



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community

(Hopefully!)

Useful information

for

Members of St Mary's United Church Council

**A prayer for the People of St Mary the Virgin,
Rickmansworth**

Holy and generous God,
 you give us the gift of your very self,
 and invite us into relationship with you in all its fullness.
We pray for your Church
 – a Church for all people –
 called to witness to, and share your love for the world.
We give thanks for the people of St Mary's,
 and the wider community that we serve.
We give thanks for the building in which we worship
 and the people who are themselves the living stones
 who take your love out into the world.
Give us wisdom to use aright all that you have given to us.
Give us courage to explore new ways of seeing and being.
Give us prayerful hearts that always seek after your truth,
 your guidance and your glory.
We offer our prayers in the power of your name.
Amen.

Deborah Snowball, June 2010

St Mary's United Church Council

What is it?

The United Church Council (UCC) is a joint Council representing the two Churches that form part of the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) here at St Mary's. The LEP is made up of Anglicans (Church of England) and Methodists.

The United Church Council (UCC) is made up of two bodies:

- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) (Church of England)
- The Methodist Church Council (MCC) (Methodist)

Membership of the UCC is as follows:

Anglicans:

- Ordained Ministers Licensed to St Mary's
- Those elected to Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
- Those elected to the PCC
- Churchwardens

Methodists:

- The Ordained Minister assigned by the Circuit
- Circuit Steward assigned by the Circuit
- Up to Four other members of the MCC

Ex Officio

- UCC Treasurer
(if one is appointed separately from among the members)
- UCC Secretary
(if one is appointed separately from among the members)

The UCC is 'governed' by a Constitution which indicates the way in which membership of the UCC is to be decided, the style of services that should be offered and various other matters. The current Constituent was drawn up in 2001 and is currently under review.

All business is conducted jointly, with very occasional exceptions where a matter is only to be decided by one Church Council or the other (this happens very rarely).

Occasionally there will be matters to be discussed that are confidential. Council members will be advised if this is so. Please respect this.

What is it for?

Essentially, the UCC is in place to discuss matters pertaining to the Church Community: spiritual, financial, legal. The following description of a PCC may be helpful in understanding the purpose of the UCC as a whole:

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Formally, the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents.

What does membership of the UCC mean?

Members of the UCC are expected to be regular in their attendance at worship at St Mary's (it is worth noting that for couples marrying at St Mary's, 'regular' means at least twice a month!), as well as seeking to attend all UCC Meetings and Sub-Committee to which they belong.

The three Sub-Committees of the UCC are:

Community and Outreach
Fabric and Churchyard
Stewardship and Finance

In addition, there are other Committees which feed into those above:

Charitable Giving Committee (S&F), Communications Team (C&O),
Events Committee (C&O), Safeguarding (C&O),
Church Centre Management (F&C)

UCC Members are encouraged to show an interest in the broad range of activities at St Mary's – some of which will be of personal interest, and others not necessarily so. You can do this by:

Occasionally attending different Services
Attending Social events
Asking people what they are up to in terms of the different activities with which they are involved – both in the Church and in the Community

UCC Meetings always begin and end with Prayer so that the work we do is led (hopefully!) by the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit.

You may wish to visit these websites:

www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk

<p>Anglican www.stalbans.anglican.org www.churchofengland.org www.rickydeanery.org.uk</p>	<p>Methodist www.behdistrict.org.uk www.methodist.org.uk www.southdownchurch.org.uk/circuit/index.html</p>
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Some Terms that you will hear...

Anglican	Methodist
<p>Diocese (of St Albans) The Ecclesiastical (Church) area gathering together a number of Deaneries (and may be separated into Archdeaonries). St Albans Diocese covers Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and parts of Barnet in North London – 336 Parishes</p>	<p>District (Beds. Herts. and Essex) The area that gathers together a number of Circuits. Our District covers 18 Circuits.</p>
<p>Bishop (Rt Rev'd Alan Smith) The Bishop appointed to offer leadership and spiritual support across the Diocese. Suffragan Bishop of Hertford (Rt Rev'd Michael Beasley)</p>	<p>District Chair (Rev'd Anne Brown) The Ordained Minister appointed to offer leadership and Ministerial support for the District.</p>
<p>Archdeaonry An Ecclesiastical area that gathers together a number of Deaneries – but is smaller than a Diocese. There are three Archdeaonries in our Diocese: Bedford, Hertford and St Albans. We are in the Archdeaonry of St Albans.</p>	

<p>Archdeacon (Venerable Jonathan Smith) A Priest who provides oversight of an Archdeaconry.</p>	
<p>Deanery A gathering of Parishes in a local area.</p> <p>We are in the Rickmansworth Deanery. The Parishes that belong to this Deanery are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rickmansworth All Saints, Croxley Green St Oswalds, Croxley Green Mill End with West Hyde and Heronsgate Christ Church, Chorleywood St Andrew's, Chorleywood Sarratt and Chipperfield Bovingdon</p>	<p>Circuit The local gathering of Methodist Churches.</p> <p>We are in the West Hertfordshire and Borders Circuit. The area covered by our Circuit takes in Hemel Hempsted, Berkhamsted, Watford, Mill End, Harpenden, Rickmansworth, Abbots Langley... and more!</p>
<p>Deanery Synod An elected body made up Ordained and Lay members to consult on issues affecting local Churches.</p>	<p>Circuit Meeting An elected body made up Ordained and Lay members to consult on issues affecting local Churches.</p>
<p>Rural Dean The Priest appointed by the Bishop to oversee local Parishes in the Deanery.</p> <p>Our Rural Dean is Deborah!</p>	<p>Circuit Superintendent The Ordained Minister appointed to provide leadership for the local Circuit.</p> <p>Our (about to retire) Circuit Superintendent is Rev'd Linda Woolacott.</p>
<p>Parish The local area served by a Church of England Church.</p> <p>Our Parish is Rickmansworth.</p>	

<p>Churchwarden</p> <p>The Churchwardens have important legal duties, but the office also has a vital spiritual, pastoral and mission dimension – the duty to be foremost among the laity in the life and mission of the Church in the parish.</p> <p>They are responsible for ensuring the Fabric of the Church is well maintained – amongst many other things!</p> <p>At St Mary’s we usually have three Wardens. Our present Wardens are David Carruthers, Jane Earl and David Hibbert.</p>	<p>Steward</p> <p>Stewards share a very similar ministry to that of Church Wardens. Both positions hold the responsibility of ensuring national Legal requirements are adhered to: Safeguarding, H & S, Food Hygiene etc.</p> <p>At St Mary’s we have one Steward. At present this is June Poppleton.</p>
<p>Parish Share</p> <p>Money we pay to the Diocese</p>	<p>Circuit Assessment</p> <p>Money we pay to the Circuit</p>

Money matters!

Plate Fund

A Fund which exists from the sale of some of the Plate (the silver and goods owned by St Mary’s). The use of money in this Fund is severely restricted.

Restricted Funds

Money that has been given with the proviso that it used only for certain activities or expenditure

Allocated Funds

Money set aside by the UCC for a specific purpose

General Funds

Money available to use as we like!

Other matters!

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

A tool we use to identify priorities for the work of the UCC and Sub-Committees in order for us to serve both our Church and local community more effectively.

For details of our current MAP information, please see:

http://www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk/9_additional_pages/2012/map.html.

Currently,

Our Vision is: To be a spiritual, prayerful and dynamic Church;
 To be a welcoming, inclusive and joyful Church;
 To be a Church serving the whole community.

Our Priorities are: *Going Deeper into God:*
 To encourage each person to develop and grow in
 their relationship with God.
 Transforming Communities:
 To become more involved, as a Church, in the
 community.
 Making new Disciples:
 To explore the whole area of welcoming and nurturing
 and growing all of our Church family.

Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)

As for MAP but across the whole Deanery. The current Goals for the DMAP are:

1. To continue developing opportunities for churches across the Deanery to join together for spiritual development, worship and social activities.
2. To broaden opportunities for joint training especially in the areas of Safeguarding, Healing Ministry and Evangelism.
3. To explore how, as Churches, we can provide appropriate support to those living with dementia and other age related conditions.
4. To continue to develop the ecumenical links across the Deanery.

***If you are ever unsure about anything,
the chances are that others are too – so please ask!***