

FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING: –

The Food Bank. A local Food Bank provides emergency short-term support for families in crisis. Much of the produce gathered at our Harvest services will be donated to the local Food Bank, while some will also be distributed locally in the communities. If you know of someone in urgent need of support, please speak to Mrs Godber, one of our Churchwardens (contact number below), or to our local school headteacher, Miss Wilcox.

Pop in to Futurefarms Saturday Morning Market, Martin. Open 9.30 – 12.30 in Blandford Hall, A chance to purchase all the fresh vegetables harvested on Friday from this local co-operative as well as fresh chicken, duck every other week and a regular supply of pork. Coffee and Cake are available from 10.30 – 12.30, provided each week in aid of a chosen charity. Everyone is welcome.

Advance notices: -

Royal British Legion. The next Branch AGM will take place in Damerham Village Hall on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm.

Jumble Sale in aid of St George's Church. Saturday October 12th. If you are having a clear out over the summer, please put items aside. All contributions much appreciated.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Marriages

St George, Damerham

6 th July	Jody Thomas and Ruth Lester
12 th July	Dai Rock and Laura Kirby
20 th July	Andy Read and Daisy Kennard

Funerals

St George, Damerham

27 th June	Clifford Lee (at Poole Crematorium)
9 th July	Clifford Lee (Interment of Ashes)

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	Chris Cobb-Smith (01725) 518313

THE COURIER

Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor, Midge Connell meconnell53@gmail.com. The deadline is 7th September 2019. The Courier, with the benefit 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

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2019

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

CARING FOR OUR CHURCHES

Our four village churches in Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury have long and ancient histories going back over many hundreds of years. Each successive generation takes over the responsibility of custodianship and trusteeship, a challenge and also a great privilege. These are not simply religious buildings of significant architectural interest, which of essence they are, but they symbolise so much of the continuing story of each of the four communities. We will include in The Courier periodic reports of how each of the churches benefits from loving care and dedication as particular projects, large and small, are initiated and carried through in order to maintain and enhance the fabric and environs of these treasures in our villages.

We begin with St George's, Damerham where over the last eighteen months several projects have been carried out including the installation of new pew cushions, the cleaning and reframing of historic documents listing the charges made for various services, the laying of new gravel on the pathway and car parking area, the repair and consolidation of tombstones in the churchyard, the first phase of a programme to repair ferramenta – the supporting ironwork on stained glass and other glass windows, and plasterwork repairs in the chancel. Two other major projects are under way, the overhauling of the South Porch roof and the roof works in the belfry resulting from the theft of lead. It is also planned to enhance the display of some ancient stones and other artefacts coupled with additional interpretation of the history of the church.

As with our own homes and gardens, there is always more to do and continuing maintenance is essential but it is rewarding to see the results of a series of small projects carried out quietly and with love for these churches and all that they mean for us individually and for our communities.



September 14th 2019. A sponsored Bike Ride or Walk to raise money for historic churches, chapels and meeting houses. Check the website for local participants in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset: - www.rideandstrideuk.org.