

IT'S GETTING COLDER IN THE MORNINGS NOW...

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 until January the 1st 2025 (See the Rector's article). 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.

CREAM TEAS SUNDAY EVENTS – Thanks to everyone who attended the cream teas throughout August or worked as a volunteer in the kitchen or serving to the public. The events each week were well attended despite the Olympics happening at the same time during the first two weeks. After all four weeks, the final amount raised for St George's was £1148.06 - which will help cover some of the financial commitments that the church has. Many thanks to everyone who helped out as all this could not have happened with all your extremely hard work and commitment for St George's Church – Thank you!

HARVEST SUPPER AND QUIZ IN DAMERHAM – There is a Harvest Supper and Quiz that is happening on the Saturday 12th of October at 7.30p.m. This event is occurring at Damerham Village Hall and will cost £15 per person. The supper comprises of two courses with a glass of wine. After the supper - Attendees will be invited to form a team for the quiz (maximum eight members per team). The Harvest Supper and Quiz event will aid Damerham Village Hall and The Trussell Trust. If you are interested in attending the event, please purchase your tickets by email at info@damerham.org or by contacting any of the Damerham Village Hall Committee members.

JUMBLE SALE - There is a Jumble Sale at Damerham Village Hall on 19th October 2024 starting from 2.00p.m. This event will support St. George's Church, Damerham. Donations can be brought from 10.00a.m. to Damerham Village Hall. For any enquiries, please contact John or Cathy Godber on (01425) 650044.

O LORD HEAR MY PRAYER - Would you like to someone to pray for you, or for someone for whom you're concerned? There will be a space for prayers for healing & wholeness in our services on the Sunday 20th October within the morning services at Rockbourne and Martin (see service schedule for details). Prayer requests can also be left in our churches.

AUTUMN EVENSONG – Our traditional Evensong service from the Book of Common Prayer takes place at St Leonard's Church, Whitsbury on Sunday 3rd November, beginning at 5.00p.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

St George's, Damerham	22 nd August	Daphne Nicklen
All Saints, Martin	19 th April	Michael Wingate-Saul (Interment of Ashes)

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 October 2024.

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

THE COURIER

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2024

A Newsletter for the Communities of the Western Downland

A Word from the Rector



A Harvest Basket of Fruit and Vegetables

Photo: Public Domain Image

Back to the Common Cup: Changing Arrangements for Communion

In line with the Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England's Guidance and request, from 1st of January 2025, as agreed by our four PCCs we will be returning to a pattern of offering communion in its pre-pandemic form, i.e. a consecrated wafer followed by consecrated wine from the Common Cup.

As many of you will know since the pandemic we have been offering wine in two different ways, so that those who do not wish to receive from the Common Cup can do so. However, as a group of parishes we have been unusual within the Church of England in continuing this practice for such a considerable period of time since re-opening our churches to public worship. It has seemed right to do so, to offer all who wish to receive communion reassurance. However, though the ratio varies from church to church across our four parishes, at least half of those who receive communion once again receive wine from the Common Cup (in keeping with the most ancient practices of the Church, instigated by Jesus and taught and practised by the apostles and the early Church).

Studies have shown that, so far as Coronavirus is concerned, there is no evidence of transmission by sharing the Common Cup. Congregational singing - which we resumed a considerable time ago - is considered a far more likely vehicle for transmission, as is close extended contact with someone with the virus, but there is little evidence that either of these has had a disruptive impact on our congregations over the past two years. If you do not wish to receive from the Common Cup, the Church has always regarded the receiving of Bread alone as being full communion, and this option will be open to you. Simply step away from the communion rail once you have received the wafer.

Regrettably, it is not permissible for a communicant to dip their wafer in the wine, as this is believed to pose a contamination risk (up until now in dipping a wafer the priest will have sanitised their hands, and will only offer intinction with the greatest care to avoid risk of contamination). If you would like to discuss this, please contact the Rector who will be happy to speak with you. If you wish to take communion but have a medically diagnosed gluten intolerance, please note that gluten free wafers are available upon request. Please speak with the minister before the beginning of a service.

Rev'd Les Player

**DAMERHAM AND WESTERN
DOWNLAND BRANCH –
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**



The Western Downland Branch of the Royal British Legion will hold its AGM at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 9th October in Damerham Village Hall. All members of the community are most welcome to join us and find out more about the work of the RBL in your local area. The Branch fundraising Coffee Morning will take place from 10.00a.m. to 12.00 noon on Saturday 9th November. We hope that you'll come along and support us.

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. The performance 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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

30th September 2024, 7.30p.m.	Salisbury Cathedral Choir Concert, All Saints Church, Martin.
8th October 2024, 7.00p.m.	St Georges, Damerham PCC (Damerham Village Hall).
9th October 2024, 7.30p.m.	Royal British Legion Annual Meeting (Damerham Village Hall).
10th October 2024	Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District Annual Meeting. (For details contact the Rector).
15th October 2024, 7.00p.m.	Martin PCC, The Old Rectory, East Martin.
19th October 2024, 2.00p.m.	Church Jumble Sale, Damerham Village Hall.
22nd October 2024, 7.00p.m.	Chalke Deanery Synod, Blandford Hall, Martin.
28th October 2024, 6.30p.m.	Whitsbury PCC, Whitsbury Village Hall.
6th November 2024, 2.30p.m.	Rockbourne PCC, Priory Cottage, Rockborne.

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Harvest Thanksgiving 2024 - Look out for details of your Harvest Thanksgiving Festival Services & Events in the services below. Dried and tinned goods, deodorants, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo and other toiletries are acceptable, alongside traditional harvest goods (but with a good 'shelf life' please!) can be brought to your local Harvest Thanksgiving Service (see the panel below for service details). Some donations will be distributed locally (where possible) amongst older members of our communities. The other donations will go to the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Food Bank.

Darkness to Light - The Church's year of worship begins again each Advent Sunday. This year's Advent Sunday falls on the 1st of December. Once again, we will be holding our popular Darkness to Light service held at All Saints Church in Martin at 5.00p.m.

A Service for the Bereaved - If you would like to remember a loved one (or more than one) who has died - please join us for a simple and reflective 'Service of Prayer & Remembrance'. This service will be held at 3.00p.m. on Sunday the 3rd November in St George's Church, Damerham. All are welcome.

Patronal Festivals - Do join us to celebrate the Patronal festival in your local Church. These are at All Saints Church, Martin on Sunday 27th October at 11.00a.m. and in Whitsbury within the Autumn Evensong at St Leonard's Church on Sunday 3rd November at 5.00p.m. The last is at St. Andrew's, Rockbourne on Sunday 1st December at 11.00a.m.

Armistice Day Commemoration and Remembrance Services – are taking place in our churches on Sunday the 10th of November. Also, that day on 9.30a.m.- A wreath laying is at Rockbourne War Memorial. On Monday 11th of November 9.30a.m.- an Armistice wreath laying will also be taking place at Damerham Village Hall.

HOMEGROUPS ARE RESTARTING – Home Group starts again after the summer break on the 26th of September (7.00p.m. to 9.00p.m.) which is held at Glendale on the Rockbourne Road. For more details contact Nigel Cumming on (01725) 518248.

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

***** **SERVICES DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER** *****

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.**

29th September 11.00a.m. 5.00p.m.	18th Sunday after Trinity Damerham – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival*** Martin - Harvest Thanksgiving Festival	27th October 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	Last Sunday after Trinity: Bible Sunday Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662) Martin – Patronal Festival for All Saints***	Monday 11th November – Armistice Commemoration 10.50a.m. Damerham Village Hall – Armistice Wreath-Laying
6th October 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	19th Sunday after Trinity Martin – Parish Communion*** Rockbourne – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival	3rd November 11.00a.m.	All Saints Day (Transferred) Rockbourne - Taize Style Worship & Shortened Communion***	17th November 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.
13th October 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	20th Sunday after Trinity Damerham – Parish Communion Whitsbury – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival***	3.00p.m. 5.00p.m.	Damerham – A Service of Prayer for the Bereaved & Remembrance of those who have died Whitsbury – Autumn Evensong & Patronal Festival	24th November 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.
20th October 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.	St Luke's Tide : 21st Sunday after Trinity Rockbourne – Parish Communion (Contemporary) with Prayers for Healing and Wholeness Martin – Prayers for Healing and Wholeness***	10th November 9.30a.m. 9.30a.m. 10.50a.m.	3rd before Advent: Remembrance Sunday Martin–All Age Worship:Remembrance Sunday*** Rockbourne War Memorial – Wreath Laying Damerham – RBL Service of Remembrance	1st December 11.00a.m. 5.00p.m.
				8th December 9.30a.m. 11.00a.m.
				2nd Sunday of Advent Whitsbury – Holy Communion (1662) Damerham - Advent Carols***