

FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING: –

St George's Church – an update.

Following the discovery in January 2019 of the theft of lead from the belfry roof and associated damage, immediate protection steps were taken. There has followed the lengthy and complex process of obtaining permissions and consents from the PCC, the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Salisbury, New Forest District Council, Historic England and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Natural England has had to be involved because of the discovery of bats in the belfry and this has delayed the start of the remedial works. In order to avoid a repeat theft, the stolen lead is being replaced byterne coated stainless steel which looks like lead and is extremely difficult to remove apart from having little scrap value. It is now expected that the work will be completed before Christmas 2019. There has been much generous community support and fundraising continues.

The Cream Teas on the four Sundays in August were very well supported by local people and visitors from near and far. £1131.40 was raised which will go towards current projects at St George's Church. Thank you to everyone who supported us. **John & Cathy Godber.**

All Saints' Nominated Charity this year is Med UK. This charity responds to emergency situations, sending in hospital facilities to cope with disasters. Please give generously before the end of the year.

'Dear Lord.....'

Would you like someone to pray for you, or for someone you are concerned for? There will be a space to seek **Prayer for Healing and Wholeness on Sunday 20th October** within the morning services at Rockbourne and Martin. Please see the schedule of services for details.

We give thanks for the life of Rev'd. John Hathaway, Rector of the United Benefice of Western Downland from July 1985 – January 1990. The Rev'd. Hathaway died on 30th August, aged 95.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Marriages	St George, Damerham 14 th September	James Mullens and Hayley Richardson
Funerals	St George, Damerham 29 th August	Dorothy Patricia Sims

N.B. 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	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 November 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.

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

THE COURIER

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2019

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

BREXIT DIVIDES !

Writing an article in advance can be hazardous. By the time you read this we may be heading for a no deal Brexit, a vote of no confidence in parliament or possibly a new stage of negotiation with the EU or even a new referendum or general election. Nothing is certain apart from the fact that the original referendum and subsequent Brexit debate, as well as arguably creating the biggest political crisis since Suez in 1956, has unleashed an unprecedented load of hate messages and abuse to those perceived as foreigners. But all of us have friends and family members who voted differently. We've had discussions and arguments that may even have ended friendships. Whatever happens there will be a considerable time of adjustment required following our new relationship with the EU and any new trading arrangements. But what of our long-term feelings for our 'neighbour' who voted the 'wrong' way?

Jesus challenged all who call themselves Christians to "love your neighbour as you love yourself." And we could strike the most amazing trade deals, but if we just can't get on with each other our country will not prosper. We need to be reconciled to each other by putting our differences to one side. Additionally, we could follow our ancestors' example at the time of another national crisis. In May 1940 our army in France was retreating to the channel ports and holed up within the Dunkirk beachhead.

On 24th May 1940 King George VI made an impassioned broadcast ending, "With God's help we shall not fail" and calling for the following Sunday (26th May) to be a day of prayer. Churchill recorded that he was present at "a short service of Intercession and Prayer in Westminster Abbey" and the congregation overflowed so that there were 2,000 people standing outside the Abbey. Just before 7 00 p.m. on the same day the Admiralty began to evacuate allied troops from France with Operation Dynamo. On 4th June Churchill admitted to Parliament that when Operation Dynamo was launched, he expected about 20,000 or 30,000 would be saved. But in fact, no less than 338,000 British and French troops were rescued and brought back across the Channel.

St Paul said, "Love does no wrong to a neighbour" and "pray at all times". Good advice for our divided and disunited Kingdom!

Canon Nigel Cumming