

FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING: –

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, ROCKBOURNE .Please look out for the information leaflets which will be coming to all residents of Rockbourne in the next few months detailing the challenges facing the congregation and community presented by the need to address significant works to the Church, in particular the Church tower. The congregation has not been idle, and much work has been done at St Andrew's in recent years, renewing stonework, heating, handrails and other things. We need your help for the next stage.

THANK YOU... ...to all who have supported us both financially and through their generosity of time in support of our four churches here in Western Downland during 2019; as you may be aware local churches must be financed at Parish level. Over recent years we have experienced the loss through death of many faithful and generous regular members of our congregations. As a result, those congregations are smaller in most cases than they were 10 years ago. Without your help it would be a real struggle to maintain the life and the fabric of our wonderful church buildings. Many of you have been extremely generous. Please do consider if you can give, either a one-off gift, or a regular contribution. We believe that we have demonstrated over many years that your gift is and will be a wise investment in the future character of these communities.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU! Church Annual Parochial Meetings & Elections will take place this spring (check your church or village noticeboard in March or early April for details). All members of the church electoral roll who meet the qualifying criteria can vote and stand for office. If you would like to join the Church electoral roll, please speak to a churchwarden, the Rector or a member of your local PCC.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals	All Saints', Martin 10 th January	Dennis Hacker
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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 March 2020. 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

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2020

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

In our Trust. To each of our four communities falls the responsibility for an ancient church, not only to provide a beloved place for congregations and families to come together for sacred moments in their lives but also to preserve a precious historic building which we hold in trust for our lifetimes. The care and maintenance of these buildings is not straightforward, it requires vigilance, expertise and patience. News of an information leaflet coming to all residents of Rockbourne is given on page 4 of this newsletter along with heartfelt appreciation of past efforts and future support. To keep you up to date, and answer a frequently asked question, here is some information relating to St George's Church.

Why is the Damerham Church Tower roof not finished?

It is a year since the lead was stolen from the Tower roof, and in that year, we have protected the fabric of the Tower with temporary covering, assessed the damage, negotiated with the Insurers and received their payment. The PCC has chosen to replace the lead with terne coated stainless steel, which is not attractive to the thieves, consulted with the historic building organisations, obtained Planning Permission from New Forest DC, and Church consents after frustratingly long delays in obtaining a Faculty from Salisbury - the result of staff retirements, and application backlogs. They have instructed the Architects to prepare plans and specifications, and received quotations from contractors, some being extremely expensive ranging between £45,000 and £80,000. The obligatory bat survey and planned bat strategy has been agreed which has cost £3,000.

We obtained the final approval in November 2019 having gained the necessary consents from the all interested parties. Regrettably the weather over the last 3 months has been too wet and windy for the work to start. Our contractors have been seriously delayed by the weather but are hoping to make a start in the very near future.

We have raised approximately £25,000 towards the projected costs of £30,000 towards this work, and during the year, we have also carried on with normal work of repairs and maintenance, includes spending over £6,000 on repairing the Church windows so, we still have a funding shortfall of about £5,000. .