

## FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING: –

**ALL SAINTS' NOMINATED CHARITY:** The Church Council of All Saints' Martin collected during the period of October – December 2017 the sum of £520.63 for 'Freedom from Torture'.

**THANK YOU** to all those who contributed. The Council now invites proposals for the Nominated Charity of 2018. Those that have a particular connection with Martin, perhaps because of its locality, or perhaps because of the involvement of people connected with Martin would be especially welcome. The deadline for nominations is the All Saints' Church Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April. – see *Dates for the Diary*.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who made cakes for Snowdrop Weekend last month, those who helped over the two days and those who supported the event despite the indifferent weather. A marvellous total of £1669 was raised in aid of St George's Church.

**SUNDAY CLUB & MESSY CHURCH.** Our Sunday Club has activities for those from 3 to early teens. Look out for the words 'Sunday Club' next to particular services in our List of Services section. Three or four times a year, Messy Church provides fun activities and games for children and adults.

**Next Messy Church Events are: - Education Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am at Whitsbury Church and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm at Whitsbury Church: *Puzzles and Mysteries*.**

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** Our annual **Education Sunday Service** is at St Leonard's, Whitsbury on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am

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### FROM THE REGISTERS:

<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>St Andrew, Rockbourne</b>	
	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Layla Huzzey
<b>Funerals</b>	<b>St George, Damerham</b>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Virginia Carter (Internment of Ashes)
	25 <sup>th</sup> January	Eva Pierce

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**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	Julian Webb (01725) 519207	
Rockbourne	Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246	
Whitsbury	Chris Harper (01725) 518324	

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### THE COURIER

Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor, Midge Connell [meconnell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:meconnell@blueyonder.co.uk)  
The deadline is 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Courier 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

APRIL – MAY 2018

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

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## A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

### WHO'S THE GREATEST?

Muhammad Ali was famed not only for his boxing and for his political activism, but also for his words. He was nicknamed The Greatest and was not shy in claiming the term, often saying 'I am the greatest' during his boxing career. Many people would agree with him. He was voted Sports Personality of the (20<sup>th</sup>) Century by the BBC and by Sports Illustrated. The word 'greatest' appears 50 times in his wikipedia page. Yet his bravado was not gross arrogance. A convert to Islam, Ali once said 'Allah is the Greatest. I'm just the greatest boxer.' Ali spent much of his later life seeking to find and follow God according to his beliefs and to support people through his charitable work. He was vehement in rejecting the violence of Islamic State, which he said was at odds with the values of Islam. The Oscars have just taken place and there are actors, directors and many others involved in the film industry who can justifiably claim the accolade of being the greatest (at least for a year) having received the accolade from their peers of being voted the greatest in their category. However, there are others, especially in the world of politics at this time, who simply claim the title of being the greatest, without regard to evidence or the confirmation of others. Jesus once confronted his disciples over their arguments about which of them was the greatest, saying, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.", going on to say that "I have come as your servant". He demonstrated his servanthood most profoundly on the Cross, in which all Christians place their hope. Greatness is not found in arrogant self-promotion. It is found in humility, generosity and compassion and in servanthood. I hope that Christians, Muslims and people of many faiths and none can all affirm that this is where true greatness lies.

**Rev'd Les Player**