

ALL CHANGE – A NEW ERA BEGINS

Our new editor Arron has now taken over the reins of the Courier and please support him as he learns the ropes and tries to continue the excellent work that Midge our previous Courier editor did over so many years. Please ensure he receives items for inclusion in each edition of the Courier in good time. Where we can, and where space permits, we will try to include news of some of the community events taking place alongside our Church news. You can always find a digital copy of our latest Courier, including contact details, on our benefice website westerndownlandchurches.org

KEEP THE DATE – In Memoriam. Saturday 16th October at 6.00 p.m. St. Andrew's Church Rockbourne and Rockbourne Village Hall.

**MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE LAUDAMUS and ROCKBOURNE CHURCH CHOIR
WITH THE RINGWOOD AND BURLEY BRASS ENSEMBLE.**

An evening to remember and celebrate the lives of friends and loved ones who've passed away during the last two years, beginning with a concert of music in the church reflecting the character of some of those people, followed by wine and canapés in the Village Hall to further reminisce over good times together.

Tickets at £15 will be available nearer the time, but reservations can be made by ringing **Gill Scott** on **01725 518497** or emailing gill.mary.scott@gmail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriage

St George, Damerham	2 nd June 16 th July	Arron Shutt & Rosemary Nicklen Cosmo Sheldrake & Flora Wallace
St Leonard, Whitsbury	17 th July 24 th July	Bobby Jackson & Megan Evans Lee Ridgley & Rachel Jerrard

Funerals

St George, Damerham	6 th June 8 th July 13 th July	Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Claire Smethem Roseanna Guroska (Committal; Salisbury Crematorium) Roseanna Guroska (Interment of Ashes)
St Andrew, Rockbourne	17 th June	Patricia Ratcliffe Committal (Salisbury Crematorium)

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

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

**Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor Arron Shutt (arron@ashutt.myzen.co.uk).
The deadline is 8th October 2021.**

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

THE COURIER

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2021

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A Word from the Rector



A Cream tea in South Devon

photo: VisitDevon website

Our lives are in a constant state of flux from the moment we are born, even if sometimes from our perspective, little seems to change for, or around us. This constant change has been especially true as we have navigated the differing responses necessitated by Coronavirus (as I write this Government restrictions are on the verge of being lifted). Continuous change requires adaptability.

Locally, the churches have endeavoured to keep pace with these changes, and to offer a rich and accessible range of services and other activities; both online and in our Church buildings, as well as to support people in their day to day lives. It is not only people in our congregations who have played their part, but many others in our local groups and organisations, and many individuals, acting out of selfless goodwill. I'm sure, like me, you are moved and grateful to all who have worked so hard to continue - often in new ways to enrich and support our lives through such testing times.

In all walks of life change takes place, even if at times it seems imperceptible. Amongst changes taking place at the moment is the arrival of a new Headteacher for our Church Aided Primary School, Mrs Tubbs. We welcome her. We also welcome new class teachers and school governors joining the School community. At the same time, people lay roles aside. We are grateful to Mrs Kim Wilcox, who has been a wonderfully dedicated headteacher, and also to those staff moving to new positions and governors who are stepping aside from their roles. The same process happens throughout our community. In many cases, like on our Church Councils, the organisation continues, but the individuals who compose that body shift and change.

Each new person brings their particular gifts and, with commitment and enthusiasm makes their unique contribution. This has always been the story, and indeed the calling of the Church. To recognise that we are all valuable to God, to discern that we each have a unique and vital contribution to make, and to see that it is only together that we can begin to realise all that God intends for the world which he loves beyond measure. Thank God that woven through the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic, and its many impacts on our lives; economic, medical, relational, psychological, we have rediscovered that great numbers of our fellow citizens instinctively understand this truth.

Rev'd Les Player

RINGWOOD & BURLEY BRASS BAND PRESENT SWASHBUCKLING BRASS

Set sail on a concert of music awash with nautical themes, played in the woodland setting of the walled garden at Brookheath. Bring a picnic and chairs if wished. All proceeds are in aid of Mercy Ships.

Saturday 21st August 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Brookheath House, Whitsbury Road, SP6 3PN
Tickets £10 including Tea and Cake
From Lloyd 07886767479 or Gill 01725 518497



BRITISH LEGION ANNUAL MEETING

Early notice: Western Downland Branch Royal British Legion Annual Meeting: Tuesday 12th October, 7.30pm. Damerham Village Hall.
All are welcome (assuming Covid restrictions are removed)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING

We will be celebrating Harvest with Thanksgiving services, beginning on 26th September. Dried and tinned goods can be brought to your local Harvest Thanksgiving Service (see this and next issue for service details) and will be donated to the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank.

GROWING & LEARNING

'Faith Room' (where groups can meet physically for fellowship and learning) restarts 16th September on Zoom at 2.00pm. Meets on Thursdays again on 30th September. Contact Les Player (01725) 518642 for Zoom details.

CHURCHYARDS LITTLE HELPERS

Once more we would like to thank those who have given time to help tend our churchyards. During Covid in some of our churchyards we have had to rely almost entirely upon volunteer help to keep the newer sections tended and paths cleared in other areas. If you think you can help, please contact your local churchwarden. (See the back of this issue).

SPECIAL SERVICES

12th September Commemoration of Victims of 9/11

2021 is the 20th anniversary of the attacks that happened in the US. We will be marking this event with a special service at St Georges, Damerham at 11.00am.

19th September Taize-style Parish Worship

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. We will be revisiting the Taize style of worship again on Zoom at 11.00am.

26th September Harvest Thanksgiving at Damerham

We start the annual thanksgiving services at St. Georges at 11am. Please feel free to bring dried, tinned and other non-perishable goods for the harvest display.

CREAM TEAS BY THE RIVER IN AUGUST

Another welcome return to our lives is the tradition of Sunday tea and scones served by the River Allen outside Damerham Village Hall. Cream teas will be served each Sunday in August starting with the 8th of August, and reoccurring on the 15th, 22nd and 29th of August between 2.30pm to 4.30pm. All proceeds are in aid of St. George's Church. If you would like to join the team of helpers please contact Cathy Godber (01425 650044).

SERVICES DURING DURING AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

As mentioned in the last issue - we are transitioning to a pattern of Sunday services based largely in our parish Churches. Going forwards, the style of services developed in our online (Zoom) services will be reflected across our range of physical services. We are also hoping to live-stream a number of physical services on Zoom. 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 can experience the recorded programme.

1st August 9.30a.m. 11a.m. (contemporary)	9th Sunday after Trinity All Saints, Martin St Andrew's Rockbourne*** Parish Communion Morning Prayer
8th August 9.30am 10.30am	10th Sunday after Trinity St Leonard's, Whitsbury On Zoom: All Age Worship: Bread of Life Holy Communion (1662) co-hosted by Damerham
15th August 9.30am 11.00am	The Blessed Virgin Mary (11th Sunday after Trinity) St Andrew's Rockbourne*** All Saints, Martin Parish Communion Parish Worship
22nd August 9.30am 11.00am	12th Sunday after Trinity St George's, Damerham St Leonard's, Whitsbury*** Holy Communion (1662) Parish Worship



A shot of St Andrew's Church and Churchyard in the warmth of a summer evening (Photo: Patrick Thompson)

29th August 9.30am 11.00am	13th Sunday after Trinity St Andrew's Rockbourne Parish Communion Zoom: All Age Worship (co-host Martin)
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5th September 8.30am 11.00am	14th Sunday after Trinity All Saints' Martin St Andrew's Rockbourne Parish Communion Matins (1662)
12th September 9.30am 11.00am	15th Sunday after Trinity St Leonard's, Whitsbury St George's, Damerham: Parish Communion Commemorating victims of terror on the weekend of the 20th anniversary of 9/11
19th September 9.30am 11.00am	16th Sunday after Trinity St Andrew's Rockbourne Zoom: Taize-style Parish Worship (Co-Host Whitsbury) Parish Communion
26th September 9.30am 11.00am	17th Sunday after Trinity St Leonard's, Whitsbury St George's, Damerham Holy Communion (1662) Harvest Thanksgiving