

WARM SUMMER DAYS AND HOPES OF A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST!

You can find contact details/information on our website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/34-370BX/>. We also circulate the Courier digitally; if you would like a digital copy, please contact the Editor. We continue to offer the choice of common cup and dipped wafers during parish communion. Although COVID is lessening, the church is attended by the elderly and vulnerable so one should still try to minimise risk. One can still wear an optional face covering in gatherings and maintain a social distance from others at services. We would also urge you not to attend if you feel unwell. We will continue to offer opportunities to join services via livestream (for the vulnerable) for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

WANTED! – KITCHEN STAFF FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN AUGUST

FOR CREAM TEAS - St George's Church holds Cream Teas by the River on every Sunday afternoon in August from 2.00p.m. to 4.30p.m. This event is a very important fundraiser for the Church as well as being a popular social event. Our willing band of volunteers are a year older and fewer this year and would appreciate some extra help. Your help for just one afternoon will go a long way for the survival of this popular event. Call 01425 65004 or email catherine.godber50@gmail.com for how you can help.

GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH – Many thanks to Jenny Snowball and all who attended the most enjoyable garden party on the 28th of June in Jenny's Garden. The event was a huge success and raised some £940 for St Andrew's Church. Again, many thanks to all who attended this well supported summer event.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

St George's, Damerham 21st July Tadhg O'Hora

Marriages

St George's, Damerham 1st July William Rowe & Sophie Foster
St. Leonard's, Whitsbury 8th June Edward Harper & Sophie Gardner
15th June Rob Pitman and Stephanie Kirkman

Funerals

St George's, Damerham 29th May Brenda Waterman (Interment of Ashes)
All Saints, Martin 31st May Richard Parsons
3rd June Richard Parsons (interment of ashes)
11th June John Hart (Interment of Ashes)
11th July Rose Robinson
18th July Anthony Ball
St Andrew's, Rockbourne 30th May Jeff Forsbrey (Service of Thanksgiving/
Interment of Ashes)
12th June Doreen Sanz
St. Leonard's, Whitsbury 30th May Stuart Steadman

NB. 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 or named person: -

Damerham John Godber (01425) 650044 and Cathy Godber (01425) 650044
Martin Alistair Groom (01725) 519204 and Lizzie Fernie (01725) 519542
Rockbourne Patrick Thompson (01725) 518246
Whitsbury Chris Harper (01725) 518324 and Chris Cobb-Smith (01725) 518313

Please send contributions for the next Courier to the Editor - Arron Shutt (arron@ashutt.myzen.co.uk). The deadline is 31st August 2024.

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

THE COURIER

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2024

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A Word from the Rector



A selection of cream teas in an English country garden - Photo: Bing Image Generative AI

As I write this I've been going full pelt in my professional duties for many weeks. So I can appreciate the appeal of the late summer and early autumn, when Schools are generally on holiday and many of us take a break from our more usual activities and groups to do something a different; to pause and relax. It's good to have some space, to rest and be refreshed.

Sadly, not everyone has the luxury of this. In many parts of our world urgent demands, conflict and disaster mean the absence of peace. And many people's circumstances, including many in our own nation means that there are large sections of society where people get little rest, or cannot afford a break. At times Jesus was almost overwhelmed by the demands laid upon him, and certainly at times he was weary. Yet he offered something extraordinary to those around him, the ability to find rest: 'Come to me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' (St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 11). This rest appears to be rooted in Jesus himself, and speaks not so much to our outer circumstances as our inner wellbeing. Jesus touches a chord in people's longing; he promises to be an anchor point; a still place of calm in the storm, a never-failing well of refreshment.

Wellbeing is a buzz word these days, but though many books, groups and organisations promote it, it seems elusive. Indeed, in quite a lot of cases those who applaud wellbeing act in such ways that they undermine its reality. What Jesus offers appears to be of a different order of magnitude. He finds himself in the midst of the storm on the Sea of Galilee and in the midst of the storm in his arrest and trial. He is pursued by the crowds and attacked by his opponents; he is hunted, ridiculed, crucified. Yet he seems to be the calm point in the storm; not untouched by what's going on around him, but equally not undone by it. He meets hatred with love, hurt with forgiveness, division with hospitality, the wounds in others with healing, arrogance in others with servanthood, despair in others with grace and acceptance: 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John's Gospel chapter 14).

The peace Jesus offers then and now emanates from deep within his identity, and from his relationship with his heavenly Father, a relationship he offers freely to us all; an open invitation, saying: 'Come to me and I will give you rest.'

Rev'd Les Player

CHALKE CUEIBET PARTNERSHIP – The Chalke Cuiebet Partnership has forged a close relationship between the Chalke Deanery and the Diocese of Cueibet since 2013. For the Western Downland benefice, All Saints Church Martin has helped to be the focus in our local fundraising efforts. During the last ten years, the partnership has helped in the Cueibet community in many ways such as promoting agricultural training to improve crop generation, helping women's programmes for self-reliance, providing training for the local clergy, providing bikes, building and furnishing a primary school with desks, supplies and paid teachers and finally a diocesan Guesthouse for visitors. All this has been achieved through the generosity of the congregations of our churches across the Deanery.. You can find out more on <https://chalkevalleychurches.org/cueibet> . Please contact Geoff Taylor and Rory Smith about other ways in which you can be involved. If you are interested in improving the lives of families in a war-torn and deprived country, then you can donate through several methods described below.

You can support the Chalke-Cuiebet Link financially by using the Chalke-Cuiebet Charity gift aid envelopes in All Saints Church. One can also donate via the link <https://givealittle.co/c/1Z5CZrNPxvEKYo0aoFavnu> or by scanning the QR code on the right using your mobile devices.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 23rd July 2024**
7.00p.m. St Georges, Damerham PCC (Damerham Village Hall)
- 29th July 2024** The Damerham & District Horticultural Show & Summer Fayre
- 30th September 2024,**
7.30p.m. Salisbury Cathedral Choir Concert, All Saints Church, Martin.
- 19th October 2024,**
2.00p.m. Church Jumble Sale, Damerham Village Hall

THE INTERNET COMES TO LOCAL CHURCHES

We are installing fibre broadband to the churches in the benefice. This will have considerable advantages for providing the Sunday streams from the church service that week, the ability for church fundraising events (such as Snowdrop Sunday) to offer card payments and allowing electronic donations to churchgoers in addition to the usual collection plate. Since COVID, contactless payments with a credit/debit card has taken over for convenience and accountability. All Saints Church, Martin and St Georges Church, Damerham have just had their fibre broadband installed. All Saints Church already has a donation kiosk at the back of the church for electronic donations, and Damerham will shortly install their kiosk as well. Rockbourne will have broadband installed in the coming weeks, and Whitsbury is currently planning their internet installation. By Christmas - we might be a fully connected benefice!

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesday Reflection and Prayer - We meet each Tuesday at 9.30a.m. using a simple structure, offering a 25-minute space for reflection and prayer based around the daily scripture reading, a little liturgy and a brief thought. To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87190762729> Meeting ID: 871 9076 2729 Passcode: 325626

Harvest Thanksgiving 2024 - Look out for details of your Harvest Thanksgiving Festival Services & Events in this edition and in the next! Dried and tinned goods, deodorants, shampoo and other suitable items, alongside more traditional items (but with a good 'shelf life' please!) can be brought to your local Harvest Thanksgiving Service (see this and next issue for service details) and will be distributed locally where possible amongst older members of our communities or donated to the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank.

ALL SAINTS PCC NOMINATED CHARITY 2024

This year All Saints Church PCC has selected to raise funds for Salisbury Street Pastors who are there to help the vulnerable or those who need someone to talk to. You can find out how to donate by contacting our Church Warden Alistair Groom (01725 519204) or Lizzie Fernie (01725 519542). Or you can pick up an envelope for this purpose (available in church from Harvest onwards) and return it with your gift in the collection plate in any main church in the benefice (up to 31st December).



CONCERT AT ALL SAINTS - Salisbury Cathedral Choir are giving a concert at All Saints Church, Martin on the evening of Monday 30th September at 7.30p.m. It will last about an hour. English cathedral choirs are a wonder of our cultural heritage and we are incredibly fortunate to have a world-class choir perform in our Benefice. There is no need to buy tickets for the event, which we hope will be very well supported, but of course donations are invited and will be welcome.



SERVICES DURING AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Post COVID - We are continuing Sunday services based largely in our parish Churches. We are livestreaming some physical services on Zoom denoted by three asterisks (*) in the service listing below. If you wish to take communion but have a medically diagnosed gluten intolerance, gluten free wafers are available. Please speak with the minister before the beginning of a service.**

- 4th August** 9.30a.m. **10th Sunday after Trinity** Martin – Parish Communion (Contemporary Language)
- 11.00a.m. Rockbourne – Morning Prayer***
- 11th August** 9.30a.m. **11th Sunday after Trinity** Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662)
- 11.00a.m. Damerham –All Age Worship***
- 18th August** 9.30a.m. **12th Sunday after Trinity** Rockbourne – Parish Communion (Contemporary)
- 11.00a.m. Martin – Parish Worship***
- 25th August** 9.30a.m. **13th Sunday after Trinity** Damerham - Parish Communion (Contemporary)
- 11.00a.m. Whitsbury – Parish Worship***



A Village Church in the Sunshine (Photo: Bing Image Generative AI)

- 1st September** 9.30a.m. **14th Sunday after Trinity** Martin - Parish Communion (Contemporary)
- 11.00a.m. Rockbourne – Morning Prayer (Contemporary Language)***
- 8th September** 9.30a.m. **15th Sunday after Trinity** Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662)
- 11.00a.m. Damerham – Parish Worship***

- 15th September** 9.30a.m. **16th Sunday after Trinity** Rockbourne – Parish Communion
- 11.00a.m. Martin – Parish Worship***
- 22nd September** 9.30a.m. **17th Sunday after Trinity** Damerham – Parish Communion (Contemporary)
- 11.00a.m. Whitsbury – Parish Worship***
- 29th September** 11.00a.m. **18th Sunday after Trinity** Damerham – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival***
- 5.00p.m. Martin - Harvest Thanksgiving Festival
- 6th October** 9.30a.m. **19th Sunday after Trinity** Martin – Parish Communion***
- 11.00a.m. Rockbourne – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival
- 13th October** 9.30a.m. **20th Sunday after Trinity** Damerham – Parish Communion
- 11.00a.m. Whitsbury – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival***