

ALL CHANGE – FAREWELLS & WELCOMES

We say farewell to the Bishop of Salisbury, The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, and pray for those charged with selecting his successor.

A fond farewell too to Kim Wilcox, who retires from the post of Headteacher at Western Downland C of E Primary School. We also offer a warm welcome to Alice Tubbs who will take up the reins of leadership in September. Thanks also go to Abbie Guymer, class teacher at Western Downland School for some 20 years to Gwynne Kynaston, Clerk to the Governors, and to outgoing Foundation Governors, Jenny Trewin, Suzy Simmons and Louise Lambert (whose governor status changed some months ago). At the same time we are looking forward to welcoming Tori Hayworth and Sheree Cumming as new Foundation Governors and Michelle House as Clerk to the Governing Body.

Our love goes with Douglas and Midge Connell as they step into a new adventure and a new home and also to Suzy and Alex Simmons.

KEEP THE DATE – St Andrews, Rockbourne, is in the early stages of planning a musical event for **Saturday 16th October**. It is hoped that this will feature the Laudamus Chamber Choir and will be in tribute to a number of people who have died in the past couple of years who had a close association with music across the benefice.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

St George, Damerham 23rd May Romilly Mullens

Funerals

St George, Damerham	30th March	Anthony Baverstock
	16th April	Anthony Baverstock (interment of ashes)
	23rd April	Norman & Sylvia Robinson (interment of ashes)
	30th April	Claire Smethem (interment of ashes)
All Saints, Martin	6th April	Marjorie Willis
	11th May	Ron Poore
	12th May	Ron Poore (interment of ashes).

NB. 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	Fran Eardley (01725) 519423	
Rockbourne	Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246	
Whitsbury	Chris Harper (01725) 518324	Chris Cobb-Smith (01725) 518313

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last edition as Editor so, on behalf of Douglas and myself, I would like to use this space to thank the members of Western Downland Benefice for their fellowship over our seven special years living in Damerham and enjoying friendships in the wider communities of Martin, Rockbourne, Whitsbury and Sandleheath.

We know you will give a warm welcome to the new owners of Wath Cottage, Charles and Abigail Lacy and their two young daughters.

We look forward to coming back to this area to see you all again but in the meantime wish you all health, happiness and the best that village life can offer in the months and years ahead.

The next Editor is yet to be confirmed, please contact Les Player with contributions for August – September.

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

THE COURIER

JUNE – JULY 2021

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A Word from the Rector



Green Shoots after a Forest and Heath Fire

photo: Wareham Fire Service

I hope that, as Covid restrictions ease, you've begun to experience something of a renaissance; a joyful reconnection with the people you love and the things you enjoy, and a reintegration into a more familiar way of engaging with the world around you; with colleagues and neighbours. In principle, all social restrictions will be removed from 21st June. In practice, some guidance is likely to remain, especially for larger gatherings, and some groups will remain unvaccinated. It's important that we continue to care for one another even as rules are relaxed.

In the coming months as churches we will be shifting our emphasis, as we move towards increased opportunities for worshipping and meeting together (though virtual resources and communication will continue to be a feature of our life going forwards). We shall see baptisms, weddings and funerals freed from their constraints, opportunities return for groups to socialise and learn, and social activities and events all begin to find a place in our calendar. But none of us will be left untouched by our recent shared experience of isolation, disruption and loss. Whether coronavirus variants emerge to challenge us, or we find that the vaccination programme offers a secure safeguard against future infection, we will be dealing with the legacy of Covid for years to come.

Yet, like ground devastated by fire or inundated by flood, new life emerges to recolonise the scarred landscape. In our communities and churches new things have grown amongst what previously existed, and new stories will be told. For me, those green shoots are evident everywhere: in the resilience and care of those around me, in the sacrifice of heroes across this nation and in the generosity and compassion of countless people around the world; an antidote to the cynicism and pessimism which is so often a default position in viewing the world. If, as the Bible proposes, we truly are made in the image of God, then that image still burns bright, most brightly perhaps in the midst of suffering and despair. I think it is so, for so it is with Christ who endured suffering to grow the kingdom of God in our hearts. That conviction strengthens my hope, even as I face the challenges still before me.

Rev'd Les Player

**LOCAL OPEN GARDENS ON SATURDAY 12TH
JUNE 2-6PM**

**IN AID OF THE RNLI
FORDINGBRIDGE & RINGWOOD BRANCH**

We hope you will enjoy wandering around our 9 open gardens whilst catching up with friends over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

The gardens are in the villages of Blissford, Burgate, Crendell, Damerham, East Martin, Frogham and Rockbourne.

Ticket prices £10 per person for all 9 gardens, £5 per person for a single garden and children free. For details look out for local publicity or the RNLI branch website.



DAMERHAM OPEN GARDENS

Once again four gardens in the centre of the village of Damerham plan to open in early July in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Watch out for local publicity to confirm the date.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Parochial Church Council Meetings

Venues, subject to Covid regulations are below:-

- 13th July 7.00pm St George PCC (Damerham Village Hall)
- 19th July 10am St Andrew PCC (Townend Gate, Rockbourne)
- 20th July 6.30pm St Leonard PCC (Whitsbury Village Hall)
- 26th July 7.00pm All Saints PCC (All Saints Church)

GROWING & LEARNING

'Faith Room' meets on Zoom on Thursdays at 2.00pm. Contact Les Player (01725) 518642 for Zoom details. When groups can meet physically for fellowship and learning, details will be published locally.

CHURCHYARDS LITTLE HELPERS

Once more we would like to thank those who have given time to help tend our churchyards. During Covid in some of our churchyards we have had to rely almost entirely upon volunteer help to keep the newer sections tended and paths cleared in other areas. If you think you can help, please contact your local churchwarden. (See the back of this issue).

SPECIAL SERVICES

27th June Education Sunday
All are welcome to join this service on Zoom at 11.00am which celebrates learning across the parishes for all ages, including giving thanks for our local School, the Nursery and for all our children's groups.

4th July Sea Sunday
Even though we are not seaside communities the sea is fundamental to all our lives. Our annual Sea Sunday service is on Zoom at 11.00am.

18th July Cuiebet Sunday
Our special link with Cuiebet in South Sudan, with the latest news from this area. is the focus of this service in All Saints. Martin at 11.00am.

CREAM TEAS BY THE RIVER IN AUGUST

We can all look forward to the return of the much-loved tradition of Sunday tea and scones served by the River Allen outside Damerham Village Hall. Proceeds in aid of St. George's Church. If you would like to join the team of helpers please contact Cathy Godber (01425 650044).



SERVICES DURING DURING JUNE & JULY

From the beginning of July, we transition to a pattern of Sunday services based largely in our parish Churches. Going forwards, the style of services developed in our online (Zoom) services will be reflected across our range of physical services. To accommodate seasonal variations, such as Harvest, Advent, Easter, etc., the style of service on a given Sunday may vary, although whenever possible the date, time and location will remain constant.

6th June 9.30am 10.30am	1st Sunday after Trinity All Saints' Martin Parish Communion On Zoom: Commemorating the D-Day Landings co-hosted by Rockbourne
13th June 9.30am 11.00am	2nd Sunday after Trinity St Leonard's, Whitsbury Holy Communion (1662) On Zoom: All Age Worship: Everything is New co-hosted by Damerham
20th June 9.30am 11.00am	3rd Sunday after Trinity St Andrew's, Rockbourne Simplified Matins and Holy Communion (1662) On Zoom: Parish Worship co-hosted by Martin
27th June 9.30am 11.00am	4th Sunday after Trinity St George's, Damerham Parish Communion Leslie Player: Marking 25 years of Priestly Ministry 1996 - 2021 On Zoom: Education Sunday co-hosted by Whitsbury



A New Dawn. Detail from the beautiful East Window in St George's Church, given in 1925 by Lady Coote in memory of her husband Sir Eyre Coote Bt., of West Park.

4th July 9.30am 11.00am	5th Sunday after Trinity All Saints, Martin Parish Communion On Zoom: Sea Sunday co-hosted by Rockbourne
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11th July 8.30am 11.00am	6th Sunday after Trinity St Leonard's, Whitsbury: Holy Communion (1662) St George's, Damerham All Age Worship
18th July 9.30am 11.00am	7th Sunday after Trinity St Andrew's, Rockbourne (Contemporary language) All Saints' Martin: Cuiebet Sunday: Thanksgiving and Prayer
25th July 9.30am 11.00am	8th Sunday after Trinity St George's, Damerham (Contemporary language) St. Leonard's, Whitsbury Celtic-style Morning Prayer
1st August 9.30am 11.00am	9th Sunday after Trinity All Saints', Martin Parish Communion (Contemporary language) St Andrew's, Rockbourne Morning Prayer (Contemporary language)