingled with the extraordinary in the story of their life, as it does in fact for us all. Hearing the story was like being shown the entirety of an iceberg after previously seeing only that small part which is above the waterline. Despite all the familiar facets of HM Queen Elizabeth revisited in the aftermath of her death, in her case too it was the unexpected stories and unanticipated tales of attentive courtesy and simple kindness which I found the most affecting. Just as it was the instinctive individual and collective outpouring of warm-hearted thanksgiving and gratitude offered by a grateful nation, and by countless others far beyond these shores which I found profoundly moving. What was revealed spoke not so much of a great Queen (though I think she was one of our greatest monarchs), as of a great human being. Queen Elizabeth was a fellow traveller on the journey of this life; a person who was no doubt as imperfect as any one of us but who, shaped by a profound sense of calling and by practised devotion, sought constantly to affirm the human potential and our collective dependence on the contribution of each one of us. This was anchored by a deep Christian faith that caused her to see people of all conditions, races and religions (or of no religion) as her equal; worthy of her respect and deserving of dignity and opportunity. Though some among us may feel no great love for the Monarchy, or even have much interest in it we can, if we choose, find much to admire in the life of Queen Elizabeth.

Remembrance is a duty for those who lose a family member, just as it's a duty of citizens to carry the story of communities and nations, especially if you wish to find and to preserve the good and to build on it. The people of God were constantly called back to their particular story; both its achievements and its shortcomings, so that they could anchor themselves in the God who stood at the heart of their identity and journey. In the coming season in these parishes we will remember those who suffered the fallout from two world wars and all who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure peace, so as to anchor ourselves in good endeavour and in the pursuit of peace. And we will also remember and give thanks for all who are numbered among the saints; that multitude of the faithful who stood firm in love and service, and in the pursuit of justice and truth. Amongst them is one who once bore the insignia of a Queen on earth, but now is crowned with an eternal weight of glory beyond measure. We will remember her.

Rev'd Les Player

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING 2022** – Look out for details of your Harvest Thanksgiving Festival Services & Events in this edition. Dried and tinned goods, deodorants, shampoo and other suitable items, alongside more traditional items (but with a good 'shelf life' please!) can be brought to your local Harvest Thanksgiving Service (see below) and will be distributed locally where possible amongst older members of our communities, or donated to the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank.

**JUMBLE SALE AT DAMERHAM**– There is a Jumble Sale on Saturday 15th October at 2.00 p.m. It is being held at Damerham Village Hall. There is a 50 pence entry fee on the door. Jumble can be brought to the hall from 10 am onwards. We ask that no electrical items are donated please. For any enquiries, please contact John or Cathy Godber on 01425 555544.

**HOMEGROUPS ARE RESTARTING**

For those people who are interested in a deeper understanding of the gospel and strengthening their relationship with Christ, Homegroups are starting up again. These are being held at Pasture House at Whitsbury on the 6th of October 7.00p.m. For further details please contact Nigel Cumming on (01725) 518248.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- 18th October 7.00 p.m.** Martin PCC, The Old Rectory, East Martin.
- 25th October 6.30 p.m.** Whitsbury PCC, Whitsbury Village Hall, Whitsbury.
- 1st November 10.15 a.m.** Rockbourne PCC, Town End Gate, Rockbourne.
- 1st November 7.00 p.m.** Damerham PCC, Damerham Village Hall.
- 12th October 7.30 p.m.** Western Downland Branch Royal British Legion Annual Meeting, Damerham Village Hall.

**FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**

**Cancellation of Service** – The parish communion service that was described in the last issue of the Courier on the 2nd of October 9.30a.m. at Martin will now not be taking place.

**Patronal Services** – The patronal services for three of the churches have been transferred to three services during this month. All Saints Martin has their patronal communion on the 30th of October. St. Leonard's have their patronal communion on the 6th of November and St. Andrew's Rockbourne have their patronal eucharist service on the 27th of November. All are welcome.

**Darkness to Light** – The worship year begins again on the 27th of November 2022 with our popular Darkness to Light service held at All Saints Church in Martin at 5.00 p.m. This service will also be

**ALL SAINTS PCC NOMINATED GOOD CAUSE**

For 2022, the All Saints Church PCC has selected to raise funds to assist Martin Club in the repair of its roof. You can find out how to donate to this good cause by contacting the church wardens Alistair Groom (01725) 519204 and Lizzie Fernie (01725) 519542. Or you can pick up an envelope for this purpose (available in Church from Harvest onwards) and return it with your gift in the collection plate in any main church service in the benefice (up to 31st of December).

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 SERVICES DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER  
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**As services return to normal after the COVID pandemic - we are continuing Sunday services based largely in our parish Churches. We are livestreaming some physical services on Zoom denoted by three asterisks (\*\*\*). These will be recorded and uploaded onto the Western Downland Churches YouTube channel so that those who cannot attend physical services can either watch live or the recorded programme later.**

- 2nd October** 11.00a.m. **16th Sunday after Trinity**  
Whitsbury - Harvest Thanksgiving\*\*\*
- 9th October** 9.30a.m. **17th Sunday after Trinity**  
Damerham - Parish Communion\*\*\*  
11.00a.m. Rockbourne - Harvest Thanksgiving
- 16th October** 9.30a.m. **18th Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**  
11.00a.m. Rockbourne - Sung Eucharist  
Martin - Parish Communion (Contemporary)  
Prayers for Healing & Wholeness\*\*\*
- 23rd October** 9.30a.m. **Last Sunday after Trinity**  
11.00a.m. Damerham - Parish Communion (CW1)  
5.00p.m. Whitsbury - Parish Worship\*\*\*  
Rockbourne - Autumn Evensong
- 30th October** 11.00a.m. **4th Sunday before Advent – All Saints Day**  
Martin - All Saints Patronal Communion\*\*\*



An view of the tower in All Saints Church, Martin (Photo: Arron Shutt)

- 6th November** 9.30a.m. **3rd Sunday before Advent – St Leonard**  
11.00a.m. Rockbourne - Parish Communion (CW1)\*\*\*  
Whitsbury - Patronal Communion (Traditional Language)
- 13th November** 9.30a.m. **2nd Sunday before Advent**  
10.50a.m. Martin - All Age Worship - Remembrance Sunday  
Damerham - RBL Service of Remembrance\*\*\*

- 20th November** 9.30a.m. **Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)**  
11.00a.m. Rockbourne - Sung Eucharist (CW1)  
Martin - Parish Worship\*\*\*
- 27th November** 9.30a.m. **1st Sunday of Advent – St Andrew**  
11.00a.m. Whitsbury - Holy Communion (1662)  
5.00p.m. Rockbourne - St Andrew's Patronal Eucharist  
Martin - Darkness to Light\*\*\*
- 4th December** 9.30a.m. **2nd Sunday of Advent**  
11.00a.m. Martin - Parish Communion (CW1)\*\*\*  
Rockbourne - Sung Matins
- 11th December** 9.30a.m. **3rd Sunday of Advent**  
6.00p.m. Whitsbury - Holy Communion (1662)  
Damerham - Carol Service\*\*\*
- Thursday 15th December** 7.00 p.m. Whitsbury - Carol Service