

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

It is also reminding us that our human society is built upon more than economic wealth, social position or race. We need one another in myriad ways. Even as distance separates us physically, we must look for ways to strengthen the bonds between us. And value those around us, some of whom have been undervalued for far too long. So, whilst we must recognise the cost of this period upon our lives, especially for those who have suffered severely from its effects in the loss of job security, physical or mental wellbeing, and most especially in the loss of loved ones (something that as a Church we will hope to address through acts of commemoration and remembrance once we can gather again without restriction), we must also find ways to give thanks for, and to honour those who have sought so faithfully to serve our needs and care for those most at risk and to rejoice in the good which has emerged in the face of suffering and loss. This too as churches we shall look to mark, and we hope you will do so also, either with us, or in your own unique ways.

**Rev'd. Les Player**



**All Saints' Church PCC's Nominated Charity this year is 'Martin Park'.** This very local project aims to strengthen the resources available to the children and young people of Martin. If you would like to donate, you can do so by placing a donation in an envelope entitled 'Martin Park' and adding it to the collection at any service in our four churches up to the end of the year, or by dropping an envelope through the door of Bridge Cottage, Martin. Gift Aid envelopes are available from All Saints' Church during its opening hours on Thursday (10am – 4pm) or from Mrs Eardley on 01725 519423.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Funerals** **St. Andrew, Rockbourne**  
4<sup>th</sup> August Ali Carmichael  
Committal: Test Valley Crematorium; Family Thanksgiving St. Andrew's Church

**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](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.** [leslieplayer@hotmail.com](mailto:leslieplayer@hotmail.com)

**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](mailto:meconnell53@gmail.com)  
The deadline is 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Courier, with the bonus of colour printing, can be delivered by email - please contact the Editor.

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

# THE COURIER

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2020

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

**A WORD FROM THE RECTOR**

**Hurrah!** Welcome to our first paper edition of the Courier since Covid restrictions were introduced in March. Yet even this celebration must be muted, as new Covid restrictions are being introduced as I write in response to an increase in infection rates. This follows a period through the summer when Covid measures were eased and life felt as if it was returning to something a little closer to 'normal'. Now the shape of life must remain - for the foreseeable future - provisional. I have witnessed this first-hand not only in my personal life, but in my professional duties as a parish priest. Funerals, marriages, christenings have all fallen victim to Covid regulations, causing much anguish to families along the way. Community groups and events have been faced with the challenge of how to sustain their life. And our familiar patterns of Christian activity suffered, as we had to close church buildings and forgo the social and fundraising activities which add colour to our lives. But thanks to the goodwill and imagination of so many people this daunting period of change and challenge has been faced with grit, a can-do attitude, and extraordinary inventiveness and generosity of spirit, so that new initiatives have taken shape, and new ways found to sustain connections between us.

*Worship and Fellowship via Zoom*



**'We thank you for the encouragement and hope we have experienced in our coming together on-line across the parish boundaries in Western Downland and ask that you would draw us ever closer together'** Taken from the Prayers said during the Zoom Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

This period of pandemic is reminding us that, despite appearances, life is and always has been provisional. Along the way, we are learning hard but valuable lessons: the requirement to be nimble; to flex and bend where we need to. The need for resilience to face challenges without being overwhelmed; the need to broaden our imagination, so that we can dream new things into being.

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## Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Our Annual Parochial Church Meetings were delayed from their normal position in the Spring. However, due to current restrictions governing the number of people who can gather, we cannot hold annual meetings in our public spaces. Annual Meetings will be moving online on the following dates. (see below). For details of how to join a meeting in your community, please contact your local church warden. You can also request a copy of the latest Annual Report and Examined statement of Accounts for 2019.

6th October Damerham 7pm (PCC meets) 7.30pm Annual Meeting  
 13th October Martin 7pm (PCC meets) 7.30pm Annual Meeting  
 19th October Whitsbury 6.30pm (PCC meets) 7.30pm Annual Meeting  
 27th October Rockbourne 6.30pm (PCC meets) 7.15pm Annual Meeting

## Patronal Festivals

Do join us to celebrate the Patronal Festival in your local Church. In Martin it is on Zoom 1st November at 10.30am and in Whitsbury it is at St Leonard's Church on 4th November at 11.00am.



## Harvest Thanksgiving

At this Harvest time please look out for the special services:-

4th October, **Damerham** 9.30am Harvest Communion – contributions will be sent to the local Food Bank;  
 4th October, **Zoom** 10.30am Team Harvest Thanksgiving;  
 11th October, **Martin** 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving.  
 18th October, **Rockbourne** Harvest Thanksgiving.

## Remembrance Commemorations

this year will be somewhat different from our normal arrangements. Could we please ask parishioners in Martin to join the All Age Service of Remembrance in Martin at 9.30am rather than to come to Damerham. The Remembrance Day service at 10.50am in St. George's Church will - hopefully- be live streamed. Limited seats are available. If you wish to come to the Remembrance Day Service in Damerham, please contact the church wardens, Mr and Mrs Godber on 01425 650044.

## Hear My Prayer

Would you like us to pray for someone or something? Place prayer requests on a slip of paper in our church porches before Thursday evening and we shall endeavour to include them in our prayers in the following Sunday service, (and elsewhere throughout the following three weeks.) On Sunday 18th October there will be a special focus in our online services on Wholeness & Healing. If you would like details of our online services, please contact The Rev'd Les Player (contact details are on the back of this edition.) If you, or they, would value speaking to someone, in the first instance please contact our Acting Team Administrator who will seek to connect you with someone who might offer support, or simply a listening ear.

## SERVICES DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Because of Covid 19, it may be necessary to change arrangements at short notice. See our web pages [www.westerdownlandchurches.org](http://www.westerdownlandchurches.org), or join our weekly Update mailing list by contacting Leslie Player (see Page 4) If you join us at a church-based service please wear a face-covering, maintain social distance and use hand sanitiser. Test and Trace are being used at all services. Contact information will be retained for 21 days.

<b>4th October</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b> Damerham Harvest Communion Zoom Team Harvest Thanksgiving
<b>11th October</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b> Martin Harvest Thanksgiving & Nominated Charity Launch Zoom Parish Communion (Contemporary) co-hosted by St. Leonard, Whitsbury
<b>18th October</b> 9.00am 10.30am	<b>19th Sunday after Trinity</b> Rockbourne Harvest Thanksgiving Zoom Service of Wholeness & Healing co-hosted by St George, Damerham
<b>25th October</b> 8.30am 10.30am	<b>20th Sunday after Trinity</b> Whitsbury Holy Communion (Traditional) Zoom All Age Worship: The Bible
<b>1st November</b> 9.00am 10.30am	<b>21st Sunday after Trinity. All Saints Day</b> Damerham Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom All Saints' Patronal Festival co-hosted by All Saints', Martin



<b>Friday 6th November</b> 10.30am	Whitsbury A short Service of Thanksgiving to mark St Leonard's Patronal Day
<b>8th November</b> 9.30am 10.50am	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Martin Remembrance Day All Age Worship Damerham Remembrance Day Service with Bishop Nicholas
<b>11th November</b> 10.55am	<b>Armistice Day</b> Wreath laying at Damerham War Memorial 2 Minute Silence observed with 2 metre social distancing.

<b>15th November</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>2nd Sunday before Advent</b> Rockbourne Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom Parish Communion co-hosted by All Saints', Martin
<b>22nd November</b> 8.30am 10.30am	<b>Christ the King</b> Whitsbury Holy Communion (1662) Zoom Marking the Changing Seasons co-hosted by St. George, Damerham
<b>29th November</b> 10.30am 5.00pm	<b>Advent Sunday</b> Zoom St Andrew's Patronal Service Hosted by St Andrew, Rockbourne Zoom Darkness to Light co-hosted by Martin
<b>6th December</b> 8.30am 10.30am	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Whitsbury Parish Communion (Contemporary) Zoom All Age Worship: Getting Ready co-hosted by St George, Damerham