

WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY!

You can find contact details/information on our website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/34-370BX/>. We also circulate the Courier digitally; if you would like a digital copy, please contact the Editor. 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.

WANTED! – KITCHEN STAFF FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN AUGUST

FOR CREAM TEAS - St George's Church holds Cream Teas by the River on every Sunday afternoon in August from 2.00p.m. to 4.30p.m. This event is a very important fundraiser for the Church as well as being a popular social event. Our willing band of volunteers are a year older and fewer this year and would appreciate some extra help. Your help for just one afternoon will go a long way for the survival of this popular event. Call 01425 65004 or email catherine.godber50@gmail.com for how you can help.

CUIEBET LINK - We have a lively link with the South Sudanese communities and churches in Cuiebet, helping to extend primary education and healthcare creating opportunities for the communities to flourish, (such as through the provision of rough terrain bicycles), funding the training clergy and lay leaders including women, and seeking to enhance security in an unstable part of the world, giving people greater confidence for themselves, their homes and livestock. Join us to hear stories from the most recent visit to Cuiebet and help us help them by making a donation on Sunday 14th July (9.30a.m. St Andrew's, Rockbourne, 11.00a.m. All Saints, Martin),

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriages

All Saints, Martin	25 th May	Lorna Robinson & Rob l'Anson
St. Leonards, Whitsbury	28 th May	Angela Williamson & Will Shepherd

Funerals

St George's, Damerham	3 rd May	Ann Lee (Interment of Ashes)
	8 th May	Bob & Cynthia Smith (Interment of Ashes)
	14 th May	David Tiller
	16 th May	David Tiller (Interment of Ashes)
	20 th May	Brenda Waterman
All Saints, Martin	19 th April	John Hart (at Salisbury Crematorium)
	22 nd May	Rosemary Owen
	31 st May	Richard Parsons
St Andrew's, Rockbourne	19 th April	Stephanie Witt (Interment of Ashes)
	7 th May	Gladys 'Vicky' Waters (Interment of Ashes)
St Leonard's, Whitsbury	5 th March	Rosalind Talbot

NB. 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 or named person: -

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). The deadline is 30th June 2024.

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

THE COURIER

JUNE – JULY 2024

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A Word from the Rector



Rector Les Player leading the Rogation Service at Fern Cottage, East Martin - Photo: Arron Shutt

For the first time in its history the King's royal residence of Balmoral Castle has been opened to the public. Of course it's not an 'Access All Areas' pass; bookings are required, numbers are limited as are dates, and access is strictly controlled. The palace is, after all a working estate AND a royal residence. But the possibility exists to peep behind the curtain and see something of the setting for royal life; both historic and current. Balmoral's opening follows similar openings over the past 100 years of Buckingham Palace and Sandringham, as well as of the King's long-time residence of Highgrove. Perhaps you've visited one or more of these palaces. Perhaps you've enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour; perhaps you've even been to a palace as a specially invited guest!

Whatever the circumstance, in the end you will have had to leave and return to your everyday life. Although you can glimpse the grandeur, you can't know it as your own, because you weren't born to it. So what an extraordinary claim Jesus makes when he says to his disciples, both women and men; fisher folk, tax collectors, freedom fighters and the whole motley crew that God is 'my Father and your Father' (The Gospel of St John chapter 20) and speaks of going to God 'to prepare a place for you... that where I am there you may be also.' (St John chapter 15). It seems that despite our lack of qualification and chequered lives, trust in Jesus and the honest effort to live according to his pattern (however imperfectly) opens the most sacred and surpassing door of them all; into the royal courts of heaven. All who entrust themselves to Jesus are invited not simply to visit and then leave but to stay, having been conferred a status equal to that of Jesus. As an amazed St John puts it in his first pastoral letter to the churches: 'See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.' (1 John 3).

Each of us who counts ourselves Christian has to work out how to live up to the honour of that status remembering that Jesus demonstrates it by washing feet, by welcoming the unloved and by giving his life for ours. In the kingdom of God royalty has facets and dimensions barely imagined here. But we can dream and dare to follow where Jesus leads.

Rev'd Les Player

**WESTERN DOWNLAND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED)
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Moved to the area? Looking for a school?



Come and meet us! Our single-form entry Primary School situated in the picturesque community of Damerham & Rockbourne offers an excellent education to pupils aged 3-11. Staff and pupils are celebrating after retaining our "Good" Ofsted rating after six years. The inspector found the school's vision of giving pupils 'the roots to grow and wings to fly' recognised by everyone and describe the school as "highly inclusive" with "staff making adaptations to learning so that all pupils can learn alongside one another". They also found that "everyone has high expectations of behaviour" and "pupils treat each other with kindness and compassion". Come and meet us or visit our website <https://westerndownland.co.uk/> for more information!

HOMEGROUPS ARE RESTARTING

For those people who are interested in a deeper understanding of the gospel and strengthening their relationship with Christ, Homegroups are running if you wish to learn more about the mysteries of faith.

These are being held at Glendale at Rockbourne on the 30th of May at 7.00p.m. and fortnightly afterwards from this date. For further details please contact Nigel Cumming on (01725) 518248.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

9th June 2024 2.00p.m. – 5.00p.m.	The Annual Summer Fete at South Canonry, The Close, in the Cathedral grounds. This event raises funds for the vital work of the Sudan Medical Link.
12th June 2024 7.00p.m.	Chalke Deanery Synod
15th June 2024	Salisbury Cathedral. A special service to mark the 30 th anniversary of the commencement of women's ordination to the priesthood in the Church of England.
8th July 2024 6.30p.m.	St Leonard, Whitsbury PCC (Whitsbury Village Hall)
16th July 2024 10.00a.m.	St Andrew, Rockbourne PCC (Townend Gate, Rockbourne)
16th July 2024 7.00p.m.	All Saints, Martin PCC (All Saints Church)
23rd July 2024 7.00p.m.	St George, Damerham PCC (Damerham Village Hall)
29th July 2024	The Damerham & District Horticultural Show & Summer Fayre

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

D-Day - We mark the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and the subsequent Normandy Campaign, which played such a pivotal role in the liberation of Europe, in our services on Sunday 2nd and Sunday 9th June. As part of the commemorations there also will be a community beacon-lighting in Damerham on Saturday 8th June at 9.00p.m. (opposite St George's Church).
Education Sunday - Join us for Education Sunday on Sunday 16th June 2024 11.00a.m. at All Saints, Martin, when we celebrate learning within our local nurseries, schools and colleges, and pray for all who are involved in education.
Sea Sunday - During this 200th anniversary year of the RNLI do join us on Sunday 30th June 11.00a.m. at St George's Church, Damerham, to mark Sea Sunday as we recognise the contribution of seafarers to our lives and recognise our obligations of wise use of such a vital resource to all our lives.
Tuesday Reflection and Prayer - We meet each Tuesday at 9.30a.m. using a simple structure, offering a 25-minute space for reflection and prayer based around the daily scripture reading, a little liturgy and a brief thought. To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87190762729> Meeting ID: 871 9076 2729 Passcode: 325626
Gluten Free - If you wish to take communion but have a medically diagnosed gluten intolerance, gluten free wafers are available. Please speak with the minister before the beginning of a service.

SERVICES DURING JUNE & JULY

Post COVID - We are continuing Sunday services based largely in our parish Churches. We are livestreaming some physical services on Zoom denoted by three asterisks (*) in the service listing below.**

2nd June 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	1st Sunday after Trinity Martin – Parish Communion*** Rockbourne – Choral Matins
9th June 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	2nd Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662) Damerham – Parish Worship***
16th June 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	3rd Sunday after Trinity Rockbourne – Sung Eucharist Martin – Parish Worship for Father's Day***
23rd June 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	4th Sunday after Trinity Damerham - Parish Communion Whitsbury – Parish Worship***
30th June 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	5th Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury - Parish Communion (Contemporary Language) Damerham – Sea Sunday***



All Saints Church across the Fields (Photo: Arron Shutt)

7th July 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	6th Sunday after Trinity Martin – Parish Communion (Contemporary Language)*** Rockbourne – Choral Matins
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14th July 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	7th Sunday after Trinity Rockbourne – Cuiebet Sunday Parish Worship & Shortened Communion Martin – Cuiebet Sunday Parish Worship***
21st July 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	8th Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury - Holy Communion (1662) Damerham – All Age Worship***
28th July 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	9th Sunday after Trinity Damerham – Parish Communion (Contemporary Language) Whitsbury - Parish Worship***
4th August 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	10th Sunday after Trinity Martin – Parish Communion (Contemporary Language) Rockbourne – Morning Prayer***
11th August 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	11th Sunday after Trinity Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662) Damerham –All Age Worship***