

FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING: –

Tea and Chat's Christmas Lunch is on 5th December. For more details please contact Cherry Britten, (01725 518 538)

All Saints' PCC Nominated Charity this year is Morning Star, (Salisbury) which seeks to bring hope to broken lives by working with those who are homeless and vulnerable. The final day for donations is 31st December. Donations can be given in at any service or through the letterbox at Bridge Cottage. Nominated Charity Gift envelopes are available at All Saints' Church where there is further information on the work of the charity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 21st -25th January. The theme for 2019 is 'Only Justice'. There are daily prayer meetings at several of the local churches culminating on the 27th January with a United Service at St Mary's (C of E) Church, Fordingbridge beginning at 10.30am. There will be provision for children and refreshments afterwards.

A Big Thank You to all who contributed to the Harvest Festival Services and Harvest Lunch in Damerham Village Hall. Thank you, too, to everyone who helped with the latest Jumble Sale in aid of St George's Church which raised the sum of £248.

Advance notice of Snowdrop Weekend at St. George's Church, Damerham. 9th/10th February 2019. From 12noon – 4pm each day there will be refreshments and stalls inside the Church to add to your enjoyment of the wonderful display of snowdrops in the ancient churchyard.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals

St George, Damerham

19th October

Flo Hart (Ashes)

24th October

Robert Borkenhagen

All Saints, Martin

26th October

Cathy Sumner

(We also remember Mike Otton, whose funeral took place in Cranbourne on 7th November)

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	Michael Rhodes (01725) 519715	Fran Eardley (01725) 519423
Rockbourne	Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246	
Whitsbury	Chris Harper (01725) 518324	

THE COURIER

Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor, Midge Connell meconnell53@gmail.com. The deadline is 7th January 2019. The Courier, with the bonus of a bit of colour printing, can be delivered by email, please contact the Editor to be added to this list.

NB. Please note the new email address for the Editor and the changed contact details for the new Church Wardens in Martin.

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

THE COURIER

DECEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

One of the biggest uses for which the internet has been employed since its inception is genealogical research; the pursuit of knowledge about where we come from and to whom we are related. This is nothing new. St Matthew begins his gospel by exploring Jesus' lineage, tracing it from generation to generation until it connects with Jesus himself. A sense of belonging to place and people is an almost universal human instinct. Around the world personal names betray that connectedness. The Arabic patronyms 'ibn' and 'bin' and the Hebrew 'ben' mean 'son of' ('-bint' means 'daughter of'). In Ireland O'Connor (one of my ancestral surnames) indicates 'descendant of Conor'. 'Mac' means 'son of', as does Fitz (via Latin and French). Likewise, many names reveal likely Scandinavian origins (Wilson, Johnson, Anderson, Peterson, etc). In Spain -ez (Portugal -es) often means 'son of' (Fernandez, Peres). In Russia and Eastern Europe -ov means 'of' (e.g, Petrov), whilst -vich means 'son of' (Stefanovich). Broadly speaking Icelanders end their name with -son or -dottir, which makes finding a specific name in a phone directory pretty tricky! Patronym literally means 'father name' (metronym means 'mother name'). Another way of saying it might be 'in the name of the Father'. One of the key Christmas readings is found in the opening words of St John's Gospel, as John explores the nature of Jesus' identity. '...the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.' (John chapter 1 verse 14, 18). Jesus the Son came, wrapped in the form of a vulnerable and almost anonymous baby, to link us in to the eternal story and lineage of his heavenly Father. Join with us in your own particular way, or at one of our Christmas events, to mark this most holy moment.

Rev'd Les Player



Coffee at Christmas



Les and Tracy would be delighted to welcome you for coffee at The Rectory
in Damerham on Friday 30th November from 10.30 am – 12 noon

All your friends in the churches of Western Downland wish you
a blessed Christmas and a Joyful and Peaceful New Year