

FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING: –

Rockbourne Lunches take place on the 4th Monday in the month from October until April. For details please contact Nicki Broadbridge (01725 518166)

All Saints PCC Nominated Charity is 'Freedom from Torture' The final day for donations to the Nominated Charity is 31st December. Please pick up a Nominated Charity Gift Aid Envelope from All Saints Church, and see the table at the back of the Church for more information about the Charity.

Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints' Church, Martin. Organised in conjunction with Martin Community Association. Those attending the Carol and Nativity Service on December 17th at 3.00pm, both adults and children, are encouraged to bring small Christmas Trees along to decorate the Church. All are welcome to participate or just enjoy this beautiful spectacle which will be on show during services throughout the Festive Season.

Advance Notice of the Snowdrop Weekend at St George's Church, Damerham.
10th/11th February 2018. 12noon – 4pm each day. Enjoy the wonderful display of snowdrops in the ancient churchyard with refreshments and stalls inside the Church. **Put the date in your diary!**

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 admin@whitsburyfarm.co.uk

THE COURIER

Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor, Midge Connell, at this email meconnell@blueyonder.co.uk. The deadline is 7th January 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

DECEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Birth in the Bible is rarely straightforward. Abraham and Sarah long for a child, but do not have one until old age. The twins Jacob and Esau fight their way out of the womb, wrestling for the birth right of the firstborn. Moses was born to a mother forced to choose between keeping him - which meant certain death - and giving him up to the crocodile-infested waters of the Nile. A woman called Hannah spent years weeping for her empty womb. And Mary, a young girl, was told she was to be bearer of the Saviour of the world (doubtless jumpstarting a storm of spiteful comments and gossip; the shaking of heads and pointing of fingers by many in her small community, where Mary's condition as an unmarried woman would not have gone unnoticed). Labour marks the threshold between the world of the womb and the rest of life. It is a perilous journey from beginning to end, filled with risk for child and mother, as Mary and Joseph found out, and as so many others have found both before and since. Yet despite the anguish and heartache - with which Christians intimately associate, and which compels them to stand in solidarity with all who suffer - Jesus' birth marks the threshold between two worlds. Between BC and AD. In the moment of Jesus' coming in fulfilment of ancient promises the world shifted, never to be the same again. At that moment, which we recall each year, heaven drew close to earth and angelic choirs could at last declare: 'Glory to God' and 'Peace on earth'.

A very Happy Christmas and God's Blessings for the New Year from all at the Rectory.

The Rev'd Les Player



COFFEE AT CHRISTMAS



**Les and Tracy would be delighted to welcome you for 'Coffee at The Rectory'
in Damerham on Monday 11th December between 10.30 am and 12 noon.**